

SCHOL FOR WELSH MEDIUM STUDIES

Date: 21 April 2008

Venue: Council Chamber

Present: Dr Llion Jones (Chairman), Mr Geraint George, Dr Lowri Hughes, Mrs Bethan Llwyd Jones, Mrs Bethan Wyn Jones, Mr Eifion Lloyd Jones, Dr Eifiona Thomas Lane, Mrs Mairwen Owen, Mrs Gwerfyl Wyn Roberts, Miss Bethan Williams, Dr Catrin Haf Williams, Prof. Gerwyn Wiliams, Mr John Wright, Mr Emyr Roberts.

Apologies: Dr Jason Walford Davies, Mrs Elen Huws, Ms Meri Huws, Mr David James, Dr Gwyn Lewis, Dr Delyth Morris, Mrs Delyth Murphy, Mrs Gwenan Williams, Dr Prysor Williams, Dr Einir Young.

1. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the School which took place on 30 January were accepted as correct.

2. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Item 3(i) College of Health & Behaviour Sciences

It was reported that a date had been arranged for Ms Meri Huws and Dr Llion Jones to meet the Head of the College of Health & Behaviour Sciences.

(ii) Item 3(ii) Presentations

(a) It was reported that members of the Management Centre would be giving a presentation on the developments at the Centre at the next meeting of the School. (Action: ER)

(b) It was agreed to ask representation from this group to meet Ms Cheryl Wright, Estates Department, to discuss the future of Neuadd John Morris Jones. (Action: CHW/SM/BW/GW)

3. TASIG REPORT

In the absence of Ms Meri Huws, the Chairman submitted a summary of deliberations to the Welsh Language Strategy Task Group at its meeting on 19 March 2008.

Internal context

(1) Five successful applications for Welsh-medium PhD scholarships in these areas:

- Early Childhood (Education)
- Religious Studies
- Film (NIECI/ CAH)
- Modern Languages
- Marine Zoology (Ocean Studies)

This would mean that the University would receive £160,000 worth of additional funding in the next calendar year.

The advertisements will appear in the press on 1 and 8 May, with a closing date of 30 May. The importance of ensuring truly strong holders was noted.

(2) Four successful applications for Welsh-medium fellowships in these areas:

- Counselling (Education)
- Sustainable Development (Environment & Natural Resources)
- Entrepreneurism (Business)
- Law

(3) Composite Language Scheme of the University (including both academic and administrative aspects) and the Annual Report on the implementation of the Language Scheme submitted f.a.o. the Welsh Language Board.

The Language Board is satisfied with the Scheme with minor revisions, and it is hoped that it will be launched before the Summer.

(4) A review of the administration of University Bursaries (including the Welsh-medium bursary) is being held following some problems this year.

(5) A specialist simultaneous translator has been appointed at Canolfan Bedwyr, with specific responsibility for serving the needs of academic schools for bilingual teaching and learning. A letter will be sent to Heads of School and Co-ordinators in order to advertise the service.

National context

(6) Reports of Network Panels:

- Geography and Environment: A Development Plan has been prepared and circulated – a number of projects associated with Bangor.
- Law: A Development Plan to be completed and circulated before the end of the month– some projects already approved.
- Creative Industries: one further meeting to take place before agreeing on Development Plan.
- Education & Training: funding set aside for some projects (including two projects at Bangor).
- Lifelong Learning: membership under discussion.

- Nursing: encouraging news on the campaign for ensuring a premium payment for Welsh-medium Nursing Education.
- Sports & Leisure: currently no membership from amongst the academic staff of Bangor.

Agreed to ask Dr Llion Jones to ask the Head of the College of Health & Behaviour Sciences to nominate a representative to serve on the Sport & Leisure Network Panel (Action: LLJ).

- Sciences: discussions under way with view to re-establishing Canolfan Edward Llwyd at Aberystwyth as a resource for the entire sector.

