

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors of Glyndwr University held on **Friday 11th March 2022** 9.00am in room B103, Glyndwr University, Plas Coch, Mold Road, Wrexham LL11 2AW.

Present

- Jim Barclay
- Professor Martin Chambers
- Professor Richard Day
- Colin Heron
- Professor Maria Hinfelaar
- Celia Jenkins
- Professor Sandra Jowett
- Diane McCarthy
- Paul McGrady
- Judy Owen
- Maxine Penlington (Chair)
- Amy Rowley
- Askar Sheibani
- David Sprake
- Richard Thomas
- Maureen Wain
- Dr Leigh Griffin (*observer*)

Officers:

- Val Butterworth (*Clerk to the Board*)
- David Elcock (*Executive Director of Finance*)
- Pete Gibbs (*Executive Director of HR*)
- Lynda Powell (*Executive Director of Operations*)
- Professor Claire Taylor (*Deputy Vice Chancellor*)
- James Dawson (*Director Strategic Planning and Student Administration*) [*Items 21.61 and 21.69 only*]

Apologies:

- Paul Barlow
- Claire Homard
- Lauren Hole
- Sally Lambah
- Dr Aulay Mackenzie (*PVC Partnerships*)
- David Subacchi

21.47	Civic Mission Partnership Strategy	
	<p>The Deputy Vice Chancellor and the Head of Public Policy and Engagement provided a presentation on the Civic Mission Partnership Strategy and the University’s civic mission activities.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted the University Partnerships Programme (UPP) Foundation Civic University Commission (2019) definition of Civic Mission and the University’s aims to promote or improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Strategy was co-created with a wide range of partners across North Wales and focused on the strands of (i) leadership, governance and whole system working, (ii) community resilience and (iii) keeping well.</p>	

	<p>The Board welcomed the comprehensive presentation and the breadth and depth of the work being undertaken in a cohesive partnership approach.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the presentation.</p>	
21.48	Welcome and apologies	
	Members were welcomed to the meeting and apologies noted.	
21.49	Declarations of interest	
	There were no declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda.	
21.50	Membership	
	<p>Received: Proposals from Nominations and Governance Committee regarding Committee roles.</p> <p>Resolved: To APPROVE the appointment of the following for the remainder of 2021/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celia Jenkins as Chair of Nominations and Governance Committee • Claire Homard as Vice Chair of Nominations and Governance Committee • David Subacchi as Vice Chair of Audit Committee 	
21.51	Minutes	
	<p>Received: Minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2021.</p> <p>Resolved: That the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the inclusion of three people who were present but not listed.</p>	
21.52	Matters arising	
	<p>Received: A matters arising report provided by the Clerk.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report.</p>	
21.53	Vice Chancellor's Report	
	<p>Received: (i) Vice Chancellor's update (ii) Correspondence between the University and HEFCW regarding the latter's recent request for information regarding three matters. (iii) HEFCW's draft notes of their Council engagement with the Board and VCET on 26th January 2022.</p> <p>Reported: The Vice-Chancellor provided the background and context to HEFCW's recent request for information on several matters. A comprehensive response with relevant supporting documentation would be provided to HEFCW and shared with the Board.</p> <p>The outcome of the UKVI Higher Education Assurance Team (HEAT) Audit had recently been received and the University's Sponsorship Licence had been successfully retained with some recommendations.</p> <p>The UK Government had now responded to the Augar Review recommendations and a key outcome for Wales will be an unavoidable tuition fee freeze up to and including the 2024/25 intake which would have an impact up to 2026/27. This along with inflation will place significant pressure on university finances. Universities</p>	

