

# COUNCIL MINUTES

At a meeting of the Council

held in the University on 25 November 2024

**Present**: Mrs Marian Wyn Jones (Chair), Ms Nida Ambreen, Professor Edmund Burke, Professor Rhiannon T. Edwards, Dr Ama Eyo-Otung,Mr Eric Hepburn CBE, Sir Paul Lambert, Mrs Emily Rees, Dr Ian Rees, Mr Gwion Rowlands, Mr Rheon Tomos, Professor Oliver Turnbull, Professor David Viner, Professor Tim Wheeler DL, Professor Jean White CBE and Ms Elin Wyn

**Apologies:** Ms Julie Perkins and Dr John T. Prabhakar

**In attendance:** Professor Andrew Edwards, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nicky Callow (Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience), Professor Paul Spencer, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research), Mr Michael Flanagan (Chief Transformation Officer), Mrs Tracy Hibbert (Chief People Officer), Mrs Gwenan Hine (University Secretary), Mrs Patricia Murchie (Chief Marketing Officer), Mr Martyn Riddleston (Chief Financial Officer) and Mr Mike Wilson (Chief Strategy and Planning Officer)

*The meeting was held in Reichel, Bangor University and through Teams.*

**24.22 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. There were no declarations of interest made.

**24.23 DEATHS**

A. The Chair referred to the recent deaths of:

* **Christopher Michael Burke**, former Senior Lecturer in Accounting and former Head of School in the School of Accounting, Banking and Economics.
* **Debbie Garlick,** Director of Studies / Teaching and Learning Lead for ELCOS

Members fell silent in tribute to their memory.

**24.24 MINUTES**

1. The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2024 were **confirmed.**
2. An action log was provided noting progress on all outstanding Council actions. The Council noted the progress reports and completed actions.

**Communications and Marketing Strategy (Minute 23.09A)**

The Chief Marketing Officer noted that the Communications Strategy was scheduled to be presented at the February 2025 meeting of the Council. The Marketing and Recruitment Strategy has been approved by the Executive Board and would form part of discussions at the Council Away Day the following day.

It was **agreed** that the Action Log would be updated accordingly.

**Development and Alumni Update (minute 23.83)**

The Chief Marketing Officer noted that, since the update for Council in May 2024 a successful concert for the University’s 140th celebrations, featuring Bryn Terfel, had been held. As part of the evening an externally funded dinner had been held with key donors. In addition, a number of legacy pledges had been made, raising £1m to support various PhDs, and the telethon in the autumn had raised a further £74k. A very successful 140th Alumni weekend had also taken place in September.

1. The latest update of the Council Workplan was noted.

**24.25 CHAIRS UPDATE**

The Chair acknowledged the continuing exceptional financial challenges within the sector. It was noted that the Away Day was an opportunity for the Council to explore some fundamental questions on the strategic direction for the University.

The recent increase in the employer contribution for National Insurance had impacted the financial forecasts, and to date there had been no announcement from Welsh Government as to whether student fees would rise following the UK government announcement for the English sector. The Chairs of Universities Wales (ChUW) as well as Universities Wales were discussing with Ministers on behalf of the sector.

The Chair had recently attended the Transforming Lives event at the Senedd, which showcased to Senedd members the transformational impact of Welsh universities on the lives of graduates. Among those attending was a Bangor University graduate with a positive story to tell, and it was noted that the Communications team should ensure that these types of stories are captured and shared.

Over recent weeks the Chair had also been part of the panel to appoint the Head of the North Wales Medical School, and the Dean of Medicine, where it was reported two exceptional candidates were appointed.

*Mr Rheon Tomos joins the meeting.*

**24.26 VICE-CHANCELLOR’S UPDATE**

1. The Vice-Chancellor provided the Council with a written report, providing updates in several key areas. In particular, the following were noted:

 **Education and Student Experience**

The *My Graduate Career* week was a success, with over 1600 students and 97 employers attending. In particular it was reported that the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board had 7 stands, including stands for HR, logistics and digital services, and each University School had a PGT stand.

It was reported that National Student Survey, and Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey 2025 enhancement events had been held, and School and Professional Services action plans for both surveys are in progress.

