

Present

Board Members: Dr Aled Eirug (Chair)
Rhys Evans
John Hayes
Meri Huws
Professor Pedr ap Llwyd
Llinos Roberts
Professor Enlli Thomas

Observer: Alan Jones (Welsh Government)

Officers: Dr Ioan Matthews, Chief Executive
Dr Dylan Phillips, Director of Higher Education and Coleg Secretary
Gwenllïan Griffiths, Director of Policy, Communications and Engagement
Dr Dafydd Trystan, Director of Strategic Development, Further Education and Registrar
Gwenllïan Owen, Senior Manager for Higher Education
Mari Fflur, Senior Manager for Policy
Suzanne Lewis, Senior Manager for Corporate Services (listening in)
Dr Lowri Morgans, Senior Manager for Further Education and Apprenticeships (listening in)

Apologies: Angharad Roberts, Ann Beynon, Professor Anwen Jones, Nia Elias (Board Members)
Deio Owen (Observer, Student Representative)

Minutes of the 20 November 2024 meeting – full meeting

1. Welcome, apologies and introductory matters

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
1.1	All those present were welcomed to the meeting.		
1.2	Alan Jones was welcomed to the meeting as an observer.		
1.3	Apologies from Board members Angharad Roberts, Ann Beynon, Anwen Jones and Nia Elias were noted.		
1.4	Apologies from the student representative observer, Deio Owen, were noted.		
1.5	Condolences were extended to Nia Brown, Lowri Morgans and Dafydd Trystan following bereavements.		
1.6	Llinos Roberts was thanked for proposing Coleg Cambria as a venue for the Board meeting.		

2. Declarations of interest

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
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2.1	Members were reminded of the procedure by which they are asked to note any declarations of interest additional to those already noted in the Register of Interests.		
2.2	A hard copy of members' declarations of interests was distributed, and members were asked to check the contents, sign to confirm that their declarations were an accurate and up-to-date record of their interests, and return them to Dr Dylan Phillips during the meeting.		

3. Chief Executive's Report

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
3.1	Dr Ioan Matthews gave a verbal report.		
3.2	Discussions with Welsh Government officials on the 2025/26 budget are underway. Board members will remember that, before the Co-operation Agreement had ended, the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru had made a commitment that the budget increase that had not been provided in 2024/25 would be re-profiled to the 2025/26 financial year.		
3.3	A joint meeting between the Coleg and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language, Mark Drakeford MS, and the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Vikki Howells MS, is currently being arranged.		

3.4	It was noted that a number of meetings with stakeholders had taken place during the last period. See details in the report.		
3.5	A question was asked about whether the Chair of the Coleg's Board should be invited to join the Universities Wales Chairs forum. It was noted that a request had been made in the past and it was agreed to send another request.	Discuss the relationship with Universities Wales forums outside the meeting and report back.	
3.6	The development of the schools forum was discussed, and the importance of building trust in order to move towards strategic collaboration between the Coleg and CYDAG.		
3.7	A request was made for the details of some of the projects that are in place to attract new audiences to Welsh-medium provision in higher education, such as the behaviour change techniques package, language animateurs, and the teaching methodologies project. There will be an opportunity for members to receive updates as the work progresses.	Officers to organise a briefing session for Board members on the HE behaviour change projects.	
3.8	A discussion was held on the financial challenges facing universities. It was noted that there are serious challenges and that universities are consequently more reliant on the Coleg's funding. It was noted that the decisions of some individuals to take VR would cause issues in places. In formulating policy proposals for the next period, the Coleg will need to consider whether it is necessary to look at the		

	<p>profile of activities and expenditure, and whether an additional resource is needed to address some of these challenges.</p> <p>Reference was made to the HE Staffing Scheme as an example of a previous scheme by the Coleg to build capacity. If there are signs that staffing capacity issues are appearing once again, and that this is affecting the ability of institutions to maintain and develop their provision, the Coleg will need to look again at the potential of a scheme like the Staffing Scheme. Medr needs to be pressed to ensure that core funding (in the form of a premium for example) is provided to maintain provision so that the Coleg's funding can be used as a catalyst for new provision.</p>		
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4. Presentation on the Coleg's Health and Care Strategy

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
4.1	Gwenllian Owen, Senior Manager for Higher Education, gave an update on the Coleg's Health and Care Strategy. The strategy's intention is to bring together the activities already in place and to establish one cross-sectoral plan for these areas specifically.		
4.2	It was noted that developing a specific strategy and action plan for the Health and Care sectors makes a key contribution towards the delivery of the vision contained in the Coleg's advice for Medr. The		

	Coleg already recognises the Health and Care sectors as priority areas across its HE, FE and apprenticeship schemes.		
4.3	An update was provided on the data context, and it was noted that the picture varies by subject and institution. Attention was also drawn to some national trends.		
4.4	It was noted that there are three main themes in the strategy: (i) more effective collaboration with partners, (ii) supporting and increasing academic and placement provision, and (iii) increasing the numbers studying some of their course through the medium of Welsh.		
4.5	It was noted that the Coleg's relationship with HEIW had been significantly strengthened, which is an important strategic development for the Coleg and for this area. A number of partners have fed into the strategy, and the strategy will evolve as we continue with the discussions.		
4.6	It was noted that a follow-up Action Plan that accompanies this Strategy contains eight strategic goals and outlines the steps that need to be taken to achieve the main themes.		