	<p>Wales and HEFCW had agreed to meet with Vice Chancellors and Welsh Government to explore the implications for Wales including tuition fee loan repayment thresholds and minimum eligibility requirements. There was also a current consultation around lowering the tuition fee level for Foundation degrees which could drive decisions for universities to cease delivering them. ChUW planned to raise the matter of Foundation degree tuition fees with the Minister later in March.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the Vice Chancellor's Report.</p>	
21.54	Students' Union President's Report	
	<p>Received: The Students' Union President's report March 2022.</p> <p>Reported: Key points from their written report were highlighted including that: Lauren Hole and Amy Rowley were running for President and Vice President respectively in the current sabbatical officer elections; recruitment was underway for a new CEO; the Umii app was found not to be suitable for the student body so more work was being put in to promote the MateSpace Facebook Group and the Unitu student feedback platform was working well with staff and course reps having received training.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated the SU for their continuing achievements to support the students.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report.</p>	
21.55	Research	
	<p>The Head of Research Services provided a presentation on the research infrastructure at Glyndŵr University including: progress in meeting the RDAPs criteria and metrics; the creation of a single source of research data through the new Glyndwr Research Information System (WGRIS); the steps towards the release of the REF 2021 outcomes; mechanisms to create visibility of research activities and to embed a positive research culture; how research capacity within the University was being developed and enhanced; and the various way in which the University was meeting best practice.</p> <p>The Board welcomed the comprehensive presentation about how the research culture was developing within the University. In response to questions it was clarified that: personal research plans were embedded within the Professional Development Review (PDR) Scheme; and there were several mechanisms being utilised to build the research culture and develop staff as confident researchers and leaders.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the presentation.</p>	
21.56	Financial Management Report	
	<p>Received: Financial Management Report to 31st January 2022.</p> <p>Reported: The Executive Director of Finance presented the report and highlighted the continuing financial impact of the lower than budget target of new full-time undergraduate numbers and returners in 2021/22. As at the end of January an operational deficit was forecast and the reasons for this were highlighted. A progress report on the mitigating actions aimed at delivering a break-even position was provided.</p>	

	<p>Since the report had been published additional Welsh Government funding had been confirmed via HEFCW and an allocation for expenditure on equipment and other developments to support the transition to net zero and digital transformation would off-set circa £500k of current year costs. Discussions were also taking place with the pension actuaries to ascertain whether the FRS17 costs would be below the current budgeted £1m level. Costs were actively being reduced whilst ensuring certain key activities were being adequately resourced.</p> <p>There remained some risks around potential losses arising from GIL and the GIL Board had requested more accurate information on the timing to match costs and income in the accounting period they occurred, to provide further detail on when future income would be received. Strategy and Finance Committee were also closely monitoring the financial performance of GIL.</p> <p>It was noted that international student recruitment costs were accounted for within non pay and members wished to understand the net tuition fee income from international students after recruitment costs had been accounted for.</p> <p>An action plan to deliver the allocation of part-time credits remained in place and had undergone internal scrutiny. There remained challenges but the intention was to deliver the full allocation.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report.</p>	DE
21.57	Board Effectiveness Review	
	<p>Received: Final report of the Board’s 2021/22 effectiveness review from Advance HE.</p> <p>Reported: The Chair presented the report and highlighted the engagement of Nominations and Governance Committee with Aaron Porter from Advance HE regarding the contents of the report and the Committee’s recommendation.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report.</p> <p>To ENDORSE the findings of the report and AGREE for Nominations and Governance Committee to consider the recommendations in detail and put forward an action plan to address the findings of the report.</p>	
21.58	Campus 2025	
	<p>Received: Campus 2025 update.</p> <p>Reported: The Executive Director of Operations presented the report and updated members on developments regarding the removal of planning condition 11 from the Northern Quarter and the resulting new conditions regarding a car park barrier and a carpark management plan. The conditions in relation to Crispin Lane mirrored in the planning permissions for Plas Coch and Wrexham Student Village would need to go to planning committee approval as the applications had received objections.</p> <p>The new phosphate pollution targets in special areas of conservation across Wales, were slowing down the planning process and the local Council had not yet developed a strategy to deal with the implications of the new targets.</p> <p>There had been delays with the approval of the EEOC outline business case by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB). The construction work was now anticipated to commence on site in November 2022 with completion anticipated by</p>	

