

Bangor University

SCHOOL OF WELSH MEDIUM STUDIES

Date: : 14 October 2010

Present: : Dr. Llion Jones (Chair), Miss Tegau Andrews, Dr. Andrew Andrew Davies Eryl Wynn Davies, Dr. Peredur Davies, Mr. Hefin Francis, Dr. Lowri Hughes, Dr. Jerry Hunter, Dr. Dei Huws, Dr. Llion Iwan, Mrs. Bethan Wyn Jones, Mr. Dewi Wyn Jones, Miss Eirian Jones, Miss Sioned Medi Jones, Dr. Eifiona Thomas Lane, Dr. Gwyn Lewis, Mrs. Pauline Loftus, Mr. Eilir Hedd Morgan, Dr. Delyth Morris, Mrs. Delyth Murphy, Mr. Gerwyn Owen, Dr. Sara Parry, Mr. Huw Pritchard, Mr. Stephen Rees, Mrs. Gwerfyl Wyn Roberts, Dr. Paula Roberts, Dr. Richard G. Roberts, Miss Mair Rowlands, Dr. Pwyll ap Sion, Dr. Enlli Môn Thomas, Mr. Wyn Thomas, Yr Athro Gerwyn Williams, Miss Manon Wyn Williams, Miss Sharyn Williams, Dr. Einir Young, Miss Nia Young, Mr. Emyr Roberts (Secretary), Dr. Ioan Matthews (Centre for Welsh Medium Higher Education).

Apologies: Dr. Jason Walford-Davies, Mr. Ifor Gruffydd, Mr. David James, Mr. Malcolm John, Mr. Dyfrig Jones, Ms. Gwenda Rhian Jones, Dr. Manon Wyn Jones, Mr. Julian Andrew Owen, Dr. Angharad Price, Ms. Angharad Rhisiart, Mrs. Anwen Roberts, Mr. Euryrn Roberts, Mrs. Gwenan Williams, Dr. Prysor Williams, Miss Sarah Williams.

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Dr. Peredur Davies, Mr. Hefin Francis, Mr. Eilir Morgan, Mr. Gerwyn Owen, Mr. Huw Pritchard, Dr. Richard Roberts, Miss Manon Wyn Williams and Miss Nia Young to their first meeting of the School. A special welcome was extended to Miss Mair Rowlands and Miss Sharyn Williams in their role as representatives of UMCB and the Students' Union.

2. CONGRATULATIONS

The Chair congratulated Dr. Jerry Hunter on his success in winning the Prose Medal at the National Eisteddfod at Ebbw Vale this year.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the School's meeting held on 19th April 2010 were accepted as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

1. Item 4 (ii) Bursaries

It was reported that the University does not intend to offer bursaries to postgraduate students but that individual schools are free to offer them from their own resources. However the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol will be establishing a scheme for postgraduate scholarships which will be open to any master's course that reaches a specific threshold of Welsh medium credits. **It was agreed** to give formal support to the need to establish a Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme within the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

2. Item 6 Welcome Week

It was reported that a number of different efforts had been made to disseminate information amongst students about Welsh medium modules and about the bursaries. There was an event on the Tuesday of Welcome Week in Bar Uno on the Ffriddoedd Site. Unfortunately this clashed with a Module Fair in Prichard-Jones Hall. The event was well supported by staff members but student numbers were disappointing. The event had been widely advertised and there is no clear explanation for the lack of student response. It was also noted that there was no corresponding provision for Welsh speaking postgraduate students. **It was agreed:**

(i) that it was crucially important for new students to meet staff during the first week and in one room like Neuadd Powis.

(ii) that the entire issue should be referred to the attention of TASIG. **(Action: LLJ).**

3. Item 8 Capping Student Numbers

It was reported that a discussion had been held with the Pro Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) and it was noted that the Funding Council was taking into consideration the need to safeguard numbers of Welsh medium students. It is not certain at present what student numbers will be before 2011/2012. **It was agreed** to invite the Vice Chancellor to give a presentation to the next meeting of the School. **(Action: LLJ).**

5. CHAIR'S BUSINESS

1. Appointment of a Pro Vice Chancellor (Welsh medium and Civic Engagement)

It was reported that full details of the post of Pro Vice Chancellor (Welsh medium) were available on the University website. The closing date is 22 October and it is hoped that a good number of strong applications will be received.

2. Neuadd John Morris Jones

It was reported that the students have now moved to the new hall in the Bryn Dinas and Tegfan buildings on the Ffriddoedd Site. The move had gone fairly smoothly and they appreciate the better resources but miss the sense of being part of a community. It was reported that Neuadd Tegfan was full as well as five floors out of eight in Neuadd Bryn Dinas. In view of the doubts expressed about the move, it was agreed that the numbers were encouraging.

However, it was reported that there had been no move on the intention to create a link between the two buildings. Members were informed that the Executive will be considering three options in its meeting next week, which will be a pathway, a roofed pathway, or a link built of bricks. They will also be considering the need to develop the common room.

3. The National Eisteddfod.

It was reported that the University's stand at the Ebbw Vale National Eisteddfod this year had been a success although it was two units smaller. There were plenty of varied activities throughout the week and a good number of visitors to the stand.

The Chair thanked the team in the Marketing Department for their work and for their success in maintaining such vitality on the stand.

