

Bangor University

# COUNCIL MINUTES

At a meeting of the Council held in the University on Friday, 10 February 2023.

**Present**:

Mrs Marian Wyn Jones (Chair), Professor Edmund Burke, Dr Myfanwy Davies, Mr Atul Devani, Mr Eric Hepburn, Dr Llion Jones, Mr Marc Jones, Sir Paul Lambert, Mrs Alison Lea-Wilson, Ms Nyah Lowe, Ms Julie Perkins, Professor Rhiannon Tudor Edwards, Professor Tim Wheeler, Professor Jean White, Mr Paul Wood, Ms Elin Wyn and Mrs Gwenan Hine (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Professor Andrew Edwards, Mr Kailesh Karavadra, Mr Celt John, Dr Ian Rees, and Mr Mike Wilson.

**In attendance:**

Ms Kim Ansell, AdvanceHE, for item 22.44. Mr Sam Dickins, Dr Kevin Mundy, Mr Martyn Riddleston, Mrs Lorraine Westwood and Professor Paul Van Gardingen throughout the meeting. Professor Nicky Callow from item 22.52 onwards.

**Observing:**

Professor David Viner, incoming independent member of Council, from item 22.44 onwards.

*The meeting was held in Cledwyn Conference Room 3, Bangor University and through Zoom.*

**22.41 WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed Ms Elin Wyn, Independent Member of Council, and Professor Paul Van Gardingen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), to their first meeting. Mr Sam Dickins was also welcomed to the meeting, and it was noted that Mr Dickins was attending Council instead of Mr Celt John.

**22.42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A. Members were reminded that they should declare any personal, financial, or beneficial interest in any matter under consideration at this meeting prior to that matter being considered.

B. There were no declarations of interest made in relation to the matters on the agenda.

**22.43 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS**

**A. Independent Member of Council**

i. The Chair noted that, as Council was aware, in August 2022 the University commenced a recruitment exercise to appoint a new Independent Member of Council to replace Professor Gareth Roberts. The Council approved the appointment of Ms Elin Wyn as Independent Member at its meeting in November. As part of the recruitment exercise several individuals were interviewed, and alongside Ms Wyn a few other individuals were approved by the Appointment Panel for approaching should there be other vacancies during the academic year.

The Council were informed that Mr Marc Jones had indicated his wish to stand down from being a member of Council following the conclusion of this Council meeting. This would create a vacancy for an Independent Member of Council and provided the opportunity for the University to approach one of the other recommended candidates.

Accordingly, and following discussion with the Chair of Council and the Vice-Chancellor, the Appointment Panel recommended that the Council appoint Professor David Viner as an independent member of Council. A pen portrait of Professor Viner was included in the papers for the meeting.

ii. Following discussion the Council **agreed** to the appointment of Professor Viner as an independent member, for an initial period of 4 years from 11 February 2023 – 10 February 2027.

iii. Following confirmation of his appointment, Professor Viner joined the Council meeting as an observer, and was warmly welcomed by the Chair.

**B. Appointment of Deputy Chair**

The Chair noted that, following Professor Gareth Roberts’ term of office coming to an end in December 2022, the position of Deputy Chair (and Senior Independent Governor) had become vacant. The University Secretary had requested expressions of interest from amongst the independent members of Council, and the Nominations & Governance Committee would consider these at its meeting in a few weeks’ time. A further update would be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

*Ms Kim Ansell joined the meeting*

**22.44 GOVERNANCE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW**

A. Council was reminded that undertaking a Governance Effectiveness Review was seen as good practice and was included as a recommendation in the latest CUC HE Code of Governance under element 5 – Effectiveness.

*5.13 HEIs must conduct a regular, full, and robust review of governance effectiveness with some degree of independent input. This will provide assurance to internal and external stakeholders and allow a mechanism to focus on improvement and chart progress towards achieving any outstanding actions arising from the last effectiveness review. It is recommended this review takes place every three years.*

The University’s previous Governance Effectiveness Review was undertaken in 2019, and AdvanceHE had recently completed a further Review.