(7) Priority areas:

- Music, Social Sciences and Chemistry: the academic schools in question have received a request to start work on preparing a Development Plan.

(8) The new editorial board of *Gwerddon* meets on 6 May.

(9) The HE Sector is joining the National Sabbatical Scheme for the Distance-Learning course in September 2008.

Members were encouraged to consider colleagues who would gain from following such a course. More information is available from Canolfan Bedwyr.

4. FUTURE OF NEUADD JOHN MORRIS JONES

(1) It was reported that the Sub-Group (CHW/SM/BW/GW) had met and had provided a questionnaire for students of Neuadd John Morris Jones, which will be distributed to them on 29 April. Members of the School had received a copy of the questionnaire.

(2) It was noted that uncertainty existed over the proposed date for closure of the Hall entirely on its present site.

Agreed to ask Dr Llion Jones to request an explanation of the situation from the Director of Estates (Action: LLJ).

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR WELCOME WEEK 2008/2009

The Chairman reported that CAH had last year, through Dr Catrin Haf Williams and Mrs Bethan Brown, provided the booklet on Welsh-medium modules. Canolfan Bedwyr will be co-ordinating the work this year, and members of staff are asked to give information on new modules or changes to existing ones.

Agreed (i) to ask Meri Huws, PVC, to prepare a letter for inclusion in the package which will be sent to freshers (Action: MH).

- (ii) to ask Dr Llion Jones to discuss with the Academic Registry the possibility of including the modules booklet with the package which is sent to students during August (Action: LLJ).
- (iii) to hold a session for students of Neuadd JM-J during lunch hour of the Tuesday of Welcome Week, giving emphasis at the same time Welsh-medium bursaries.

6. SCHOLARSHIP & FELLOWSHIP HOLDERS' FORUM

Dr Lowri Hughes reported that there would be a total of 20 Scholarship and Fellowship holders at Bangor by the next academic year. A Forum needs to be established for them, in order to bring them together to share experiences and ideas. A set of purposes and aims has been established, including sharing good practice/ problems, understanding their role in the establishment regarding the promotion and development of Welsh-medium provision.

A preliminary meeting will take place, followed by full meetings about three times a year, co-ordinated by Dr Lowri Hughes.

Agreed to support the establishment of a Forum and encourage holders of Scholarships and Fellowships to attend meetings of the School (Action: LH).

7. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE SCHOOL

- (1) The Chairman reported that a request had been sent twice members of the School, requesting nominations for the position of Chairman. Unfortunately, none had been received.
- (2) Dr Catrin Haf Williams proposed that Dr Llion Jones should be Chairman of the School, and was seconded by Professor Gerwyn Williams.

A vote took place by show of hands, and it was **unanimously agreed** to elect Dr Llion Jones Chairman.

Dr Jones accepted the position for a period including the next academic year, i.e. 2008/2009, and that the situation should be revisited at the end of that period.

8. RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The Chairman reported that a Research Conference would be held at Gregynog on 8 May. He asked interested members to contact him so that transport could be arranged.

9. MARKETING DOCUMENT

The Chairman reported that a request had been received from Miss Sioned Medi, Recruitment Unit, for the updating of the recruitment leaflet 'Be amdani?' for the Urdd Eisteddfod and the National Eisteddfod. Members were **requested** to forward any suggestions to Sioned Medi.

10. SCHOOL E-MAILING LIST

The Chairman asked members to inform him of any member of staff whose name was not on the School's e-mailing list, in order to facilitate the dissemination of information.

11. NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD – CARDIFF

The Chairman reported that a Group under the guidance of Mr Alan Wyn Parry, Director of Communication, would be discussing University activities on the stand at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff in August. Ms Elinor Williams, Press Officer, will be co-ordinating the events.

Members were **requested** to forward ideas for sessions to Miss Elinor Williams.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 2.15pm, Thursday, 16 October 2008 at the Council Chamber.