

**UNIVERSITY OF WALES, BANGOR**

**SCHOOL FOR WELSH-MEDIUM STUDIES**

- Date:** 20 October, 2005
- Place:** Council Chamber
- Present:** Dr Einir Young (Chairman), Mr Llion Dafydd, Ms Meri Huws, Mr David James, Ms Bethan W Jones, Ms Gwenda Rhian Jones, Dr Llion Jones, Dr Peredur Lynch, Dr Ioan Matthews (item 1 only), Dr Delyth Morris, Mrs Delyth Murphy, Dr Arne Pommerening, Mrs Delyth Prys, Mr Stephen P Rees, Dr Enlli Thomas, Professor Deri Tomos, Miss Rachel Ley (Minutes).
- Apologies:** Ms Shân Ashton, Dr Eryl Davies, Dr Jason Walford Davies, Mrs Lorna Egan, Mr Geraint George, Mr Aled Griffiths, Mr Dewi W Jones, Mr Eifion Lloyd Jones, Dr Eifiona Lane, Professor Densil Morgan, Mrs Mairwen Owen, Dr Robert Pope, Mr Dafydd Roberts, Dr Geraint Tudur, Professor Thomas Watkin, Dr Eddie Williams, Mr Selwyn Williams.

**1. PRESENTATION**

The meeting opened with a presentation by Dr Ioan Matthews from the University of Wales on the work of the Centre for the Development of Welsh-medium Education (CDAAC). The main points were as follows:

- i. Recent developments**  
October 2004 – the HEFCW Steering Group’s strategy was submitted to the Minister.  
June 2005 – changes were made to the Centre.  
July 2005 – further plans from the Reconfiguration Fund were financed.
- ii. The Centre’s Role**  
Located within the University of Wales but serving the sector with a small Management Board meeting 6 times a year.  
A new website is being created.
- iii. The Centre’s Work Programme: ongoing activities**  
Maintaining regular contact with the institutions and collaborating on/coordinating projects  
Project fund worth £50,000 in 2005/6.
- iv. Scholarships**  
Ten awarded for 2005/6, and there will be close collaboration with the institutions. Targets will be agreed including a commitment to create jobs. Training opportunities/ a support structure are being created for the students.
- v. Fellowships**  
Six awarded for 2005/6.

**vi. Marketing and Follow-up: current activities**

The development of contacts with schools/colleges – promoting the existing provision and the advantages of bilingual skills.

A Marketing officers' Group has been set: CD Rom about to be commissioned.

**vii. Marketing and Follow-up: some of the plans being implemented**

A marketing and follow-up strategy agreed for the institutions.

Further research on students' attitudes/ aspirations.

**viii. New plans (funding has been secured up until 2007/8)**

Consideration of plans which can be developed via partnership in the sector (including support for scholarship students and staff).

**ix. Assessment of Options**

A Steering Group has been set up for the project with an independent chair.

Work to start in November 2005 and a report to be submitted in May 2006.

It was noted that the closing date for the 2006/7 scholarships was in January and for the Fellowships before Christmas. It was also noted that Dr Matthews would be visiting UWB again between 21 and 23 November. He was thanked for his thorough and comprehensive presentation. Dr Matthews left the meeting.

## **2. APOLOGIES AND WELCOME**

Ms Meri Huws was congratulated on her appointment as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and it was noted that Dr Llion Jones has changed his role and is now a Language Officer located in Canolfan Bedwyr. Miss Rachel Ley was welcomed to her first meeting as Secretary.

It was noted that a number of members of staff had sent their apologies to the meeting.

## **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the School held on 20 April 2005 were accepted as a true record.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING**

**i. Item 2 Mentoring Scheme and Peer Leaders** The challenge associated with attracting Welsh speakers is complex and ongoing because so many students travel from their homes and are mature students. The Group will continue to keep an eye on the situation and report from time to time.

**ii. Item 4a University Presence at the Eisteddfod.** UWB's contribution in the Eisteddfod was substantial and the organiser Elinor Elis-Williams and all those involved were congratulated. The Science Tent was sponsored by UWB and the Chairman of the Science Committee, Professor Deri Tomos, and the Secretary, Dr Iestyn Pierce, and others had worked very hard. The business breakfasts in CAST led by Professor Siân Hope were extremely successful, as well as many other varied activities. The hope was expressed that a similar presence and standard will be maintained in future. A meeting will be held on 26 October to discuss future Eisteddfodau.