B. Ms Kim Ansell joined the Council to present the final report. It was noted that the outcome of the AdvanceHE work was that the University’s governance was effective. The University had made good progress on implementing the recommendations of the Camm Review, and there were several areas of good practice, which had been highlighted, and some opportunities for improvement which were noted as recommendations and suggestions. Ms Ansell noted that three things stood out as being areas for further focus:

* The Council should have a stronger focus on strategic matters and on monitoring performance, and these should be undertaken in a more holistic manner.
* Further improvements to the Council’s composition, particularly in terms of age and diversity, should be considered.
* Some changes to the committee structure would be beneficial.

C. The University Secretary thanked AdvanceHE for undertaking the review and noted that she felt it was a fair reflection on where the University was at the current time. Several effective changes had been made over the last few years, especially since the publication of the Camm Review and the changes to the CUC Code of Governance. A number of welcome recommendations and suggestions were included in the report which would be taken forward.

The Chair opened the discussion to members, and several points were made:

* Ms Perkins noted that the report recommended a review of the role, responsibilities, and composition of the Finance & Strategy Committee, with Council taking a more purposeful focus on strategy. However, she had reservations about separating strategy from financial discussions, a view which was echoed by Mr Hepburn.
* Mr Hepburn welcomed the suggestion of a Council Planning Group for committee chairs.
* Professor White commented on the section of the Report which dealt with Academic Governance and particularly the relationship between the Council and the Senate and asked what members of Council could be doing to strengthen the relationship between the two groups. Professor RT Edwards suggested that she and Dr Jones, as the two members of the Senate on the Council, provided an update on the purpose of the Senate to the Council, and this suggestion was warmly received.
* Sir Paul Lambert commented that he felt the report was a fair reflection on where the University was at the current time. He noted that governance had improved already, and the University knew which areas now needed focus.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed that, having worked at five different universities, his view was that governance worked well at the University. In relation to strategy, he commented that, in his view, strategy needed to be the business of Council, and the recommendation from the Report was to review the current situation to make sure it was right for the University. The Vice-Chancellor noted that, in his view, the Report was a good one, and the University needed to look at the recommendations and suggestions and ensure they were taken forward in a way which was right for Bangor. In terms of the Senate, the Vice-Chancellor noted that he was intending to review the Senate over the summer to ensure that it was functioning in the way it was intended.

The Chair noted that she concurred with the Report, and that some of the work was already in train. One area which she felt needed further review was the way in which risk was presented to the Council. The Vice-Chancellor concurred that there needed to be a change in the way that the University handled risk, and that work was in progress in this regard. There was an intention to update the Council on this work before the end of the financial year.

D. The Chair concluded the discussion by thanking Ms Ansell and her colleagues for a comprehensive and thought-provoking report. It was confirmed that the recommendations and suggestions from the Report would be put into an Action Plan to be discussed at the next meeting of the Nominations & Governance Committee, and a further update would be brought to the next meeting of the Council through the minutes of that Committee.

Finally, the Chair asked Ms Ansell whether she was able to comment on the fact that several institutions had dispensed with the formality of a traditional Court meeting and had found other ways to engage with stakeholders. Ms Ansell noted that there was a move towards changing the rational for, and the terms of reference of, the Court. The Chair noted that further exploration and discussion on this point would be undertaken in relation to the Court over the next few months.

*Ms Ansell left the meeting*

**22.45 DEATHS**

A. The Chair referred to the recent death of:

* **Dr Ian Wilson** Former Zoology Lecturer, School of Natural Sciences
* **Mrs Sian Lewis** Former Assistant Monitoring Officer, Student Services
* **Dr Donald Marshall** Former Member of Staff, School of Chemistry
* **Ms Bethan Jones-Puw**, Former Facilities Team Member, Campus Services
* **Dr Peter Higson** Former Independent Member of Council
* **Dr Elwyn Hughes**, former student in the Department of Welsh and Celtic Studies

B. Members fell silent in tribute to their memory.

**22.46 MINUTES**

1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2022 were **confirmed.**
2. An action log was provided noting progress on all outstanding Council actions. Council noted the progress reports and completed actions.

**Employability (minute 22.10A)**

It was confirmed that an update on employability would be provided to the Council at its meeting in July.

**Highest Scoring Institutional Risks (minute 22.33)**

It was confirmed that a report on the highest scoring institutional risks would be brought to each meeting of the Council going forward.