**Research**

Congratulations were extended to the following members of staff:

* Dr Laura Richardson in the School of Ocean Sciences, who has won this year’s Learned Society of Wales Dillwyn Medal in STEMM for outstanding early career research.
* Dr Iestyn Woolway in the School of Ocean Sciences, who has won one of the prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prizes.
* Professor Jane Noyes, Professor Davey Jones, Professor Mark Bellis and Professor Karen Hughes who were all featured in the Clarivate Highly Cited 2024, as top 1% cited researchers.

In addition, it was noted that the University had won prestigious awards including Dr Marley Willegers winning the Young Investigator Award from the European College of Sport Sciences, and an unprecedented 1st, 2nd and 3rd place at the Young Practitioner and Young Researcher award categories from the European Federation of Sport and Exercise Psychology (Alex McWilliam, Joe Varga and Charlotte Welch).

 **North Wales Medical School**

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the First Minister had officially opened the North Wales Medical School on 3 October, accompanied by three other Cabinet Ministers. Extensive media coverage at the time highlighted a very positive initial student experience.

**[Reserved Business]**

 **North and Mid-Wales Dental School**

**[Reserved Business]**

**Student Recruitment**

It was noted that, despite the inclement weather the previous weekend, the latest Open Day had attracted good attendance **[Reserved Business]**

The Chief Marketing Officer noted that the next Open Day would be held in January 2025, and work was ongoing with Schools to film their talks to send to students.

**Encampment**

**[Reserved Business]**

It was **agreed** that the Chief Operating Officer would provide an update at the February meeting.

**Deiniol Building**

**[Reserved Business]**

**Purchase of Friars School**

**[Reserved Business]**

**All Staff Meeting**

Members were informed that an All-Staff meeting had been held in mid-October to discuss the package of measures approved by the Council at its last meeting. On the whole, and given the nature of the measures implemented, the response from staff had been as positive as could be expected. This had been echoed by Campus Trades Unions.

**Salix Funding**

Members were informed that the bid for Salix Funding (approved at the Finance Committee in July 2024) had not been successful. At the current time the University was not clear on why the bid had failed, and further information would be provided, should it be available, in due course.

1. **Appointment of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Leadership)**

*Professor Andrew Edwards left the meeting.*

The Vice-Chancellor noted that, at the September meeting, the Council had agreed to establish the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), following the departure of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement). The Council had taken the decision to appoint from within current Executive Board members, having considered the importance of the remit and the financial situation, rather than replacing with an externally appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor. Professor Oliver Turnbull had been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement).

As a consequence of the above decision the Council had approved the advertising of the post of Deputy Vice- Chancellor (Academic Leadership) to undertake the role previously undertaken by Professor Turnbull. It was reported that, following approval from the Chair of Council, the post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Leadership), which was initially approved for a 12-month period was amended to a 2 year2-year post.

Following an internal selection process, the Vice-Chancellor advised the Council that he was recommending to the Council the appointment of Professor Andrew Edwards to the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Leadership). Members were advised that a pen portrait for Professor Edwards, and the Job Description were included in the papers for the meeting.

It was also noted that the Vice-Chancellor would not be seeking to appoint a replacement for Professor Edwards’ in his previous role, and responsibilities would be shared amongst other Executive Board members. The Council were advised that Professor Enlli Thomas would take on the additional role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Welsh Language and Culture), Professor Morag McDonald would take on the additional role of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) and the University Secretary would oversee the civic engagement element of the portfolio.

Having considered the matters noted above, the Council **approved** the appointment of Professor Andrew Edwards as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Leadership). The changes to the portfolio of the other Executive Board members were noted.

*Professor Edwards rejoined the meeting.*

The Chair extended her congratulations to Professor Edwards on his appointment as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Leadership).

1. The Council **noted** the report from the Executive Board and the Senate.

**24.27 INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Chief Strategy and Planning Officer presented the Annual Integrated Performance Report 2023/24 for information and assurance purposes.

It was noted that the Report covered the 15 critical success factors agreed with Council, the Key Performance Indicators from the University’s sub-strategies and an overview of School level performance. It was noted that the University’s approach to reviewing performance across Professional Services is under development and an overview will be provided in future reports. The Council were informed that some of the metrics are indicated as “interim” where full in-year data, or data from year-end statutory data returns, were not yet available. Currently, the most recent comparator group data available is for 2022/23, however it is anticipated that the 2023/24 sector data will be published during February - April 2025 and will be incorporated in future Reports.

