



Mr James Avison, Mr Mabon Dafydd, Professor Iwan Davies,
 Dr Myfanwy Davies, Mr Atul Devani, Mr Eric Hepburn, Dr Griff Jones, Dr Llion Jones,
 Lambert, Mrs Alison Leighton, Ms Julie Perkins, Dr Ian Rees, Professor Gareth Roberts,
 Professor Oliver Turnbull, Dr Lynne Williams, Professor Jean White and Mrs Gwenan Hine
 (Secretary).

Apologies: Mr Marc Jones and Mr Kailesh Karavadra

In attendance:

Professor Nicky Callow, Professor Andrew Edwards, Mr Rob Eastwood, Mrs Tracy Hibbert, Dr
 Kevin Mundy, Professor Paul Spencer, Mrs Lorraine Westwood and Mr Lars Wiegand.

In addition Mr Adrian Vickers, Fusion Partners attended for item 21.21, and Mr Mike Wilson,
 Head of Planning, attended for item 21.27.

The meeting was held through Zoom.

21.19 BRIEFING ON THE WELSH LANGUAGE STRATEGY

- A. Professor Andrew Edwards provided the Council with a briefing on the newly
 approved Welsh Language Strategy. It was noted that the Strategy had been out for
 consultation with students, staff and stakeholders, and that the briefing had been
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- x Teaching and Learning: a University where all students have the opportunity to study through the medium of Welsh and where students can ~~cently~~ discuss their subject in both Welsh and English;

21.20 UPDATES

- A. The Vice-Chancellor provided the Council with updates relating to the Higher Education landscape in Wales and the UK. In particular the following matters were noted:

[1] Tertiary Education and Research Bill (Wales)

The Vice-Chancellor referred to the Welsh Government Minister for Education's statement to the Senedd recently in relation to the forthcoming Tertiary Education and Research Bill (Wales). It was noted that the proposed bill established a new commission for tertiary education and research.

Learning Pathways Project. The expansion and ongoing diversification of national systems of higher education had led to a diverse sector, which was not only reflected in a greater number and variety of higher education institutions, academic programmes, and delivery modes, but also wider diversity of learner profiles. This proliferation within an increasingly competitive market had promoted a more market driven approach to curriculum provision responsive to the demands of students. It was noted that one way to meet those demands was through the provision of flexible learning pathways. The project currently underway aimed to inform Bangor

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- x Ensuring that spaces were available for students to study ~~work~~ collaboratively was something that students were asking for on campus, as well as having additional spaces available to the local community in order to bring Bangor into the University.

In addition to the comments above members were reassured

Student Survey) results substantial activity had taken place across the summer and autumn, with a plan in place for engagement across the academic year. A number of actions had already been completed, and others were ongoing. It was noted that performance against the actions was being monitored by the Student Experience Strategy Group. In addition in relation to the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) a number of actions had been identified and were similar to those already identified for the NSS. These matters were being taken forward, with discussions taking place with Deans and Heads in relation to performance and low scoring areas with action plans being put in place where relevant. Finally in relation to Postgraduate Research Experience Study (PRES) the Doctoral School were working with lower scoring Schools to develop action plans which would be overseen at College level.

- E. The Chair, on behalf of the Council, thanked both Mr Avison and Mr Dwyer for their reports.

21.27 REPORT ON LEAGUE TABLES

- A. The Head of Planning presented his report on League Tables, which provided the Council with a briefing on the primary domestic and international league tables in operation across the UK and global HE sectors in alignment to the University's Strategy 2030, the University's latest performance in league tables, and its approach to addressing league table performance.

It was noted that League Tables commanded a high-profile presence in the media and were an important element of the University's brand proposition, being used by prospective students, their families and teachers/advisors in schools/FE colleges. In the case of overseas students it was noted that some governments would only fund students to attend courses at higher ranking universities.

The Council were advised however of the need to recognise the limitations of driving university strategy by league tables, and rather to adopt an approach where successful strategy outcomes align to improved performance in respected rankings that align to the University's mission, vision, and values. Further challenge comes from some inherent short-term volatility in league table methodologies, making alignment to longer term strategic vision problematic. Relatively small absolute changes in metrics could give rise to more prominent changes in relative performance, particularly where data is tightly grouped around a narrow range of values, or where data changes frequently.

Members were informed that there were a number of approaches to addressing league table performance and the University needed to identify an approach that was achievable given its size, which is consistent with the portfolio of strategic initiatives which were being taken forward. The Council were provided with an update on progress against some of the original intended actions provided during the previous briefing in 2019, and it was noted that some of the intended actions had been delayed through changes in senior man-

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It was noted that undergraduate Home / EU applications (excluding HEIW funded students) were up 14% compared to the same point last year with significant increases particularly in the areas of Psychology, Ocean Sciences and Zoology. In relation to undergraduate Home/EU (HEIW funded students only) applications there were 30% compared to this point last year, but it was reported that this was expected due to the University losing some of the HEIW commissioned nursing places. Undergraduate overseas applications were up by 22% compared to the same point last year, postgraduate taught Home / EU applications were 9% lower than at the same point last year but showing a significant increase over 2 years. Finally, postgraduate taught overseas applications were lower than at the same point last year. Professor Edwards noted that it was still relatively early to draw any firm conclusions in relation to recruitment trends within the overseas market, and that in the last few years applications improved later in the cycle.

Mrs Westwood informed Council

21.30 ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

- A. The Council received and considered draft Financial Statements for the year to 31 July 2021, which were considered recently at meeting of the Finance and Strategy Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee where no material concerns were raised by members or by the auditors KPMG

The Interim Director of Finance noted that a final version of the Annual Report could be prepared for the University Court in February 2022 and would incorporate the financial statements. Some final activities and checks would be required following the meeting of Council but were not expected to result in any substantive change to the final version which the Council were being presented with. The Interim Director confirmed that the final version would be brought to the next meeting of the Council in February 2022.

The Interim Director noted that the recommendation to Council was that Financial Statements were approved, and authority to sign the financial statements on behalf of Council be delegated to the Chair of Council, Chair of Finance Committee and Vice Chancellor.

- B. After full consideration, it was resolved
- [1] That the Accounts for 2020/21 be approved and signed by the Chair of Council, the Vice-Chancellor and the Chair of the Finance and Resources Committee in due course and lodged with HEFCW by the end of February
- [2] That the Letter of Representation to the Auditors be signed by the Chair of Council.

21.31 ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE

- A. The Council were updated on the 19/20 Degree Outcome Statement and it was noted in particular that:

- x In order to mitigate the impact of the Covid pandemic on teaching and assessment, in 2019/20, the University had developed a set of Force Majeure Regulations [(V)- 0 at HEFC GO (F)4- Tw 1.ndbda: c-1.22 Td Tw 1.89 0 Td [(de8

reported that the University undertook routine analysis of degree attainment for a range of demographic characteristics, driving down and eliminating attainment gaps where they

21.35 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

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21.39 JOINT ENGAGEMENT FORUM

The Report of the meeting of the Joint Engagement Forum held on 27 October 2021 (attached as Appendix VI to the official copy of the Minutes) was approved. The Chair welcomed the continued positive discussions around the Charter, Statute and Ordinances.

21.40 VALEDICTION

The Chair noted that Mr Tudur Williams had recently left the University, and arrangements were in place to appoint a successor from amongst the University's non-academic staff on to the Council. The Chair informed Council that she would write on behalf of the Council to thank Tudur for his dedication and support.