**Terms of Reference and Schedule of Business (minute 22.27)**

The University Secretary confirmed that a Workplan for the Council would be provided at the next meeting, following consideration by the Executive Board

**Commitment to Net Zero (minute 22.32)**

Professor Turnbull provided a further update to the Council on the University’s commitment to produce a plan for fully attaining Scope 1 & 2 net-zero CO2e by 2030. It was noted that the University had made substantial progress on sustainability in recent years, which was reflected in its positive performance in several sustainability league tables. For example, the Council were informed that the University had climbed nearly 20 places in the People and Planet University League Table, which ranked institutions on their sustainability actions, to number 10 out of 153 universities in the UK, putting it firmly in the People and Planet’s category of “first class” institutions. The University was also ranked 45th in the UK in the Times Good University Guide 2023, with its overall position improving by roughly 20%, achieving its highest ranking since the guide was first published a decade ago. A list of 25 actions undertaken by the University in this area were provided to the Council, and the University’s Annual Sustainability Report was provided. It was noted that a further report, showing the way that the University sought to measure and track sustainability progress, would be presented to the Council later in the year.

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the current aspiration of net zero by 2030 was not an achievable target for the University, and it was currently reviewing its targets in this area whilst ensuring that it continued to do everything possible to improve sustainability.

The Chair invited comments from members of Council and a number of suggestions and comments were made:

* Professor White made the Council aware of work being undertaken by the Welsh Government around sustainability, and the Vice-Chancellor noted that the University was looking at the Welsh Government’s approach to this area.
* Ms Lowe requested that, as the University took forward its review of targets, that the Students’ Union were also involved, which the Vice-Chancellor confirmed.
* Professor RT Edwards commented that there were opportunities, as the University’s aspirations for a North Wales Medical School were progressed, to embed sustainability into the curriculum. Mr Dickins noted that he had recently attended an embedding sustainability conference which had highlighted excellent best practice from other universities.
* Professor Van Gardingen welcomed further discussions in this area, and noted that, as far as international students were concerned, sustainability was a major consideration when choosing a university.
* Dr Davies welcomed the 25 actions that had already been taken forward and noted that the University should publicise its work in this area.
* Sir Paul Lambert stressed the importance of ensuring that, as well as setting achievable targets, that allocation of resources to those targets was essential.

The Chair of Council welcomed the discussion which had taken place and noted that Professor Viner was a climate change specialist, a skill set which could be drawn upon going forward.

**22.47 CHAIR’S UPDATE**

B. An update on the implementation of the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER) was provided, and it was noted that, at the CTER Implementation Board meeting on December 6, 2022, it was confirmed that the Commission would become a legal entity on 15 December 2022. The Commission would have legal responsibility for the funding, oversight, regulation, and quality of tertiary education in Wales, along with the registration of providers. It was also reported that the Minister has made the first commencement order enabling the appointment of the Chair of the Commission (Chair CTER) and the Chair of the Research and Innovation Committee (Deputy Chair CTER). Professor Dame Julie Lydon (former Vice-Chancellor at the University of South Wales) and Professor David Sweeney (formerly Executive Chair of Research England) were appointed to those roles respectively. It was noted that Wales would be the only UK nation to have school-based sixth-forms, colleges, universities, apprenticeships, and adult education managed as a single system, as well as responsibility for research and innovation.

The Chair also reported on an introductory meeting that she had with James Owen, the newly appointed Director for CTER, and the University Secretary confirmed that Dr Owen would be attending the July meeting of the Council to brief members on the implications of CTER for the University and the sector.

C. The Council were advised that the Welsh Government had announced that it would increase student maintenance support by 9.4% for the 2023-24 academic year. The measure applied to full-time and part-time higher education students from Wales.

D. Finally, the Chair informed the Council that, as the current Chair of ChuW, she had met with the Chair and Director of Universities Wales to discuss strategic priorities and areas for future collaboration. She had also attended the quarterly CUC Executive Committee meeting on February 1st in her capacity of Chair of University Councils in Wales.

E. The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the increase in student maintenance support, but also noted that students’ fees were not going up. He advised the Council that, along with his counterparts in Wales, he was making the case to the Welsh Government that Universities needed to be better funded.