**[Reserved business]**

The Chair thanked the Chief Strategy and Planning Officer for his comprehensive report.

The Annual Integrated Performance Report 2023/24 was **noted**.

It was **agreed** that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement) would provide an update on global engagement matters at the February Council meeting.

**24.28 STUDENTS’ UNION REPORT**

The Chair of Council invited Ms Ambreen and Mr Rowlands to provide an update from the Students’ Union.

The key points included:

* The Students’ Union is currently exploring cost-saving measures and will be introducing a new funding model for clubs and societies, including fees starting in September 2025. The Union would work with the University marketing team to ensure that should the decision be made that it was communicated effectively to prospective students.
* The Students' Union is developing a new strategy, with Red Brick consultancy conducting research through an all-student survey and workshops to gather insights on student experiences and priorities. After analysing the findings, strategic priorities and actions will be identified, and the Union will engage with the University and other stakeholders.
* The Union had responded to the MEDR consultation jointly with North Wales NUS.
* Students’ Union staff and Sabbatical Officers have been engaging with prospective students at University Open Days, working closely with the University recruitment team.
* Welcome Week had been successful. Highlights included Chill and Chat events, which attracted 260 students, and the Serendipity fresher’s fair, where 150 clubs, societies, and volunteer groups showcased their activities.
* The Union had presented a Student Insight Report to the University, addressing the specific challenges that international students encounter on arriving at Bangor.
* Plans were underway for Christmas event with the Cathedral for students staying in Bangor and international students at Bwyd Da Bangor.
* To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the John Morris Jones (JMJ) Hall, two events brought together past and present residents. The band Angylion Stanley reunited for an acoustic set, followed by a successful gig attended by over 200 students and local 6th form pupils.
* UMCB was proud to see some members of Côr Aelwyd JMJ perform with Côr Dre at a special concert with Sir Bryn Terfel to mark the University's 140th anniversary.
* The UMCB President has been promoting Welsh-medium roles across the University, including Ambassadors, Telethon caller, and Halls Mentoring positions. Direct advertising through UMCB has helped increase interest in these vital positions for Welsh-speaking students.

In relation to the consultation around clubs and societies, the Chief Marketing Officer reported that, at a focus group for students the previous year, it became clear that free clubs and societies did not make a huge difference in terms of recruitment. In addition, it was noted that a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy should be considered as part of the wider discussion on this point. The Chief Operating Officer confirmed that he would take this forward.

The Chair thanked Ms Ambreen and Mr Rowlands for their comprehensive report.

**24.29 RESEARCH UPDATE**

Professor Spencer provided an update on Research matters.

With regard to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2029, it was noted that the People Culture and Environment (PCE) pilots were now underway to test possible REF indicators. The pilot consists of 40 institutions, with two Welsh institutions participating. In addition, two advisory panels have been established (the Research Diversity Advisory Panel and the People and Diversity Advisory Panel). There are to be no changes from the previous REF in terms of main panels or units of assessment, with the four main panels and 32 Units of Assessment (UoA) to continue. The appointment process for the main panel chairs has commenced, and institutions have been asked to give an indication of the possible scale of their UoA return and how this would compare to the previous REF submission. HESA data for academic year 2024/25 will be used as a pilot year for the volume indicator, and the HESA data for 2025/26 and 2026/27 will be used to calculate volume measures for REF2029

Professor Spencer also advised that the REF Steering Group had published an update on the REF 2029 Open Access Policy. It was noted that the full policy will be published later this year, but some early decisions have been announced:

* Journal articles and conference proceedings: Any changes to embargo periods, licensing, deposit, and exceptions will take effect no earlier than 1st January 2026. This will allow institutions time to implement the necessary changes within their internal management systems.
* Longform outputs: There will be no longform open access mandate for REF 2029. However, an open access requirement for submission of longform outputs will be in place for the next assessment exercise, with implementation from 1 January 2029.

Council were informed that the University intended to undertake a full mock REF in 2025 with external review, based on known rules for REF2029 and previous REF guidance where no decision had yet been made.

Professor R.T. Edwards asked whether the University was involved in green energy food production, and Professor Spencer confirmed there was a great deal of work on food production being undertaken within the College of Science and Engineering.