5. Item 5 – Policy update (closed)

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
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5.0	<i>Separate entry (closed item)</i>		
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6. Item 6 – Ymddiriedolaeth Salesbury

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
6.1	A verbal update was given by Dr Dylan Phillips to accompany the paper report.		
6.2	<p>Members raised concerns about the workload that would fall on the Coleg's officers if Cronfa Genedlaethol William Salesbury continued in its current form as a charity and entity separate from the Coleg. Members also expressed reluctance to incur further costs in commissioning a legal review, and to bear the long-term cost of administering the charity as a separate entity.</p> <p>It was decided to reject the suggestion of appointing the Coleg as a Corporate Trustee, but it was agreed that the Coleg would be prepared to take responsibility for the fund, retaining the name and continuing to distribute financial awards to students in accordance with the original objectives, if the charity were to cease with the</p>	The Coleg to offer to take responsibility for the fund should the charity cease with the assets transferred to the Coleg and incorporated as one of the Coleg's restricted funds.	

	<p>assets transferred to the Coleg to be incorporated as one of the Coleg's restricted funds.</p> <p>Officers were authorised, in consultation with the Chair, to offer the Trustees this option.</p>		
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7. Items 7 and 8 – Minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2024

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
7.1	The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.		

8. Items 9 and 10 – Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2024

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
8.1	The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.		

9. Item 11 – Chair's Matters

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
9.1	Nothing to note.		

10. Item 12 – Appointments and Governance Standards Committee

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
10.1	Minutes of the 6 November 2024 meeting A copy of the meeting's minutes was presented to the Board.		
10.2	Procedures for appointing to the Board and its committees The procedures were approved.		
10.3	Recruiting a new Board member The Coleg advertised for a new Board member in September and October. Three applications were received by the deadline of 30 October. The Appointments and Governance Standards Committee held a shortlisting panel meeting to consider the applications on 7 November, and it was decided to interview one candidate only, at an interview to be held in the next two weeks. The Appointments Committee's recommendation after the interview will be circulated to Board members via correspondence.		
10.4	Re-appointment of three Board members for another term In accordance with the Appointment Procedures, the contributions of the following three members to the Board have been evaluated, and the Chair has recommended extending an invitation to all three to continue for a further term of service. The Appointments and Governance Standards Committee has accepted the recommendation, and all three members have agreed to continue.		

	The reappointment of Professor Anwen Jones, Ann Beynon and Professor Enlli Thomas was approved.		
10.5	<p>Appointment of chair of the Audit and Risk Committee</p> <p>As William Callaway's term as a member of the Coleg Board has ended, the position of chair of the Audit and Risk Committee is also vacant. The Chair of the Board has asked Rhys Evans to chair the Audit and Risk Committee, and Rhys has agreed. The Board has already been informed via correspondence (11 October 2024).</p> <p>The appointment of Rhys Evans as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee was approved.</p>		

11. Item 13 – Audit and Risk Committee

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
11.1	<p>Minutes of the 23 October 2024 meeting</p> <p>A copy of the meeting's minutes was presented to the Board.</p>		
11.2	<p>Audited annual accounts for 2023/24</p> <p>The audited accounts were approved. The accounts and financial statements will be signed by the Chair and submitted to Companies House.</p>		

11.3	The report of the external auditors The report was received.		
11.4	Strategic Risk Register The Risk Register was noted for information.		

12. Item 14 – Finance and General Purposes Committee

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
12.1	Minutes of the 25 September 2024 meeting A copy of the meeting's minutes was presented to the Board.		
12.2	A verbal report was given by Pedr ap Llwyd, Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.		

13. Item 15 – Academic Board

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
13.1	Minutes of the 9 October 2024 meeting A copy of the meeting's minutes was presented to the Board.		
13.2	A verbal report was given by Professor Enlli Thomas, Chair of the Academic Board.		

14. Item 16 – Post-16 Strategic Board

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
14.1	Minutes of the 26 September 2024 meeting A copy of the meeting's minutes was presented to the Board.		
14.2	A verbal report was given by Meri Huws, Chair of the Post-16 Strategic Board.		

15. Item 17 – Constitutional matters

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
15.1	Arrangements for the annual general meeting (the Coleg Court) The Coleg Court will be held on Monday 24 March 2025 at 2pm. This will be a virtual meeting to formally receive the Coleg's annual report and annual audited accounts for 2023/24.		
15.2	Terms of reference The terms of reference of the Appointments and Governance Standards Committee, the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Audit and Risk Committee, the Academic Board and the Post-16 Strategic Board were approved.		

16. Item 18 – Annual Congregation 2025

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
16.1	Confirmation of the arrangements for the annual congregation The Congregation will be held on Tuesday 25 March 2025 at the Medrus Centre, Aberystwyth.		
16.2	Nomination of honorary fellows Dr Ioan Matthews gave a verbal report and proposed that the following be nominated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Eleri Pryse • David Jones MBE • Professor Geraint H. Jenkins The nominations were approved. The need to keep these names confidential for the time being was emphasised. It was noted that, going forward, the Coleg's Governance Officer Nia Brown would gather nominations during the year.		

17. Item 19 – AOB

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
17.1	Nothing to note.		

18. Item 20 – Dates of the next meetings

Number	Main points of discussion	Action	Timescale
18.1	The dates of the next meetings were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 26 March 2025• 25 June 2025		