

SCHOOL OF WELSH-MEDIUM STUDIES

- Date:** 1 February 2006
- Place:** Council Chamber
- Present:** Dr Einir Young (Chairman), Ms Meri Huws, Ms Bethan W Jones, Dr Llion Jones, Dr Peredur Lynch, Mr Dewi Owens, Dr Iestyn Pierce, Mrs Delyth Prys, Mr Wyn Thomas, Professor Deri Tomos, Professor Thomas Watkin, Dr Cen Williams, Miss Rachel Ley (Minutes).
- Apologies:** Mr Geraint George, Mrs Eleri Hughes, Dr Eifiona Lane, Mrs Delyth Murphy, Mrs Mairwen Owen, Dr Arne Pommerening, Dr Robert Pope, Ms Carys Roberts, Dr Enlli Thomas, Dr Jason Walford Davies, Mrs Gwenan Williams

1. CONDOLENCES

The School offered its condolences to the family and friends of Dafydd Arthur of the Lifelong Learning Department who recently passed away suddenly. He was a member of Meri Huws' team and had taken part in the School's activities during Welcome Week. There was a minute's silence as a mark of respect for him. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m., February 2nd, in Berea Newydd Chapel.

2. WELCOME

Mr Dewi Owens from the Planning and Resources Office was warmly welcomed to his first meeting.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the School's meeting held on October 20, 2005 were accepted as a true record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Presentation by Dr Ioan Matthews

- ii. It was noted that the development of the new website was still awaited.
- iii. It was noted that UWB had submitted a financial application to the Project Fund and that Meri Huws would be reporting on this during the meeting.
- iv. UWB had submitted applications for scholarships and once again Meri Huws would be reporting on this.
- v. The closing date for the Scholarships was in February and applications were being prepared.
- vi. Concern was expressed that a large number of higher education fairs were being cancelled. Carys Roberts offered the UWB service to fairs but the usual response was that they did not want to promote individual colleges. It was noted that UWB's relationship with the Centre needed to be considered and that Aber and UWB needed to develop a special relationship. This should be noted in the assessment of options.
- vii. It was noted for information that a questionnaire had been distributed in September 2004 but that the data collected had not yet been analysed. The reasons for this were unclear and it was felt that the situation was quite unsatisfactory. A member of the School who specialises in analysing data of this kind had offered to have a look at it to assess how much work was outstanding, but the reply received

was that we would have to 'tender'. It was felt that this was not acceptable since the Centre had received £300,000 in additional funding since July and the number of staff was increasing but the basics were not getting done. It was mentioned that TASIG should be asked to raise this with Lyn Williams.

Action: MH

ix. It was noted there was a meeting for scholarship holders on March 22nd in mid-Wales with an opportunity for students to meet up, share experiences, consider training opportunities that could be developed and organise a programme of meetings for the future. It was decided that the Chairman should mention to Dr Matthews that Aber, Cardiff and Bangor should host the meeting in turn.

Action: EY

4.

i. Mentoring and Peer Guide Scheme

It was noted that four students will be going to Ysgol Tryfan this year, which is an increase. Dafydd Arthur's death will affect the programme since he was responsible for organising it.

It was noted that the Chairman had circulated an e-mail to year 1 and 2 students on behalf of Kim Davies in order to recruit peer guides this year. The hope is that targeting Welsh speakers will help to increase numbers. The postgraduate group were also circulated to invite them to help with training the Welsh-speaking peer guides. The Chairman accepted an invitation to chair the Welsh-medium group when it meets in the Spring.

ii. Presence in the Eisteddfod

A group has been set up by Elinor Ellis Williams to arrange a corporate presence in Swansea and the college has given £20,000 towards it. The next meeting will be on February 16th and it was noted that individuals would be invited to work on the stall. We intend to launch a pack created by Dafydd Arthur during the week.

It is noted that a permanent bus promoting individual departments would be of benefit to the University and it would be good idea to make an application for a vehicle when the Hysbys comes to the end of its tour in 18 months.

iii. Library Restructuring

It was noted that Alison McKenzie, the College's new Librarian had started her new post that morning and that she had started to learn Welsh. It was decided that Llion Jones, Meri Huws ac Einir Young should arrange to see her together.