	<p>September 2024. The layout of the works had been agreed in principle and, due to rising build costs, there could be scope to reduce the size and costs of the building. NWEAB may recognise the cost pressures within their grant funding.</p> <p>The plans for the remaining elements of the Campus 2025 plans may need to be revisited for currency and in view of rising build costs.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the Campus 2025 update</p>	
21.59	Chair's report	
	<p>Reported: The Chair reported on events she had been involved in since the November Board.</p> <p>Chairs of Universities Wales (ChUW) were due to meet on 21st March with the Minister for Education and the Welsh Language to discuss the TERC(W) and the implications of the Government's response to the Augar Review.</p> <p>The Chair had met with the Chair of the Board designate on a 1:1 basis and would undertake the PDRs with the Vice Chancellor and Clerk to the Board reflecting on achievement of prior year objectives, in preparation for the new Chair to pick up discussion of future objectives.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report.</p>	
21.60	Report from Academic Board	
	<p>Received: (i) Report and minutes from Academic Board's February 2022 meeting. (ii) Degree Outcomes Statement April 2022</p> <p>Reported: The Vice Chancellor presented the report and highlighted the background and purpose of the Degree Outcomes Statement.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report and minutes.</p> <p>To APPROVE the Degree Outcomes Statement April 2022 for publication.</p>	
21.61	Corporate Risk Report	
	<p>Received: Corporate risk summary and Risk Heat Map, February 2022</p> <p>Reported: The Director of Strategic Planning and Student Administration presented the report and confirmed that the risk register was currently under review by VCB for presentation to the Audit Committee scheduled for 24th March</p> <p>As part of its review VCB was asked to take into consideration the potential impact of the war in Ukraine where the EU may be required to respond to an escalating situation which could impact the University's budget, recruitment and staff and students, for example increased fuel and food costs and potential cyber-attacks.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding the speed at which risks can crystallise and VCB was asked to consider the inclusion of a risk velocity assessment in future risk reports.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report.</p>	JD
21.62	HEFCW and other circulars	

	<p>Received: Report on HEFCW circulars relating to additional financial support for HE students for well-being and health and a consultation on revised guidance for student charters.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report.</p>	
21.63	Meeting dates 2022/23	
	<p>Received: The Board and Committee meeting dates for 2022/23.</p> <p>Resolved To NOTE the dates.</p>	
21.64	Committees of the Board	
	21.64.01 Human Resources Committee	
	<p>Received: (i) Report of the meeting held 10th February 2022 (ii) A document highlighting how the Board fulfils its responsibilities under the University's Health and Safety Policy</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report of the meeting held on 10th February 2022</p> <p>To NOTE that the unconfirmed minutes of 10th February had been circulated separately to the Board papers.</p> <p>To NOTE the report on how the Board fulfils its legal responsibilities under the University's Health and Safety Policy.</p>	
	21.64.02 Nominations and Governance Committee	
	<p>Received: Report of the meeting held 10th February 2022.</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report of the meeting held on 10th February 2022</p> <p>To NOTE that the unconfirmed minutes of 10th February had been circulated separately to the Board papers.</p>	
	21.64.03 Strategy and Finance Committee	
	<p>Received: (i) Report of the meeting held 11th February 2022. (ii) Proposal to delegate approval of the 2023/24 Fee and Access Plan to the Chair of the Board</p> <p>Resolved: To NOTE the report of the meeting held on 11th February 2022</p> <p>To NOTE that the unconfirmed minutes of the 11th February had been circulated separately to the Board papers.</p> <p>To APPROVE delegation to the Chair of the Board to approve and sign the 2023/24 Fee and Access Plan subject to there being no substantive changes from the 2022/23 plan approved by the Board in July 2021.</p>	
	21.64.03 Subsidiary Companies	
	<p>Received: Minutes of: (i) North Wales Science Meeting 20th January 2022</p>	

	(ii) Glyndwr Innovations Ltd meeting 8 th February 2022. Resolved: To NOTE the minutes.	
21.65	Chair of the Board	
	Under any other business the Vice Chancellor thanked Maxine Penlington for her excellent leadership of the Board over the last 6 years. The Board and the VCET were immensely grateful for her wise counsel and dedication to the University and would miss her greatly. She was wished well in her future endeavours.	

End