Ms Ambreen asked how the Students’ Union could become more involved in the research side of the University. Professor Spencer noted that he had recently had discussions with the Alumni and Development Team, looking at funds to support startups possibly from Masters and PhDs.

The Vice-Chancellor noted that, in previous REFs, top researchers would be targeted. The University had outstanding researchers, and it was essential to make sure they stayed working at Bangor. If the University wished to remain a research-intensive university, it was essential to remain research active in the areas where it is currently world leading. Performance in the REF is critical for the University as a driver for reputation, which drives recruitment.

**24.30 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. The Report of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 18 November 2024 was **noted.**

Mr Hepburn, as Chair of the Committee, provided an update on the matters discussed at the meeting. It was noted that the financial challenges facing the sector continued, and thanks was extended to the Chief Financial Officer and his team for their continued work in managing the University’s finances. **[Reserved business]**

1. **Estates Matters**

Estates Projects Prioritisation Review

The Chief Operating Officer presented the Estates Projects Prioritisation Review paper. Members were informed that the prioritisation of Capital Projects within the Estate Capital Programme was essential for ensuring that the University's resources continued to be allocated effectively, and the most impactful initiatives are implemented. The Executive Board had reprioritised the capital programme, which had been presented to the recent meeting of the Finance Committee prior to the Council meeting.

**[Reserved business]**

Following discussion, the Council **approved** the re-prioritisation list relating to the Estates Capital Programme (Finance Committee minute 2425-17c).

In addition, the Chief Financial Officer confirmed that he would share the MSParc Financial Statements with the Council.

Parc y Coleg

The Finance Committee, at its meeting on 18 November, had agreed to recommend that the Parc y Coleg project proceeded through the final Governance **[Reserved business]**  (Finance Committee minute 2425-17a).

The Chair of Council advised members that following a request from Mr Wiegand, she had approved the recommendations noted above under Chair’s action in order that work could commence on the project to meet with the external funding spend deadline of 31 March 2025.

In terms of this project, the commitment had been given prior to the current financial challenges. Not completing the project would have financial implications, and therefore the Estates team had value engineered the project so that it could be completed with the lowest cost possible to the University.

The position relating to Parc y Coleg was **noted.**

Brambell Roof

The Chief Operating Officer advised members that the University needed to undertake roof repairs on the Brambell building in order to safeguard what is one of the University’s iconic buildings and contains significant laboratory facilities. In addition, the building had recently been listed by CADW.

The Finance Committee had agreed to recommend to the Council that approval is provided for the Brambell Roof project to proceed to RIBA 1-4 and to release funds **[Reserved business]** (Finance Committee minute 2425-17b)

**[Reserved business]**

Following discussion, the Council **approved** the recommendation that the Brambell Roof project proceeds to RIBA 1-4 and **approved** the release of funds **[Reserved business]**

1. **Year End Matters**

The Chief Financial Officer advised the Council that the year-end process was largely complete. However, the University is not yet in a position to complete the audit and send the final, approved Financial Statements to MEDR. It was confirmed that MEDR were aware of the position. **[Reserved business]**

The Council received the draft Annual Report and noted the Financial Statements as presented. Thanks was extended to the Chief Financial Officer and his team for their diligent work in this area.

**24.31 EDUCATION AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE MATTERS**

1. Professor Callow advised the Council that MEDR’s Quality Assessment Framework for Wales (2022) places responsibility on the Council to ascertain that the University meets the standards set out in the Framework. The 2022/23 Degree Outcome Statement, the 2023/24 Quality Assurance Report, the 2024 Quality Enhancement Supplementary information, and the 2024/25 Student Charter provide key assurance information to Council as part of the University’s quality assurance / enhancement and governance process in relation to the six statements. It was noted that the documentation was presented in order that the Council could sign off on the assurance statements, and also be assured that the University was ready for the Quality Enhancement Review which was happening the following week.
2. The Council were updated on the 2022/23 Degree Outcome Statement. It was reported that national problems with the HESA data resulted in the University’s 2022/23 Degree classification report being delayed from March 2024 to October 2024. However, the degree classification data from the University’s student record system, Banner (which had been available in September 2023), had indicated another decline in the proportion of good degrees. Professor Callow had decided to use this data to drive actions for 2023/24, with the assumption that the decline was not in-line with the sector. The 2022/23 Degree Classification Report indicates that the assumption was correct, and highlights that the proportion of good degrees increased year on year up until 2020/21, with a significant decrease (7%) for 2021/22 (in- line with the sector) and a further decrease (5%)in 2022/23, against a sector decline of 1.3%.A number of action plans were drawn up to focus on the subject areas which fell below average, most have been completed or are in progress.