Ms Lowe noted that students needed an increase in the maintenance loan given the current cost of living crisis, but students would remain out of pocket as inflation continued to rise.

**22.48 FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

A. The Report of the meeting of the Finance & Strategy Committee held on the 17 January 2023 (attached as Appendix I to the official copy of the Minutes) was **noted**.

B. Several recommendations from the Committee were highlighted, and in particular the Chair of the Committee, Sir Paul Lambert confirmed that the Committee had discussed these matters in detail. This was echoed by the Chief Financial Officer who advised members that, since his appointment, he had been undertaking a substantial review of the current capital programme, and this had led to the recommendations before the Council. It was confirmed that, should the recommendations be approved, the Chief Financial Officer and his team would monitor against the budgets allocated for the reminder of the financial year. In addition, Sir Paul Lambert noted that he had asked the Chief Financial Officer to undertake a review of all University pension schemes, and to bring a report to a future meeting of the Finance & Strategy Committee.

D. The Council received an update on progress with the demolition of the Alun Roberts Tower from the Chief Financial Officer, as Chair of the Project Board. Following a question from Professor White, the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that some of the demolished material would be used for ground foundation in the future. It was also confirmed that the University had not been informed of any bats in the building. Mrs Lea-Wilson asked whether the name of the Tower was being retained, and Professor Turnbull advised that there was a blue plaque in the building which would be relocated.

The Chair thanked Mr Riddleston and noted that it was pleasing to see the evolution of the financial report, providing much clearer information to the Council.

**22.49 HONORARY DEGREES AND FELLOWSHIPS COMMITTEE**

A. The Report of the meeting of the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee held on the 2 February 2023 (attached as Appendix II to the official copy of the Minutes) was **noted**.

B. The Chair noted that the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee had considered nominations for individuals to receive honorary degrees during the summer and winter 2023 graduation ceremonies. The Committee considered the criteria set out in the relevant Ordinance and the list of degrees available. It was noted that the University had received 28 new nominations for Honorary Degrees for the 2023 graduation ceremonies, and in addition 6 individuals were re-considered by the Committee having been put forward initially in 2022. 5 individuals were already confirmed as attending in summer of 2023, having been unable to attend during 2022.

Council was informed that the Committee was submitting a list of 16 individuals for consideration for summer 2023, and 2 individuals so far for consideration for winter 2023. The Council were invited to consider, and to approve the individuals as noted.

In addition, the Chair noted that the Council was being asked to agree to the Committee’s recommendation that the award of Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) be included in the Ordinance going forward.

C. Following discussion, the Council **agreed**

the individuals put forward by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. Mrs Hine confirmed that she would now take these matters forward. In addition, the Council **agreed**, to include the award of Doctor of Business Administration in the Ordinance going forward.

Members of Council were asked to keep the names of those nominated strictly confidential until the University was able to confirm the final list in the summer.

**22.50 JOINT ENGAGEMENT FORUM**

The Report of the meeting of the Joint Engagement Forum held on 27 January 2023 (attached as Appendix III to the official copy of the Minutes) was **noted.**

**22.51 VICE-CHANCELLOR’S BUSINESS**

A. The Vice-Chancellor provided the Council with updates in a number of key areas:

**December Graduation Ceremonies**

The Vice-Chancellor extended his thanks to everyone who took part in the 2 days of successful graduation events in December 2022. It was noted that, in total, 595 students graduated, three Teaching Fellowships were awarded, and a former member of Council, Dr Griff Jones, received an Honorary Degree for his outstanding contribution to further and higher education in North West Wales.

**Industrial Action**

The Council were informed that 1 February marked the first day of 18 days of industrial action days over the next two months. Council were informed that the relationship between the local UCU representatives and the Executive Board continued to be positive, and the University’s focus was on being a good employer, delivering an excellent staff and student experience, and working positively with the campus trade unions on issues identified at a national level.

**Student Led Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

The Vice-Chancellor informed members that the Executive Board had recently approved the Student Led Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy which was an excellent example of the positive working relationships between the University and the Students’ Union. It was noted that the University was leading the way in the higher education sector in this area, by working collaboratively with the Students’ Union. Approval of the Strategy was timely, as the Welsh Government had recently announced £2.3m funding for student mental health, through HEFCW, to help address the cost-of-living crisis facing learners.

