

Minutes of the Board meeting of the Board of Governors of Glyndwr University held on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020** 9.00 am in 1887, Glyndwr University, Mold Road, Wrexham LL11 2AW.

**Present**

- Mr Jim Barclay
- Mr Paul Barlow
- Ms Ebony Banks
- Mr Jason Davies
- Mrs Laura Gough
- Professor Maria Hinfelaar
- Mr Colin Heron
- Mrs Claire Homard
- Mr Kieran Irwin
- Mrs Celia Jenkins
- Mr Paul McGrady
- Dr Jayne Mitchell
- Mrs Judy Owen
- Ms Maxine Penlington (Chair)
- Mr Askar Sheibani
- Mr David Sprake
- Mr David Subacchi

**Officers:**

- Mr David Elcock (*Executive Director of Finance*)
- Mrs Lynda Powell (*Executive Director of Operations*)
- Professor Claire Taylor (*Deputy Vice Chancellor*)
- Mr Pete Gibbs (*Executive Director of Human Resources*)
- Dr Aulay Mackenzie (*PVC Partnerships*)

**In Attendance:**

- Mrs Val Butterworth (*Clerk to the Board*)

**Apologies:**

- Professor Sandra Jowett

<b>19.52</b>	<b>Welcome and apologies</b>	
	Members were welcomed to the meeting and apologies were noted.	
	In particular Mrs Homard and Mr Davies were welcomed to their first meeting as independent governors	
<b>19.53</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	
	There were no declared conflicts of interest with any item on the agenda.	
<b>19.54</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	
	<b>Received:</b> (i) Minutes of the meeting held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019. (ii) Minutes of the special meeting held on 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2019.	
	<b>Resolved:</b> That the minutes of the meetings held on 22 <sup>nd</sup> November and 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 were a true and accurate record of those meetings.	
<b>19.55</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>	
	<b>Received:</b> A matters arising report provided by the Clerk.	

	<p><b>Reported:</b></p> <p><b>19.55.01 Working capital facilities (minute 19.55)</b> The Executive Director of Finance confirmed that he had received written confirmation from AIB that they have no objection to the University changing its provider of working capital facilities.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To NOTE the report.</p>	
<b>19.56</b>	<b>Vice Chancellor's Report</b>	
	<p><b>Reported:</b> The Vice-Chancellor reported briefly on discussions at a recent Universities Wales meeting. The discussions had included notification of further formulaic HEFCW funding allocations to Welsh universities for 2019/20; headline steers for 2020/21 funding with static student fees (£9k); the Welsh Governance Review; engagement of UUK with UK Government regarding future priorities including consideration of the value of a degree; development of degree outcomes reports; and UK Government's response to the Augar report now likely to be delayed to the autumn.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To NOTE the report.</p>	
<b>19.57</b>	<b>Students' Union President's Report</b>	
	<p><b>Received:</b> The Students' Union President's report.</p> <p><b>Reported:</b> The Students' Union President presented the report and reminded members of the Vice Chancellor's response to their impact report in October which included a commitment to ensure timely and effective assessment feedback to students. It was confirmed that students were receiving timely and more detailed assessment feedback.</p> <p>The SU's new style report was commended, in particular for the insight it now gave the Board regarding students' views.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To NOTE the report.</p>	
<b>d19.58</b>	<b>Financial management report</b>	
	<p><b>Received:</b> Financial management report to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.</p> <p><b>Reported:</b> The Executive Director of Finance highlighted that at the end of the first quarter a £609k surplus was now forecast against a budgeted surplus of £692k and the key movements were outlined and included a shortfall on part-time credit activity, although this shortfall had reduced since the report was issued. In addition circa 20 Policing degree students were undertaking a repeat year at no charge due to changes to the accreditation criteria by the College of Policing; the second entry phase of the degree apprenticeships had started later than expected in budgetary terms; and there had been significant increases in utility costs. These matters had been off-set to some extent by staff vacancy savings.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To NOTE the report.</p>	
<b>19.59</b>	<b>Campus 2025</b>	
	<b>Received:</b>	

- A Campus 2025 report including:
- (i) Update on planning appeals
  - (ii) Update on the disposal of the Norther Quarter and Heads of Terms with Edwards Homes
  - (iii) HEFCW capital fund bid
  - (iv) Valuation report of the Land at Mold Road commissioned jointly by the University, Welsh Government and Wrexham County Borough Council.
  - (v) Charities Report in respect of the Land at Mold Road commissioned exclusively for the Board of Governors.

**Reported;**

**19.59.01 Update on planning appeals**

Members noted that the planning appeals for the Dean (Holt) Road and Gatewen sites remained in process.

**19.59.02 Update on the disposal of the Norther Quarter**

The University is now in a period of exclusivity with Edwards Homes and they had been granted a license to occupy the Northern Quarter site to undertake their ground investigations, which were on-going. Members NOTED the Head of Terms between Edwards Homes and the University.