4. National Development Schemes

It was reported that the consultation period for the individual subject development schemes had come to an end. It was noted that there had not been much response from Bangor, and it was suggested that this reflected the fact that Bangor Academic schools had played an active role in the initial preparation of the schemes. Dr. Matthews thanked him for the comments and noted that a panel had discussed them yesterday and that a paper will be submitted to the attention of the Sector Group.

5. Current Welsh Medium Fellowships and Scholarships

The current situation with regard to the holders of Welsh medium fellowships and scholarships was outlined, with particular attention given to those awarded for 2010/11.

Fellowships

2008/09

Dr Sara Elin Roberts	Law
Dr Paula Roberts	Environment and Natural Resources

2009/10

Dr Andrew Davies	Chemistry
Dr Peredur Davies	Linguistics
Ms Pauline Loftus	Education

2010/11

Dr Manon Wyn Jones	Psychology
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Scholarships

2005/06

Dr Owain Llwyd Music

2006/07

Nia Griffith Psychology
Menna Wyn Modern Languages

2007/08

Enlli Haf Huws Chemistry
Gwawr Ifan Music
Ruth Wyn Williams Health Sciences

2008/09

Edith Gruber Modern Languages
Siân Wynn Lloyd Education
Eilir Hedd Morgan Ocean Sciences
Gerwyn Owen Creative Studies
Dewi Huw Owen Theology and Religious Studies
Euryn Roberts History

2009/10

Huw Pritchard Law
Thomas Christy Computer Sciences

2010/11

Manon Wyn Williams Welsh
Owain Jones History
Julian Owen Sports Sciences
Nia Young Education

6. Welsh Medium Enhancement Project

It was reported that the Pro Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) has set up a project to enhance Welsh Medium Provision. He has already visited all the colleges to discuss his ideas. Three targets have already been established.

the development of two or three new courses;

(ii) investment in higher level staff to lead developments;

(iii) boosting employability by the provision of work placement modules and work experience.

There will be a further report on this in the next meeting of the school. **(Action LLJ)**

7. Welsh medium Student Numbers

Preliminary figures have been received by the Planning and Resources Office for 2010/11 registrations. Although the number of Welsh speakers appears to be 450 fewer than last year, it was emphasised that the figures did not include Lifelong

Learning registrations nor the second cohort of the School of Health Sciences. It was also noted that there was no information about the language status of a substantial number of students.

With regard to registrations on Welsh medium modules, it was reported that there was a reduction of about 20 FTE with fluctuating patterns across different departments. It was noted, however, that there was a clear increase Welsh medium postgraduate registrations.

6. “Y COLEG CYMRAEG CENEDLAETHOL” – PRESENTATION BY DR. IOAN MATTHEWS

1. The Chair welcomed Dr. Ioan Matthews, the Director of the Centre for Welsh Medium Higher Education who was in attendance to give a presentation on ‘Y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol’. The Chair expressed appreciation of Dr Matthew’s willingness to attend the meeting in order to provide an outline of the most recent situation to members of the school.

Dr Matthews explained that this is a time of major changes which will transform Welsh medium education. He referred to the exciting possibilities that faced those working in the field of Welsh medium higher education and added that recent months had seen a number of positive developments. He expressed his aspiration to see the sector moving forward as one via collaboration and full consultation. Dr Matthews then elaborated upon the following points:

- The key steps
 - Constitution
 - Name of College
 - Governance
 - College Directors
 - Academic Planning Group
 - Staffing and administration
 - Undergraduate Scholarship Scheme
 - Main College Scholarships
 - Study Scholarships
 - Academic Staffing Scheme
 - Next steps
2. Following this members were given an opportunity to offer comments or ask questions and the following points were noted.
 - 2.1 Who is underwriting the company financially bearing in mind that only five years’ funding has been allocated? It was emphasised that the new funding is for five years only, and that existing activities, which would transfer to the College, are supported by recurrent funding. It was noted that the universities are providing the financial warranty, but that it is limited.

- 2.2 The Directors will not be salaried and will receive expenses only.
- 2.3 It should be emphasised that the College will not itself offer provision, but will work through and with the universities. It would be an issue for the College to consider how much emphasis to place on full degrees and/or a specific number of modules each year (possibly depending on the subject).
- 2.4 It was agreed to circulate the constitution to members. **(Action LLJ)**
- 2.5 The College Executive Board decided to denote Carmarthen as the main administrative location since the staff and resources of the Centre for Welsh Medium Higher Education are already located there and there would be no additional financial implications, nor duplication of work.
- 2.6 It was suggested that a portion of the £1m allocated for the appointment of academic staff should be directed towards existing staff in the institutions in order to free up more of their time for the provision of Welsh medium courses. The College will consider this crucial point soon.
- 2.7 The question was raised whether there were plans to seek other funding sources. It was noted that the constitution permits this but that there has been no discussion on this issue thus far.

The chair thanked Dr Matthews for his valuable presentation.

7. STUDENT COMPLAINTS

Student Union Officials have reported that complaints have been received from students that some Welsh medium modules have been cancelled at the beginning of term. The Union will be investigating this issue and will try to ensure student representation on all Boards of Studies.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the School will be held at 2.15pm on Wednesday, 26 January 2011 in the Council Chamber.