**Executive Board**

Phase 1 of the Vice-Chancellor’s consideration of the senior staff structure at the University was now complete, and Professor Paul van Gardingen had joined the University as, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) on 1 February 2023. Professor Van Gardingen would be the academic lead for the development and implementation of international partnerships in education, recruitment and research linked to priorities in Bangor’s Strategy 2030.

In addition, it was noted that Mr Michael Flanagan, Chief Transformation Officer would join the University on the 13 March. Mr Flanagan would lead on the development and delivery of a transformational, coordinated and future-focussed approach to the University’s digital and estates infrastructure.

Phase 2 of the work would consider the range of Strategy and Task Groups to ensure effective and efficient management, following the review of Executive Board portfolios. It was also noted that the University Secretary would be undertaking a similar task with the Council Committees over the coming months. In addition, the Vice-Chancellor was going to look at the Colleges and Schools to determine the most effective structures to realise the University’s Strategy.

**North Wales Medical School**

The North Wales Medical School remained a real opportunity for the University and progress was continuing positively, with the Welsh Government having confirmed student number allocations in December 2022. The University had signified its intention, through the funding reallocation process of the North Wales Growth Deal, to apply for a significant grant to support the capital requirements for the School.

**Secretary of State Visit / First Minister Visit**

It was noted that both the Secretary of State for Wales, the Right Honourable David TC Davies MP, and the First Minister, the Right Honourable Mark Drakeford MS had visited the University recently.

The Secretary of State had visited both the Nuclear Futures Institute, and the Wastewater laboratories in the Brambell Building.

The First Minister’s visit coincided with the release of the formal written statement publicly announcing the commitments to the student numbers for the North Wales Medical School. The First Minister met with teaching staff and students and viewed the leading-edge technology replacing old fashioned dissection.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that both these visits were crucial in allowing the University to showcase its research and teaching.

**Planning**

The University was coming to the end of first phase of the planning process and the second phase, involving Test and Challenge meetings, would soon begin. Members of the Executive Board would meet with Directors of Professional Services and with Deans and Heads of Schools to start discussions around budgeting plans and KPI’s.

**Estates**

It was noted that the Main Arts Public Realm works were nearing completion, with the area transformed into an enjoyable and pedestrian focused area with added provisions of seating, planting and lighting.

The Parc Y Coleg scheme commenced on-site in around February 2022 and would proceed in stages to accommodate nesting seasons and funding availability. A Planning Application was currently under consideration with Gwynedd Council.

**Visits to Schools and Professional Services**

A series of visits to 15 Schools and Professional Service departments was ending, with 2 Professional Services to visit. Most recently the Vice-Chancellor had visited the uplands at Henfaes farm. Common themes which continued to be raised would be picked up in the planning process.

B. **Vice-Chancellor’s Objectives**

The Vice-Chancellor’s revised objectives were presented, and it was noted that these were returning to the Council following discussions and suggestions at the last meeting, and further discussions with the Chair.

C. The Chair invited comments from members of Council both on the Vice-Chancellor’s update and on the Objectives paper.

* Ms Perkins welcomed the review of governance structures and asked whether the work would include a mapping of how matters flowed to the Council, which was confirmed.
* The visits to Professional Services and Schools were welcomed, and the value of these in terms of understanding staff and students’ perspective were welcomed.
* Ms Lowe noted that, in terms of the Student Led Mental Health Strategy, ongoing monitoring would be undertaken by the Students’ Union including focus groups and students on the mental health network. In addition, a focus group on the Strategy would be held twice a year, with issues raised being taken back to Student Services.
* Professor White asked what impact the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria had on the University community. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the University had ensured it had no staff or students in the vicinity of the earthquake and had sent emails to staff and students signposting where help could be accessed.
* Mr Hepburn requested further information on the objective which noted that the University would attain a position of top 10 in the UK for education and top 30 for research by 2030. The Vice-Chancellor advised that this would be achieved by a positive upward trajectory in several key league tables.
* Mr Devani asked what themes had been raised during the visits to Schools and Professional Services. The Vice-Chancellor noted that a particular theme was the lack of administrative support in academic departments, and that this was being addressed through the planning process.
* Ms Perkins asked whether the overarching objectives could be categorised into themes, and it was **agreed** that the Chair of Council, and the Vice-Chancellor would consider this.

