

SCHOOL FOR WELSH MEDIUM STUDIES

- Date** : 16 October 2008
- Present** : Dr. Llion Jones (Chairman), Dr. Pwyll Ap Siôn, Mr. Geraint George, Mrs. Bethan Wyn Jones, Miss Sioned Medi Jones, Dr. Gwyn Lewis, Dr. Arne Pommerening, Dr. Robert Pope, Ms. Eileen Tilley, Prof. Gerwyn Williams, Mr. Emyr Roberts (Secretary).
- Apologies** : Mr. Ifor Gruffudd, Dr. Lowri Hughes, Mrs. Elen Huws, Ms. Meri Huws, Mr. David James, Dr. Dewi Wyn Jones, Mrs. Delyth Murphy, Mrs. Mairwen Owen, Dr. Iestyn Pierce, Mrs. Carys Wyn Roberts, Mrs. Gwerfyl Wyn Roberts, Mr. Wyn Thomas, Dr. Eifiona Thomas Lane, Dr. Catrin Haf Williams, Mrs. Gwenan Williams, Mrs. Gwawr Maelor Williams, Dr. Prysor Williams, Mrs. Cheryl Wright, Dr. Einir Young.

1. DEATH

The Chairman referred to the recent death of Dr. Geraint Wyn Jones, former lecturer at the School of Education and former Director of Canolfan Bedwyr, and former Chairman of the School for Welsh Medium Studies. Geraint had contributed extensively to the field of Welsh-medium education, not only at the University, but also in the context of Wales as a whole.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the School held on 21 April 2008 were accepted as correct.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Item 2(i) College of Health and Behavioural Sciences – School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences
It was reported that the Chairman and Ms Meri Huws had had a constructive meeting with the Head of the College, and it was agreed:
- That the School will make an application for a Welsh Medium Fellowship for 2009/10.

- That the School will nominate two representatives for the Sports & Leisure Network Panel. They had now nominated Sarah Williams and Mr. James Hardy.
 - That the School of Health and Behavioural Sciences will need to nominate a Welsh-medium champion. It was agreed that the College should be reminded of this need.
- (ii) Item 3(3) The Language Scheme
It was reported that the Language Scheme had been launched very successfully in June, at a well-attended event.
- (iii) Item 3(5) It was reported that the use of the simultaneous translation service at lectures and classes was continuing to develop, with the School of Education and the School of the Environment and Natural Resources among the Schools which had availed themselves of it.
- (iv) Item 3(a) It was reported that members of the staff of Bangor University and the University of Glamorgan had joined the National Sabbatical Scheme for the Distance Learning course which runs from September – December 2008. It was noted that an additional Distance Learning course would take place between April and June 2009, which again will be open to staff from the HE sector. Everyone was encouraged to think about colleagues who might be in a position to gain from the provision.
- (v) Item 6 It was reported that a very successful meeting had taken place in June of the Scholarships and Fellowships Holders’ Forum. It had been designed to respond to the needs of the holders themselves, and Dr. Gwyn Lewis had agreed to host a session with the students at the next meeting.
- (vi) Item 11 It was reported that the University’s stand at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff had been a success, with a number of events and launches. Strong feeling existed that the stand needed to continue in its present form for the future.

4. TASIG REPORT

In the absence of Ms Meri Huws, the Chairman submitted a summary of the deliberations of the Welsh Language Strategy Task Group at its meeting held on 6 October 2008.

National Context

The Assembly Minister Jane Hutt has established a Federal College Planning Board under the chairmanship of Professor Robin Williams, and Professor Colin Baker and the Chairman have been invited to be members. There will be 3-4 meetings, with the first on 20 October.

Internal Context

- (1) Ms Meri Huws will be leaving the University on 31 October, and no replacement Pro Vice-Chancellor will be appointed. The Vice-Chancellor will be responsible for the Welsh-medium portfolio, will chair TASIG and will represent the establishment on the Welsh Medium Sector Group. It was **agreed** to express concern at the absence of a Welsh-Medium PVC at this critical moment, and with the work due to increase.
- (2) Six Welsh-Medium Scholarships and 3 Welsh-Medium Fellowships have been filled for 2008/2009. Arrangements will move on to the next round in 2009/210, and applications will need to be submitted by 21 November.
- (3) The work of the Network Panels continues, with Bangor having been named as main provider in Social Sciences, Music and Chemistry, which considerable sums of money set aside to launch Development Plans in these fields.

5. FUTURE OF NEUADD JOHN MORRIS JONES

It was reported that a group had met to discuss the future of Neuadd John Morris Jones. Because of its poor condition, the present building will be closing in the near future, on a date to be determined. Students' representatives participated in the discussions, and it was agreed to choose Tegfan on Safle Ffriddoedd as a new Welsh-speaking Hall. Moreover, it is proposed to use some floors in Bryn Dinas should there be demand for more rooms. The final decision will be taken by the Halls Task Group, and then by the Council.

It was agreed to stress the importance of the continuity of the Welsh-speaking Hall and to keep its name, and the Chairman was asked to discuss the matter further with Mr. Ken Griffith, Head of Halls. (**Action: LJJ**)

6. APPRAISAL OF WELCOME WEEK ACTIVITIES 2008/2009

It was reported that the activities of Welcome Week had attempted to build on the previous year's pattern. A booklet on Welsh-medium and Bilingual Modules for Year 1 2008/2009 had been prepared for Welcome Week, and a modules fair had taken place at Neuadd JMJ. It will be necessary to consider the provision of a separate booklet in the future about Yr.2 and Yr.3 modules before the pre-registration period, and possible circulate them electronically.

The week had seen two new developments, namely that an e-mail had been sent out to all students who had registered as Welsh-medium, and Dr. Lowri Hughes had given a presentation to the day students. This is to be formalised for next year.

Dr Lowri Hughes was thanked for all her work in organising and promoting the activities. Ideas were requested for other things that could be done in order to promote Welsh-medium provision during Welcome Week. It was suggested that

there should be a presence at the Students' Union, with contact made with Peer Guides through Ms Kim Davies. (**Action: LIJ**)

7. REGISTER OF WELSH MEDIUM PRACTITIONERS

It was reported that the Centre for Welsh Medium Higher Education was trying to maintain a register of Welsh Medium Practitioners. The register was now live on the www, and Bangor staff need to place their own details on the Register. The Chairman will write to all staff who have not yet registered. (**Action: LIJ**)

8. THANKS

The Chairman noted that Ms Meri Huws, Pro Vice-Chancellor, was leaving the University for her new position in South Wales at the end of the month. On behalf of the members, he gave her his heartfelt thanks for her guidance in the promotion and implementation of the University's Welsh-medium strategy. She was wished well for the future

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 2.15pm, Wednesday, 28 January 2009 in the Council Chamber.