Following a question Professor Callow noted that some further drilling down into the evidence would be undertaken, including consideration of peer observations and module evaluation, to look holistically at where deteriorations are highlighted by the data. Council were informed that it’s difficult to find a University wide solution to some of the issues highlighted, as it will depend on, for example the subject area, or the grades which the students enter the University with.

Following consideration, the Council **noted** the 22/23 Degree Outcome Statement.

1. Professor Callow presented the Annual Quality Assurance Report 2023/24, and the Council noted the information received over the past year to provide further assurance. It was noted that issues relating to the Quality Statements are discussed on a regular basis by Council, throughout the academic year. This included receiving reports from the Senate, information relating to Key Performance Indicators on education, student experience and research, the full NSS results and subsequent Action Plans, the PTES and PRES results for 2023, and regular updates from the Students’ Union including receiving the Relationship Agreement and the Student Charter. Addressing each of the Quality Statements in turn, the report provides assurance to Council that the University’s quality assurance and enhancement mechanisms are robust, transparent and student centred. Professor Callow advised the Council that no external examiners raised serious issues with the 2023/24 exam process. In addition, it was noted that key developments during 2023/24 are highlighted in the Report such as the North Wales Medical School, Dental Therapy and Pharmacy.

The Council were advised that during 2023/24 student complaints had decreased by 54%. A number of factors have contributed to the overall decrease in student complaints, including work on the management of complaints, supporting staff to respond directly, encouraging students to raise concerns to schools or services directly, highlighting reporting routes and increasing the accessibility of information relating to various processes. Despite the decrease in overall complaints during the reporting period it was noted, however, that there had been no comparable decrease in complaints referred to the OIA. This year saw the highest number referred to the OIA during the past five years. However, all complaints referred to the adjudicator in 2023, and deemed eligible for review, were ‘not justified’. This would indicate and overall level of satisfactory resolution at the university level.

Following consideration, the Council **noted** the Annual Quality Assurance Report for 2023/24.

1. Professor Callow presented the University’s Self-Analysis Quality Enhancement Review document, which provides the Council with information on the University’s quality enhancement processes. It was noted that the document includes information on its strategic approach to enhancement, academic standards and quality processes and collaborative provision. Members were informed that the submission has been conducted jointly with the Students’ Union, and Ms Ambreen confirmed that she was fully supporting the process, including being a part of the meetings with the Quality Enhancement Review team the following week. Ms Ambreen noted that the submission shows the University’s strengths and how its improved and welcomed the opportunity to be involved.
2. In addition, the Council **noted** the 2024/25 Student Charter and the Relationship Agreement with the Students’ Union. Ms Ambreen noted that the work on Relationship Agreement had been undertaken jointly with the University Secretary, and the Agreement had been approved by the Executive Board.
3. Considering the information provided in A. to E. above, the Council **agreed** to the six annual assurance statements for submission to MEDR.

The Chair of Council thanked Professor Callow for the comprehensive work undertaken, and welcomed the improvements noted.

**24.32 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE**

Sir Paul Lambert, Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee presented the minutes of the meetings of the Audit & Risk Committee held on 27 September 2024 and 14 November 2024. The Quarterly Integrated Risk Report, the Corporate Risk Register and the Committee’s Annual Report 2023/24 were included in the papers for **noting.**

It was noted that, at the meeting on 14 November, the Committee had received a report from the Academic Registrar on the numbers of student suicides and the provision of student support and wellbeing. Professor Rh. T. Edwards noted that a member of staff within Health Sciences had expertise in this area, and she confirmed she would pass the details to the University Secretary. In response to a question the University Secretary confirmed that the University was aware of the charity Papyrus UK which provided confidential suicide prevention advice.

Professor Tudor Edwards **agreed** to share the contact details for the member of staff in Health Sciences with the University Secretary.

The draft Health and Safety Policy, included in the papers for Council, and which was discussed at the meeting on 14 November 2024 was **approved**.