The Chair welcomed the comments made by members and, subject to the inclusion of the points noted above, the Objectives were **agreed.**

D. **Report from the Executive Board and the Senate**

The Vice-Chancellor presented the reports from the Executive Board and the Senate, which were **noted.**

E.The Chair of Council thanked the Vice-Chancellor for his updates.

*Professor Callow joined the meeting.*

**22.52 STUDENTS UNION MATTERS**

A. Ms Lowe presented the Students’ Union and UMCB reports to the Council, and in particular the following items were highlighted:

* The Students’ Union had collected and provided existing student feedback about Study Spaces to the University Executive Board to improve provision. As a result, the University had formed a Learning Spaces task and end group to address short- and long-term solutions, and Ms Lowe had also lobbied the University for longer library opening hours. After feedback from the Union the University was now implementing better and more consistent communications about study spaces.
* The current cost of living crisis was an ever-present theme currently, and the Union was working with Student Services to ensure joint provision for both financial and welfare support. As the Chair had mentioned in her report, Welsh students would see a rise in maintenance allowances, however this was still under the rate of inflation. The Students’ Union were providing more social engagement activities, such as the Repair Café and student groups were continuing to support students in any way, they were able to.
* The Students’ Union was considering setting up book and clothes swaps in collaboration with societies, by holding events and through a Facebook page. In addition, the Union was exploring the idea of establishing a Library of things (household item borrow and share scheme) and collaborating with Marks and Spencer on giving students leftover food/ food with damaged packing.
* The Union was working with the International Office to offer support to international students to find accommodation, especially to students with families. It was noted that Mr Dickins was working with the University to draw together a pre-departure briefing for international students, to ensure they were aware of the options available to them and what the University and the Students’ Union provide.
* Finally, it was noted that the University was working with the Students’ Union to look at the actions in the School of Medical and Health Sciences arising out of last year’s NSS. Professor Callow noted that she was pleased to report that work had been undertaken with radiography in particular, following the NSS scores. There remained some issues with adult nursing and Professor Callow was meeting with the Executive Head of the Inter-Professional Medical School, and the Head of School to discuss these matters further.

B. Mr Dickins updated the Council on several operational matters:

* The second Serendipity event of the academic year had run successfully in January, providing new and existing students with the opportunity to engage. Contrary to the experience of many other Students’ Union the first Serendipity of the year had also been a huge success with over 6,000 students attending.
* The Vice President for Sports, Lewis Thompson, had arranged free physiotherapy sessions for students.
* A number of positive opportunities had been taken forward, working with the University and linking student groups to areas of research work, through Professor Spencer.
* The Sabbatical Officers were working hard to ensure that students were able to reconnect with the University and with other students, during their first full year back after Covid-19.

C. The Chair, on behalf of the Council, thanked both Ms Lowe and Mr Dickins for their informative updates and reports, and welcomed the feedback on the positive working relationship with the University on several matters. Several further comments were made:

* Ms Perkins welcomed the work that was being undertaken on student financial hardship and requested that the Council was updated at the next meeting on where the HEFCW funding would be allocated.
* Dr Davies welcomed the report and asked whether the issue of spaces in the library had been addressed. Ms Lowe noted that she had recently been sent plans which increased the spaces in the library, and she was working with Professor Callow to look at the usage of space across campus. The Vice-Chancellor also noted that in terms of the capital programme the University was looking carefully at study spaces and considering different types of spaces from quiet areas to social areas.
* Professor White asked whether the Students’ Union were contributing to the National Eisteddfod in the summer. Ms Lowe confirmed that a number of initiatives were being developed, and Mr John could provide further updates at the next meeting of the Council. Mrs Westwood noted that the University was currently looking for ideas from staff and the Students’ Union to ensure that it put on the best provision possible.
* Mr Devani expressed his thanks to Mr Dickins for his assistance in bringing forward the BUILT programme which brought together enterprising students and alumni such as Mr Devani and Mr Kailesh Karavadra.

**22.53 UPDATE ON NORTH WALES MEDICAL SCHOOL**

A. The Chair noted that, at its last meeting, the Council had asked for an update on the delivery of the North Wales Medical School.

