

Bangor University

THE SCHOOL OF WELSH MEDIUM STUDIES

Date : 27 January 2010

Present : Dr Llion Jones (Chair), Dr Andrew Davies, Dr Eryl Wyn Davies, Mr. Geraint George, Mr. Ifor Gruffudd, Dr Lowri Hughes, Mrs. Bethan Wyn Jones, Miss Eirian Jones, Dr Gwyn Lewis, Dr Eifiona Thomas Lane, Ms. Pauline Loftus, Dr Ioan Matthews, Professor Densil Morgan, Mr. Alan Wyn Parry, Dr Arne Pommerenning, Dr Robert Pope, Dr Paula Roberts, Dr Pwyll ap Sion, Professor Deri Tomos, Dr Catrin Haf Williams, Mr. Emyr Roberts (Secretary).

Apologies: Dr Jason Walford Davies, Dr Peredur Davies, Mr. Huw Ellis, Dr Keith Hughes, Mr. Aled Griffiths, Mr. Dewi Jones, Miss Sioned Medi Jones, Dr Delyth Morris, Mrs. Delyth Murphy, Dr Sara Parry, Dr Enlli Môn Thomas, Professor Gerwyn Williams, Dr Prysor Williams, Miss Sharyn Williams.

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Mrs Pauline Loftus to her first meeting of the School of Welsh Medium Studies.

2. GWERDDON

1. The Chair welcomed Dr Hefin Jones, Cardiff University and Chair of the Editorial Board, and Dr Gethin Rhys, Aberystwyth University and Editorial Assistant, who gave a presentation on the academic Welsh language journal 'Gwerddon'.

Dr Jones explained that this meeting was the first of a number of presentations given to Welsh HE institutions to promote interest in the journal. Gwerddon is an e-journal first published in April 2007, the fifth issue is now out.

The journal's objective is to publish academic research in the sciences, the arts and the humanities and it includes articles on a wide range of subjects. It is important to promote the use of Welsh in research during this period of growth in Welsh medium education. It increases the opportunities for discussing, sharing information and publishing in Welsh.

An editorial board of 15 has been established, with new members replacing current members at the end of their term every year. The

journal is published twice a year on the web and it meets the requirements of the RAE.

2. Dr Rhys said that the website has received approximately 10,000 hits from 2,300 individual users.

The website's address is <http://www.gwerddon.org>

3. The members then had an opportunity to offer comments or ask questions and the following points were noted:

3.1 Articles do not necessarily have to be about Welsh issues.

3.2 It is not currently possible to search according to discipline, but there are plans to add this feature to the site.

3.3 Will the RAE or the **REF** acknowledge the articles in the future?
Several meetings are being held with the relevant panels to discuss this.

3.4 Articles that have been published previously are not accepted, however translations will be accepted.

3.5 Articles that have previously appeared in a journal such as 'Y Naturiaethwr' will be accepted.

3.6 Individuals were asked to consider submitting an article to future issues.

3.7 A conference might be organized as well as special issues with 4-6 articles on specific subjects.

3.8 Articles are usually published around 6 months after submission.

4. The Chair thanked Dr Jones and Dr Rhys for their presentation and he noted that such a development is essential for the credibility of Welsh medium HE.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2009 were accepted as an accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- (i) Item 4: Neuadd John Morris Jones

The hall will move in September to Tegfan and Bryn Dinas on the Ffriddoedd site. They will be called JMJ 1 and JMJ 2 and the website to apply for accommodation is now open. The hope is to create a lively and attractive community in the new hall. During open days, prospective students will be taken to visit the new halls.

It was noted that it is essential that 2nd year and 3rd year students have the opportunity to move into the new hall. It was agreed that the Chair will write to the V-C to ask for assurance that there will be spaces for returning students in the new halls **(Action LIJ)**.

(ii) Item 5: Bursaries

It was noted that the V-C needs to be reminded to explore the possibility of offering Welsh medium bursaries to postgraduate students.
(Action ER).

5. TASIG REPORT

The Chair provided a summary of the discussions of the Welsh Language Strategy Task Group in its meeting on 18 January 2010.

Academic Review

The V-C expanded on the content of a recent letter sent to staff and students regarding the Academic Review. While outlining the challenging circumstances facing the sector, he emphasized that no decisions or proposals have been made. He noted that no proposals would be made until a new v-c is appointed. The members asked several questions and during the discussion it was agreed that a full audit should be carried out on the effect of any future proposals on Welsh medium provision and Bangor University's role as the leading provider of Welsh medium HE. In connection with this matter, it was also noted that TASIG needs to ensure a clear input into the processes of the Academic Review.

Members of the School were of the opinion that the greatest effort should be made to ensure that the Welsh language is central to the activities of the University. The School should be given an opportunity to contribute to any decision and it should have a leading role in that process. The appointment of a new v-c will be of crucial importance.

Scholarships and Fellowships 2010/11

It was reported that two PhD Scholarships (Sports Science and Education) and one Fellowship (Psychology) were awarded to the University for 2010/11. Two PhD scholarships awarded last year (Scripting and History) will also start in October 2010. For 2010/11 therefore, there will be a total of 18 scholarship

holders and 6 fellows contributing to developing Welsh medium provision in Bangor.

5 year Welsh medium FTEs

A spreadsheet outlining the Welsh medium FTE teaching load in Bangor University for the last five years was circulated and discussed. Although there are some encouraging developments in new areas, it was agreed that a relatively small cluster of disciplines continues to underpin the success of Welsh medium provision in Bangor.

Student Satisfaction Survey

A paper drawing attention to the fact that there is no longer a means of measuring the opinion of Bangor students on the Welsh medium academic provision or the bilingual services of the University was discussed. As the University no longer administers an internal questionnaire, it was agreed to ask the Teaching and Learning Task Group to add relevant questions when they pilot the national questionnaire with second year students. It was also agreed to put pressure on HEFCW to consider adding questions on this issue to the national student survey.

Update on the National Schemes – Dr Ioan Matthews

It was reported that the process of establishing a shadow governing body for the Coleg Cymraeg Ffederal has been placed in the care of HEFCW. It was suggested that the body will meet for the first time before Easter and that the additional funding promised will be available for the 2011/12 academic year. In the meantime, it was noted that the continuation of several significant developments and projects needs to be ensured.

Year 2/3 Module Handbook (2010/11)

It was agreed to produce this handbook once more for the pre-registration period.

(Action: Canolfan Bedwyr)

6. CURRENT PROJECTS/ PROCEDURE FOR AWARDING HEFCW GRANTS

Reports were presented, for information, that outline projects in Bangor funded by the National Fund for Welsh Medium Provision between 2007-10, along with a letter by HEFCW explaining the new procedure for awarding grants for 2010-11.

It must be ensured that the information on grants is fed into the worksheets submitted to the Senate **(Action: LLJ)**.

7. DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 2.15pm, on Monday 19 April 2010 in the Council Chamber.