**24.33 NOMINATIONS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

1. The Report of the meeting of the Nominations & Governance Committee held on 28 October 2024 was **noted**.
2. The following matters were brought to the Council’s attention:
3. Supplemental Charter (minute 319): The University Secretary outlined that, following approval by Council in September 2024 for the term of office of the Chair to be extended for a final time to 8 February 2028, the University would need to request a minor amendment to the Supplemental Charter:

In article 12 – delete ‘always’ and substitute ‘normally’.

12. The Chair shall be eligible for reappointment for one further period of four years, subject ~~always~~ *normally* to a maximum period on Council of eight years as Chair.

The Council **approved** the amendment to the Supplemental Charter as outlined above, and **agreed** that the University Secretary should take this forward with the Privy Council.

1. Membership of Council (minute 321A): On the recommendation of the Committee the Council **agreed** that both Deputy Vice-Chancellors’ should be included as members on Council.
2. Ordinances Review (minute 322): The University Secretary advised Council that a review of the Ordinances which do not relate to staffing matters was carried out over the summer where the requirements of the new Supplemental Charter were included in the relevant Ordinances. The amended Ordinances were presented to the Nominations & Governance Committee at the end of October, before being presented to Council for approval. It was confirmed that the Ordinances are consistent with the requirements of the new Charter.

On the recommendation of the Committee the Council **approved** the amendments to the following Ordinances:

* Ordinance 1: The Council
* Ordinance 2: Chair of Council
* Ordinance 3: The Council: Independent Members
* Ordinance 4: The Council: Academic Staff Nominated Member
* Ordinance 5: The Council: Non-academic Staff Nominated Member
* Ordinance 6: The Council: Senate Members
* Ordinance 7: The Council: Appointment of the Secretary
* Ordinance 8: Custody and Use of the Common Seal
* Ordinance 9: Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor
* Ordinance 10: Delegation of Powers to Chairs of Committees
* Ordinance 11: Declaration of Interest
* Ordinance 12: The Senate
* Ordinance 13: The Court
* Ordinance 14: The Students’ Union
* Ordinance 15: The Council: Committees
* Ordinance 16: The Executive Board
* Ordinance 17: Student Discipline
* Ordinance 18: Service of Notices and Documents
* Ordinance 19: Appointment of Representatives of the University on Other Bodies
* Ordinance 29: President and Vice-Chancellor
* Ordinance 30: Audit & Risk
* Ordinance 31: Honorary Degrees and Honorary Fellowships
* Ordinance 32: Deputy and Pro Vice- Chancellors

 In addition, the Council **approved** the following new Ordinances:

* Ordinance 12.1: The Senate Co-opted Members
* Ordinance 33: The Execution of Documents by the University

**24.34 JOINT ENGAGEMENT FORUM**

The Report of the meeting of Joint Engagement Forum held on 18 November 2024 was **noted**. Members were informed that the University would undertake a Social Partnership pilot in the autumn of 2025. The Chair welcomed the continued positive engagement and contribution from the Campus Trades Unions.

**24.35 WELSH LANGUAGE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The Report of the meeting of the Welsh Language Affairs Committee held on 1 October 2024 was **noted**. Ms Wyn, as Chair of the Committee, noted that a discussion had taken place on default registration, as previously discussed at the Council.

The Council **noted** the view of the Committee on the appointment of a South Wales based marketing / recruitment member of staff (minute 90).

**24.36 SEALING**

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

**24.37 CLOSING REMARKS**

The Chair thanked members for an informative and productive meeting, with several key matters being considered and taken forward. Thanks, was also extended to the translation team for their assistance. The Chair noted that further discussions on a number of matters would be taken forward at the Away Day the following day.

Members were reminded of the strictly confidential nature of discussions both at the meeting and also the Away Day.

**24.38 VALEDICTION**

The Chair advised members that this would have been Ms Julie Perkins’ last Council meeting after 8 years as an Independent Member. The Chair paid tribute to Ms Perkins in her absence, noting that she had been a valuable critical friend, and her contributions have been hugely valued. The Chair added that she was grateful that Ms Perkins had agreed to extend her term of office, should this be required, until new Independent Members of Council were recruited. On behalf of the whole Council, thanks was extended to Ms Perkins, who would continue her association with the University as a newly appointed member of the MSParc Board.