Action: LLJ, MH, EY

iv. The Centre for Creative Industries

It was noted that Llion Dafydd had not submitted a report since the last meeting and that he needed to report back to it.

Action: LID

5.4 Peer e-mail groups

These were used for contacting peer guides. It was also noted that there had been a very good meeting of postgraduate students before Christmas in Dylan's. It is hoped to hold similar events fairly regularly.

5.5 School Membership

Human Resources were contacted to ask for names and e-mail addresses of all the Welsh speakers so that they would automatically become members of the school. Everyone appointed from now on will become a member unless they wish to be exempted.

6. Discussions with Aber

Discussions will not move ahead until after the two enquiries which are considering the cost of the provision of Welsh-medium education and the options assessment because the full economic cost of the exercise has not been considered.

7. Canolfan Bedwyr report

It was decided that Canolfan Bedwyr had been reporting to the school for historical reasons and that from now on any centre would be welcome to contribute. Cen Williams was thanked for his reports to the group over the years.

5. DIRECTOR'S BUSINESS

1. Assessment of Options

It was noted that there was no information about the current situation but that consultants were due to report in May. It was suggested that the reports of May 10th 2004 and July 16th 2003 should be used as appendices to any report by UWB. A decision was made to circulate the original document again to remind members and when the necessary information is received comments can be coordinated.

Action: EY

2. Report on the University Board for Welsh-Medium Teaching

In its meeting on October 21 the University of Wales Council approved revisions to Administrative Ordinand 10: the University Board for Welsh-Medium Teaching, which deals with the Board's constitution and functions.

In his letter to the board prior to the meeting of 8/11/05 Lyn Williams drew the board's attention to the proposed changes. He noted that they had to be submitted to the University of Wales Academic Board on November 11th and brought back to the council either for final approval or for further discussion in the light of the Academic Board's comments. It was also noted that the council was anxious for the Board of Welsh-Medium Teaching to have the opportunity to offer any comments on the events before its meets on December the 16th.

The revisions were discussed in detail in the meeting of the Welsh-Medium Teaching Board on 8/11/05 and the following points were noted:

1. The University's Welsh-Medium Teaching Board is the only body in direct contact with all the individual institutions and thus with the individuals who offer Welsh-medium provision.
2. Thus this is the group that will be able to feed ideas to the other groups, such as Andrew Green's steering group and the Management Board for the Welsh-Medium Studies Centre.
3. There was a strong consensus that the Board's function was to 'promote discussion, consideration and development of higher education policy in Wales, to the extent that it affects Welsh-medium teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level, as well as research studies held through the medium of Welsh' rather than a 'discussion forum' as suggested in the revisions to the Ordinand.
4. It was noted that Andrew Green's Steering Group and the Management Board for the Welsh-Medium Education Centre needed to be named as two groups for which in the Board's opinion it would be appropriate to name representatives. It is envisaged that other groups will be added.
5. It was noted that the Board needed to receive a report from Andrew Green's Steering Group as well as the Steering Group for the Welsh-Medium Education Centre. – and in the light of the Board's unique role in relation to the institutions that there was a need for dialogue with these groups – not 'for information' only.

6. The members of the Board are of the opinion that the executive committee need to be retained as a smaller group who can meet more regularly.

A decision was made to make every effort to ensure that this opinion was conveyed to the Academic Board and to the Council. The Chairman will write to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and to Lynn Williams and individual members asking their Vice Chancellors to write to Lynn Williams and to HEW, so that HEW representatives are aware of this and speak in favour of it in the Council meeting on December 16th.

3. Gwerddon

Anwen Jones, a member of the staff of the Theatre, Film and Television Centre at Aberystwyth is now the editorial assistant on Gwerddon. The editorial board had met on January 13th and Wyn Thomas and the School Chairman represented Bangor.