**iii. item 4b Restructuring the Library** It was noted for information that the ability to speak Welsh would not be an essential requirement for the appointment of the Chief Librarian.

iv. **item 6 The Creative Industry Centre** Mr Llion Dafydd noted that he believed that Communication students were not receiving information about the development of the Centre. Some students were concerned about the situation, with Theatre and Media students unsure about their performance opportunities in future.

It was noted that these matters should be raised in the meetings of the Task Groups. It was **agreed** that Mr Dafydd should prepare the relevant points in bullet format so that they could be presented to TASCC a week on Friday.

**Action: LI D**

## **5. DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**

### **1. Freshers' Week**

It was noted that there had been considerable activity during Freshers' Week and all were thanked for their support. Special thanks were given to Gwenda Rhian for all her work with the posters and to her and Gwenno Ffrancon for creating the quiz. The group's presence in the foyer on the Monday had been a success, with many people expressing an interest in the taught courses. Thirty eight had registered for the taught modules – corresponding roughly to the numbers in 2003/4.

The feeling is that the event needs to be evaluated – the Monday and the Fair were successful, but the Tuesday and the lunch were less successful. It was proposed that consideration should be given to the idea of inviting Welsh-speakers to Bangor before they register in 2006 in order to ensure that they are aware of the options available to them.

### **2. Strategic Plan 2005-2010**

#### **i. Point 1**

The Director noted that she had not received an invitation to join the Board of Academic Heads in accordance with the School's wish, but Ms M Huws reported that there would be no change in membership until the new colleges were created.

#### **ii Point 2**

It was noted that 10% of students were studying at least one module in Welsh, but since about 40% of students come from Wales this means 25% of this group. In the wake of the Iaith Pawb agenda and the plans to offer a financial incentive to students mention was made of the need to create an ambitious target for students from Wales.

#### **iii Point 3**

TASCC was asked to consider this,

#### **iv Point 6**

Since we have been urged to count the full economic cost of all the activities of the institution it was noted that the members of YATG, in the context of field panels and other cooperative work coordinated by CDACC, should record all their staff time and travel costs.

### **3. Assessing the Options**

It should be noted that the University Board for Welsh-Medium Teaching has been excluded from all discussions on this practice and that no-one involved in higher education has the right to be part of any tender.

It should be noted also that there are two kinds of assessment under consideration, i) the assessment of options for Welsh medium provision in the future ranging between maintaining the status quo to a 'federal college' ii) an assessment of the alleged 'additional cost' of the existing Welsh medium provision. The members of the School have already made a substantial contribution to the discussion during 2004 but a careful and thoughtful response to these consultations will be needed when the time comes.

#### **4. Peer e-mail groups**

It was noted that e-mail groups for contacting Welsh speaking students have just been created for undergraduates (years 1-3) and post-graduates (learning and research) but that only the Director will have the right to contact them.

#### **5. Membership of the School**

It was noted that PYCI had suggested that everyone able to speak Welsh on the Academic/Academic-related scales should be members of the School as the default option. Anyone would have the opportunity to withdraw their name from the list. This was **agreed**.

### **6. TASCC REPORT**

Ms M Huws noted that detailed plans should be drawn up to ensure sensible applications for the scholarships and fellowships available. New areas needed to be nurtured and this should be discussed as a School. A strategy also needed to be considered in the context of project money.

It was reported that discussions had begun with Aberystwyth University concerning joint provision. At the moment Meri Huws, Dr Cen Williams and Dr Einir Young are coordinating the work in Bangor and Professor Aled Jones, Professor Ioan Williams and Dr Mari Elin Jones on behalf of Aberystwyth.

It was also noted that there was a need to develop a Welsh-medium strategy for the institution, with a specific timescale.

### **7. CANOLFAN BEDWYR REPORT**

Unfortunately Dr Cen Williams was unable to be present because he was convalescing after treatment in hospital. Best wishes were expressed for his speedy recovery.

In his absence the report was circulated by Delyth Prys. It was noticed that a new Head of the Translation Unit, located in Canolfan Bedwyr, has been appointed, Dr Sylvia Prys Jones.

### **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The meeting will be held on February 1 2006 at 14.15 in the Council Chamber.

### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that Ms M Huws will be organising the Christmas Party, but that it should **not** be arranged for 16 December.

**Action: MH**