

**SCHOOL OF WELSH MEDIUM STUDIES**

- Date** : 31 January 2007
- Venue** : Council Chamber
- Present** : Professor Densil Morgan (Chairman), Dr. Keith Hughes, Ms Meri Huws, Mr. David James, Mrs. Bethan Llwyd Jones, Mrs. Bethan Wyn Jones, Dr. Llion Jones, Dr. Gwyn Lewis, Mrs. Delyth Murphy, Mrs. Delyth Prys, Mrs. Gwerfyl Wyn Roberts, Prof. Thomas Watkin, Dr. Cen Williams, Mr. Emyr Roberts (minutes).
- Apologies** : Dr. Jason Walford Davies, Mrs. Eleri Hughes, Mrs. Elen Huws, Mr. Dewi Wyn Jones, Dr. Delyth Morris, Mrs. Mairwen Owen, Mr. Huw Powell, Mrs. Carys Wyn Roberts, Dr. Enlli Thomas, Dr. Einir Young.

**1. WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Bethan Llwyd Jones, teaching Fellow at the School of Health Care Sciences, to her first meeting of the School.

**2. MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of the School held on 19 October 2006 were accepted as a correct record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

**1. Item 3(1) University Board for Welsh Medium Teaching.**

Membership of the Board was circulated to members of the School. It was noted that the status of the University of Wales would be changing in the Spring, with the disappearance of the federal element. There are 4 vacancies for co-opted members.

**2. Item 3(4.2) – Neuadd John Morris Jones**

(1) It was reported that a response from the Director of Estates had been received concerning the complaints about cleanliness at the beginning of the academic year. The situation concerning the cleaners and their use at the Ffriddoedd site was clarified.

(2) Members noted that the cleaners were doing good work, but that it was also necessary to stress that the standard of neither the furniture nor the equipment in the individual rooms was good.

(3) Gerallt Roberts noted that the security situation was inadequate at JMJ, and that it should have the same level of service as the Ffriddoedd site.

(4) It is likely that there will be no developments to change the present procedure at JMJ for about 4 years under the Estates Review Scheme. The renewal of Neuadd Reichel will proceed, and it is proposed that Canolfan Bedwyr will be moved there.

**Resolved** that the importance of Neuadd JMJ as a marketing tool to attract Welsh-speaking and bilingual students was stressed, and to write to the Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Estates (Action DDM/ER).

### **3. Item 5.5(V) – Developments in the Colleges**

(1) Reports were circulated on the Welsh-medium developments at the Colleges of Education and Lifelong Learning, the Arts and Humanities, and Natural Sciences.

Responses are awaited soon from the Colleges of Business, Social Sciences and the Law, and Physical and Applied Sciences. However, no response has been received from the College of Health and Behavioural Sciences.

(2) Gerallt Roberts noted that the Welsh Postgraduate Forum had recently been established by UMCB and that they met every fortnight.

(3) The College of the Arts and Humanities will be considering how to market and fund Level 1 modules which transcend the Schools. It is hoped that this will then be extended to other Colleges.

**Resolved** to remind the College of Health and Behavioural Sciences to provide a report on their Welsh-medium developments. (Action ER).

### **4. TASIG REPORT**

Meri Huws reported on some items which had been discussed by TASIG at its meeting on 10 January 2007.

- (i) Student registration figures had been sent to HESA in November, and they showed an increase of 6% for Welsh speakers in 2005/06, with a FTE increase of 24.
- (ii) Dr. Llion Jones is working on the language scheme and has mapped the Welsh-medium provision throughout the establishment. This will form a basis for the Academic Language Scheme.
- (iii) Applications for Scholarships and Fellowships were received as follows:

#### **Scholarships**

School of Music

School of Chemistry  
School of Social Sciences  
The School of Law have had an application brought forward from last year.

### **Vocational Fellowships**

School of the Environment and Natural Resources  
School of Biological Sciences

### **Academic Fellowships**

College of the Arts and Humanities  
National Centre for Creative Industries

The Countryside Council had also supported 12 undergraduates this year.

(iv) A conference was held at Aberystwyth last week, on the training of Welsh-medium teachers, and the University was represented by Dr. Llion Jones and Dr. Gwyn Lewis. London Economic Wales was commissioned to provide a further report on the needs for training Welsh-medium teachers, to report back to Ms Jane Davidson by March. There will be an opportunity to respond to the report.

(v) Next year will see a change in the method of funding Welsh-medium modules. A definition of the thresh-hold in terms of credit and the setting of the lowest qualification at 2 credits, i.e. 20 notional learning hours, was accepted.

The importance was stressed of collecting the information on Welsh-medium modules, and members were asked to remind their Schools of this.

(vi) HE institutions in Wales had considered the Arad report before the end of last summer and had supported the network structure, and it was resolved that the Vice-Chancellors' group (HEW/ANC) would convene a Strategic Committee, including all establishments in Wales, to examine the way forward.

(vii) With regard to this year's Eisteddfodau, we shall have a general stand at the Urdd Eisteddfod at Carmarthen, and a more pavilion-like stand at the National Eisteddfod at Flint. The Schools have been asked to consider organising and events or launches. UMCB will be staging an event to celebrate 30 years of existence.

## **5. STAFF DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR**

Dr. Llion Jones reported that he had recently attended a development conference under the guidance of the Centre for the Development of Welsh Medium Education at Llandrindod. It was noted that UW Aberystwyth had established a 'Round Table' where staff met to share experiences.

### ***Resolved:***

(i) to ask Dr. Jones to request further information about the 'Round Table' and report back to the next meeting of the School.

(ii) to ask Dr. Ioan Matthews to make a presentation to the School at the next meeting.  
(Action LLJ).

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 2.15pm on Monday, 23 April 2007 at the Council Chamber.