This has taken a long time to get off the ground but the plans are as follows:

January 2006 The editorial board was reconvened. An application was made for money and UWP approval. The application for money to the Centre is a formality since the money has already been allocated but not used. The press staff have changed and the relationship needs to be re-established. It was noted that the original budget was £5,500.

February 2006 Articles invited for issue 1.

May 2006 Start processing issue 1 articles.

June 2006 Articles invited for issue 2. By the end of June articles for issue 1 to be edited, translated and corrected. It should be noted that an honorarium of £50 will be offered for reviewing articles. The articles will be 5000-6000 words in length.

July 2006 Issue 1 submitted to the press.

September 2006 Start to process articles for Issue 2.

October 2006 Publish Issue 1 and launch Gwerddon.

It was noted that the authors would probably adopt the Guidelines of the National Library Magazine. There was a need for a wide range of subjects and editors and members were encouraged to contact the Chairman if they knew of anyone who would like to act as a subject editor. Ioan Matthew's website will advertise this and copyright should be discussed with the press.

It was proposed that it would be a good idea for each institution to take it in turn to publish articles and that articles which win national awards could be published.

6. TASIG REPORT

Ms M Huws noted that the remit of TASIG (TASCC until recently) had changed to include a Welsh language strategy. Ms Huws reported on the following:

1. London Economic (from Ireland) – the group of economists were currently looking at the cost of Welsh-medium provision and were intending to visit each higher education institution in Wales during its investigation. It became clear that the assessment of the cost of the provision to individual institutions gave a better estimate than pricing individual modules. UWB had provided them with samples of modules and a list of relevant bullet points, as well as organising visits with Welsh-medium teams.

2. Finance

i. **Project Fund** – UWB had submitted an application for £34,000 with a particular view to strengthening modules or creating new ones within the proposed colleges.

- ii. **Scholarships** – a total of five applications had been submitted in the areas of Psychology, Law, Theatre/Creative Industries, Modern Languages/Creative Industries, History.
- iii. **Fellowships** – the hope was that some would be obtained in Agriculture and the Creative Industries and that the term of one existing fellowship would be extended. Some would be available in the occupational sector from the next financial year onwards. Nursing and the School of Education will be able to apply for them.
- iv. TASIG had given the money left over from last year to Carys Roberts to create a booklet on Welsh-medium provision in Bangor for the Urdd Eisteddfod.
- v. **Cen Williams** was congratulated on his sabbatical schemes for further education staff, where the emphasis was on language improvement.
- vi. **Lifelong Learning Department** – an application had been received for it to be responsible for the entire Welsh teaching provision in North Wales.

3. Furlong Report – a special meeting of the School will need to be held to discuss the proposed abolition of the BEd.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Information - it was noted that Alan Parry, the new Director of Public Relations, could be invited to the next meeting of the School.

2. Y Glwyd Olaf (UMCA's discussion paper on Welsh-medium provision) – distributed via e-mail to recipients.

3. Estates -

i It was noted that the Welsh and Welsh-medium sphere should be a consideration within the Estates strategy, with particular attention to its multilingual provision and joint teaching.

ii It was noted that discussions had just begun regarding the relocation of Neuadd John Morris Jones, but that it must be ensured that students were part of the process and that the social aspect was considered. Professor Peredur Lynch suggested that the School Director should be a member of the task group which is discussing this.

4. The Website – it was noted that some technical matters had been resolved because revised versions of pages were appearing in English before the Welsh version was revised. Meri Huws was asked to put pressure on the Information Technology Services with regard to this matter.

Action: MH

5. Entrance Examination – it was felt that the system for accepting entrance examination papers needed to be revised since Welsh language papers were being translated before checking whether a lecturer was available to mark them in the original language.

6. RAE – John Farrar needed to be aware of the need for his team to input Welsh language addresses as well as English language addresses into the computer system when searching for staff research papers. Otherwise Welsh language addresses will not be found.

7. Re-launch of the Scientific Society – it is hoped to hold a conference in 2007. Ideas are welcomed. If it would be made accessible to the public it would be possible to attract further funding.

8. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on April 24 2006 at 2.15pm in the Council Chamber.