



Bangor University

COUNCIL MINUTES

At a meeting of the Council held in the University on Friday, 25 September 2020

Present

Mrs Marian Wyn Jones (Chair), Professor Nicky Cadogan, Tomos Dafydd, Professor Iwan Davies, Dr Myfanwy Davies, Professor Andrew Edwards, Mr Iwan Evans, Dr Griff Jones, Dr Karen Jones, Dr Llion Jones, Mr Marc Jones, Sir Paul Lambert, Mrs Alison Lewis, Ms. Ellen Parry Williams, Miss Julie Perkins, Dr Ian, n-

## 20.3 CONGRATULATIONS

### A. On the award of a Personal Chair:

Dr Rasha Alsakka, Bangor Business School  
Mrs Delyth Pryŷ Canolfan Bedwyr  
Dr Sue Niebrzydowski, School of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics  
Dr Alison Mawhinney School of Law  
Dr Richard Holland School of Natural Sciences

### B. On the award of a Readership:

Dr Graham Ormondroyd The BioComposites Centre  
Dr Maziar Nezhad School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering  
Dr Zengbo (James) Wang School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering  
Dr Eben Muse School of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics  
Dr Guto Puw School of Music, Drama and Performance  
Dr Olga Golyshina School of Natural Sciences  
Dr Martin Skoy School of Ocean Sciences

### C. The Chair also notes the following achievements:

Marine Biology & Oceanography Student Tom Williams was praised for his immense bravery when he rushed into the sea to save a man. Dyfed Powys Police confirmed that there was no doubt that Tom and his friends had saved the man's life.

The extension to the SEACAMS2 partnership between Bangor University and Swansea University is to be given a further boost with the awarding of an additional £1.5M of EU funding from the Welsh Government which will enable research to continue until 2022. The work will contribute to the Low carbon, Energy and Environment sector

Crabshells could provide a new virucide for PPE. North Wales based company

Award. Lee Carson contributed as crew on the major BBC adaptation of Bangor Honorary Fellow Phillip Pullman's acclaimed trilogy His Dark Materials, which is nominated for Best Television Drama amongst other categories. Roy Farmer and Robert Zyborski both contributed on camera to critically acclaimed Best Factual Series nominee, Ysgol Ni: Maesinla which followed pupils and teachers at the Caernarfon school in a heartwarming fly on the wall documentary.

Professor Judy Hutchings, The Centre for Evidence Based Early Intervention, School of Psychology has been presented with the Lifetime Achievement Psychology award by the British Psychological Society Practice Board.

Wales Book of the Year 2020 update. Zoe Skoulding was successful in the Poetry Award with Footnotes to Water, and Alys Conran was placed runner up in the Rhys Davies Trust Fiction Award with her novel Dignity. Ifan Morgan Jones was awarded both the overall Llyfr y Flwyddyn award and the Golwg Barn y Bobl people's vote award.

In addition, Caryl Bryn a former student in the School of Welsh was also nominated in the Poetry category. She went on to win that award.

D. On behalf of the Coun05 Tc

B. Members were apprised that considerable effort has been put in place over the summer to ensure that the campus was ready for the start of the academic year, and in particular in order to facilitate in person on campus teaching. The following points were noted:

[1] TheUniversity's Covid9

results reported. The Chair also thanked the Executive and all staff who had been working tirelessly over the summer to prepare for the return of students

- D. The Council were apprised of the recent walk about undertaken by the Chair and the Chair of the Health and Safety Committee, alongside Executive members. The group were shown the

Council welcomed this update and the Chair thanked the Executive, and in particular Professor Callow for the detailed work in bringing this to fruition.

- [2] Draft Supplemental Charter [Minute 19.121]; it was reported that the University had made an informal application to the Privy Council, a response had not yet been received. It was noted that the process would then require the Charter to return to the Council for final deliberation.

## 20.9 STUDENTS UNION UPDATE

- A. The Council noted an update on the Students' Union's recent activities, campaigns and events. In particular the following points were noted:
- [1] Undeb Bangor Website: A new Undeb Bangor website was developed over the summer and went live at the beginning of September.
  - [2] Green Impact Excellence Award: The Students' Union has been awarded the Green Impact Excellence Award, achieving the highest score in the Green Impact Students' Union Awards 2020.
  - [3] Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic: It was reported that throughout the pandemic the Students' Union has maintained online communication links remotely with the student community and continued to provide services online including academic advice, representation support and course reps.
  - [4] Q&A with the Executive: A live Q&A with members of the Executive was arranged where questions about the forthcoming academic year were answered. 150 questions were submitted in advance, and over 4,000 views of the video have been noted.
  - [5] Welsh-medium Student Mental Health Support: Work has been ongoing on the creation of a Welsh medium student mental health support website which is due to launch in the coming weeks. Many UMCB students have been involved creating content for the website, which will be an important step forward in ensuring that students have access to services in their first language.
- B. The Chair, on behalf of the Council, thanked both Mr Williams and Mr Evans for an informative report.

## 20.10 STUDENT RECRUITMENT UPDATE

- A. Members were reminded that the University had prepared three financial scenarios for this year's HEFCW financial forecasts, which were considered by the Finance & Strategy Committee at its meeting in June. The paper provided an update on the current position in relation to home / EU and international student recruitment numbers and sets out the current data against the baseline scenario, the HEFCW best case scenario and the HEFCW worst case scenario.
- B. The number of students admitted (i.e. those expected to enrol) have been tracked daily since the beginning of August, with likely outcomes extrapolated from previous trends, and accounting for known issues arising in the unusual circumstances arising during the current year (e.g. grading of A-levels; significant increase in clearing offers).
- C. Currently the University is set to recruit c70 more Home / EU undergraduate students more than last year, and c 250 students in addition to the most favourable scenario.

modelled. This was a considerable improvement given that projections have been 8% down on last year throughout the majority of the recruitment cycle. For Home / EU postgraduate students the University is set to recruit c115 more students than last year, and c185 students in addition to the most favourable scenario modelled.

- D. In relation to international students the University is set to recruit c230 students, meeting its baseline scenario, but c230 students fewer than last year. For international postgraduate students the situation is that the university is set to recruit c400 students fewer than last year (c80 students lower than the University's baseline scenario).
- E. Overall, this puts the university at around £3m





decisions on those proposals are made or any implementation carried out, and furthermore that as a result of such consultation, those plans could change.

It was reported that over the last few years the University has had a string of successful NSS outcomes, including above sector benchmark, and UK top 10 performance both as a University and for a number of our subject areas. The University was disappointed to see a drop in o

## 20.17 FINANCE & STRATEGY COMMITTEE

The Report of the meeting of the Finance and Strategy Committee held on the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (attached as Appendix 11 to the official copy of the Minutes) was approved.

## 20.18 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

The Report of the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (attached as Appendix 12 to the official copy of the Minutes) was approved.

## 20.19 HUMAN RESOURCES MATTERS

- A. The Council received a report on Human Resources matters and the update in relation to the National Pay Awards and the Real Living Wage
- B. A list of recent senior appointments was received for information.
- C. The Council approved