B. Professor Turnbull provided an update to members on the key issues, and it was noted that there had been substantial progress in the delivery of the School, though there were a few issues still to be resolved. The Council had previously reviewed, and endorsed, the Strategic Outline Case for the North Wales Medical School, and the key aspirations included:

* A prevention and community-based focus
* An aspiration to tackle health inequality
* An interprofessional learning and training environment
* Addressing workforce challenges both in recruitment and retention, capitalising on the fact that many students choose to work were they trained.
* A focus on growing Welsh medium provision and delivery of Welsh medium GP and wider NHS workforce.

Assurance was provided for members of the Council on areas including:

- The Curriculum.

- Placements.

- Quality Assurance.

- GMC Validation.

- Placements.

- Capital Developments.

- Revenue Assumptions.

- Recruitment of Staff.

- Joint working with BCUHB

It was noted that governance processes were already in place and had recently been amended to include a Bangor University Delivery Group chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) as Deputy Chair. In addition, it was confirmed that a risk register had been established by the programme team, which would be scrutinised by the Delivery Group.

Ms Wyn asked what the relationship would be between the North Wales Medical School and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (CCC), given that medicine was a priority area for the CCC. Dr Jones advised that there were annual review meetings with the CCC, and medicine had been raised at those meetings as a priority.

Mrs Westwood advised the Council that the University would not be able to market the programme until it had received GMC approval. However some information was already on the University’s website to raise awareness of the development.

Professor Wheeler noted that it may be beneficial to look across the border into England to broaden the availability of clinical placements.

D. The Chair welcomed the detailed update, which provided assurance to the Council on the progress with the North Wales Medical School thus far.

**22.55 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

The final draft of the Annual Report and Financial Accounts were **noted**. Mr Riddleston advised the Council that the document had already been approved in the November Council meeting and would be presented to the Court at its meeting that afternoon. It was noted that, going forward, this finalised document would be presented to the November meeting of Council.

**22.56 UPDATE ON RESEARCH GRANTS**

A. Professor Spencer presented an update on research grant capture to date for 2022/23, presented alongside the part-year outturn for the previous year for comparison purposes. Consideration was also given in the paper to the outturn for the full 2021/22 financial year, and the four previous years.

B. The Chair thanked Professor Spencer for his update and noted that in future the update on grant capture would be amalgamated into one integrated performance report.

*Ms Perkins left the meeting at this point*

**22.57 FUNDRAISING ANNUAL REPORT**

A. The Chair noted that the update on fundraising linked with one of the Vice-Chancellor’s Objectives, which was to develop a Fundraising Strategy. Mrs Westwood was invited to present the report to the Council, which was noted.

It was reported that a new Head of Development and Alumni Relations had recently been appointed. This post would enable the University to develop a formal Case for Support for fundraising that would identify a range of initiatives that required the support of donors, alumni, and other interested individuals. In addition, as previously noted, a Fundraising Strategy would be developed which would set the goal posts for the service going forward.

B. In response to a question from Mr Marc Jones, Mrs Westwood confirmed that towards the end of a students’ journey at the University, they were encouraged to become an active participant in the alumni network. It was acknowledged that current students should be engaged with earlier in their studies, and that this would be built into the Strategy.

The Chair noted several key initiatives where there were opportunities to fundraise, including the development of the Medical School and the need to replace the research vessel, the Prince Madog. It was noted that it would be helpful to invite the new Head of Development and Alumni Relations to the Council once the Fundraising Strategy had been developed.

**22.58 SEALING**

The Council **ratified** the sealing of documents listed in Agendum 14.

**22.59 VALEDICTION**

The Chair extended her grateful thanks and appreciation on behalf of the whole Council to Mr Marc Jones as he came to the end of his final Council meeting. It was noted that, in addition to being a member of Council, Mr Jones had served as Deputy Chair of the Finance & Strategy Committee, and Chair of the Investment Committee during his term of office. Mr Jones’ banking and finance expertise had been valued by the Council, and his challenges around the sustainability agenda were greatly appreciated.

Mr Jones thanked the Chair for her kind words and noted that he hoped that he could keep a link with the University going forward.

In addition, the translation team were thanked for their support throughout the meeting.