

Coleg Board, 16 October 2024 (11:00 – 14:00), Sport Wales, Cardiff

Present

Board Members:

Dr Aled Eirug (Chair)

Ann Beynon

William Callaway

Nia Elias

Dr Rhys Evans

John Hayes

Meri Huws

Professor Anwen Jones

Professor Peter ap Llwyd (Teams)

Llinos Roberts

Professor Enlli Thomas (Teams)

Observer:

Deio Owen (President, NUS Wales)

Officers:

Dr Ioan Matthews (Chief Executive)

Gwenllian Griffiths (Director of Policy, Communications and Engagement)

Dr Dylan Phillips (Director of Higher Education and Coleg Secretary)

Dr Dafydd Trystan (Director of Strategic Development, Further Education and Registrar)

Nia Brown (Governance Officer)

Rebecca Williams (Senior Manager for Language Skills and Workforce Planning)

Apologies: Angharad Roberts

Minutes of Meeting 16 October 2024 – full session

1. Welcome, apologies and introductory matters

Number	Main discussion points	Action Points	Time Period
1.1	All those present were welcomed to the meeting.		
1.2	Deio Owen was welcomed to his first meeting as President of NUS Wales.		
1.3	Apology noted as above.		
1.4	Condolences were extended to Llinos Roberts and Dr Lowri Morgans on their recent bereavements.		
1.5	It was noted that some of the senior managers would listen to the meeting.		

2. Declarations of interest

Number	Main discussion points	Action Points	Time Period
2.1	Members were reminded of the procedure in which they are asked to note any declarations of		

	interest in addition to those already set out in the Register of Interests.		
	<i>At this point Professor Enlli Thomas joined in the meeting</i>		

3. Update on Medr

Number	Main discussion points	Action Points	Time Period
3.1	An update on matters relating to the designation to advise Medr was presented by the Director of Policy, Communications and Engagement.		
3.2	She reported on the initial advice submitted by the Coleg to Medr on 10 September. The Coleg's initial response to Medr's draft Strategic Plan which commits to developing a national plan for the Welsh language in the tertiary education sector was also reported.		
3.3	Some matters relating to Medr's draft Strategic Plan and the Coleg's response in due course to the regulatory consultation were discussed.		

3.4	Update received.		
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4. Welsh Language and Education Bill (Item 5)

Number	Main discussion points	Action Points	Time Period
4.1	The Coleg's written evidence on the Welsh Language and Education Bill to the Children, Young People and Education Committee was presented by the Director of Policy, Communications and Engagement and the Senior Manager for Language Skills and Workforce Planning.		
4.2	The general principles in the Bill and the legislative process were reported. The Coleg's overall position on the Bill was outlined. It was reported that the Chief Executive and the Senior Manager for Language Skills and Workforce Planning would give oral evidence before the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 17 October.		
	<i>At this point Iwan Evans, Lucy Evans, Alan Jones and Bethan Webb, Welsh Government officials joined the meeting and were welcomed.</i>		

4.3	Bethan Webb gave a presentation on the Welsh Language and Education Bill including the timetable.		
4.4	The Board members asked several questions.		
4.5	During the discussion the Coleg's support for the Bill was noted. Clarity was sought on whether or not the National Framework in the Bill covers tertiary education, and the Coleg's view that it should be covered was noted. In addition, the need to define the difference between learning Welsh as a second language, learning through the medium of Welsh and Welsh as a subject was noted.		
	<i>Government officials were thanked for the presentation before they departed. At this point Professor Enlli Thomas also left the meeting.</i>		

5. Discussion on the Welsh Language and Education Bill (closed)

Number	Main discussion points	Action Points	Time Period
5.1	A number of comments arising from the presentation were discussed and to be		

	reiterated whilst providing evidence to the Children, Young People and Education Committee.		
5.2	The fragile position of the Welsh language as a subject and the need to protect it as a discipline in order to meet the needs of the Bill was discussed.		
5.3	The Chief Executive and Senior Manager for Language Skills and Workforce Planning were wished all the best in giving evidence before the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 17 October.		

6. Any other matters

Number	Main discussion points	Action Points	Time Period
6.1	William Callaway was thanked on the occasion of his final meeting for his service throughout his two terms as a Board member and as chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee.		

7. Item 7 - Next meetings

Number	Main discussion points	Action Points	Time Period
7.1	The dates of the next meetings were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 November 2024, Wrexham • 26 March 2025, Aberystwyth • 25 June 2025, South East 		
7.2	Nico was thanked for the simultaneous translation.		