**19.59.03 Surplus Land at Mold Road/Crispin Lane**

Welsh Government wished to purchase the land to support the Wrexham Gateway Partnership's master plan for the development of Wrexham. The realisation of the Master Plan would also include the development of the Football Stadium including the Kop.

It was reported that the valuation was based on the future potential of the land at Crispin Lane/Mold Road and it had been valued as a freehold interest with the benefit of vacant possession at between £750k and £800k. Welsh Government had offered £775k which was not subject to planning permission. The Charities Report confirmed that this sum represents current market value and recommended the sale at £775k.

It was clarified that a restriction on the title had been requested prohibiting the development of purpose built student accommodation, which had not adversely impacted the value. A clause had also been requested whereby if the land is subsequently not developed as part of the Wrexham Gateway Masterplan, and Welsh Government decide to market the property for other purposes and achieve a higher value, then an overage payment calculated at 50% of the up-lift would be shared made to the University.

It was further clarified that the disposal would not have a negative effect on the revenue account and that the income would partially off-set the partial loan repayment made to AIB in August 2019.

As recommended by the Strategy and Finance Committee the Board accepted the written report from the qualified surveyor; noted their advice to dispose of the surplus land to Welsh Government on the terms in the Charities Report; and were satisfied that the terms negotiated were the best that could be reasonably obtained.

**19.59.04 HEFCW capital fund bid**

The tender timetable for the appointment of contractors to undertake the estates work was noted.

	<p><b>Resolved:</b> To NOTE the report.</p> <p>To APPROVE that delegation be given to the Chair of the Board (or Vice Chair in her absence) and the Chair of Strategy and Finance Committee to approve the tender award recommendation in early April, as well as delegation to two governors (one of whom must be the Chair or Vice Chair) to sign and seal the resulting contract for the HEFCW funded estates improvements.</p> <p>To APPROVE the disposal of the surplus land at Mold Road/Crispin Lane to Welsh Government at a value of £775k and APPROVE that management continue negotiations on the sale.</p>	
<b>19.60</b>	<b>Fee and Access Plans</b>	
	<p><b>Received:</b> (i) Fee and Access Plan annual monitoring statement for 2018/19 (ii) Update on the development of the Fee and Access Plan for 2021/22.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To NOTE the report and that the final Fee and Access Plan would be presented for approval to the Board meeting scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p>To NOTE the Fee and Access Plan annual monitoring statement for 2018/19.</p>	
<b>19.61</b>	<b>Welsh Governance Review</b>	
	<p><b>Received:</b> Report of the independent lead for the Welsh Governance Review</p> <p><b>Reported:</b> The Chair confirmed that a Charter with commitments to Action would be published week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> February. Nominations and Governance Committee and the Board will be asked to reflect on what the Charter means for the University's governance. The Governor Development day scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> April will also reference the Charter.</p> <p>The Charter will be circulated as soon as it is available and will be included on the agenda of the special meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To NOTE the report</p>	
<b>19.62</b>	<b>Chair's report</b>	
	<p><b>Reported:</b> The Chair highlighted the various events planned between now and the May Board meeting highlighting the Board development day scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> April.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To NOTE the report.</p>	
<b>19.63</b>	<b>HEFCW and other Circulars, consultations and responses</b>	
	<p><b>Received:</b> A report of the HEFCW consultation on a proposed additional quality and standards assurance question, and the University's response.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> To NOTE the report.</p>	
<b>19.64</b>	<b>Committees of the Board</b>	
	<b>19.64.01 Human Resources Committee</b>	
	<p><b>Received:</b> Report of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020</p>	

	<p><b>Resolved:</b> To NOTE that the unconfirmed minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> February had been circulated in advance of the Board papers.</p> <p>To NOTE the report of the Committee.</p> <p>To APPROVE the Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024.</p>	
	<p><b>19.64.02 Strategy and Finance Committee</b></p>	
	<p><b>Received:</b> Report of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020.</p> <p><b>Reported:</b> It was reported that exploration of working capital facilities continues in order to replace the Sancus Finance product which has been withdrawn from the market. Strategy and Finance Committee approved continuation to full financial analysis of the arrangements available in the market.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b></p> <p>To APPROVE the continuation to a full financial analysis of the working capital facilities available.</p> <p>To AGREE to recommend to the Board that delegation is given to the Chair (or in her absence the Vice Chair) of the Board with the Chair of Strategy and Finance Committee to consider the financial analysis and approve the new working capital facility or further temporary arrangements in light of the need to access additional working capital in advance of the next Committee and Board meetings.</p> <p>To NOTE that the unconfirmed minutes of 7<sup>th</sup> February had been circulated in advance of the Board papers.</p> <p>To NOTE the report of the Committee.</p>	

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