

SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held at 14:00 on 2 February 2023, MS Teams.

Voting members: Prof Elizabeth Treasure, Vice-Chancellor; Prof Qiang Shen, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences); Professor Tim Woods, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning, Teaching and Student Experience); Dr Otar Akanyeti; Mr Thomas Bates; Professor Hazel Davey; Dr Sarah Davies; Professor Iain Donnison; Dr Patrick Finney; Mr Jonathan Fry, Chair of AU Branch of the CCC; Dr Aloysius Igboekwu; Dr Ffion Jones; Mr Dafydd Jones, UMCA President; Ms Elizabeth Manners, SU Academic Affairs Officer; Ms Ash Sturrock, SU President; Dr Louise Marshall; Ms Jen Phipps; Dr Alexander Pitchford; Dr Heather Norris; Ms Jackie Sayce; Dr Samuel Raybone; Professor Eleri Pryse; Professor Phillipp Schofield; and Professor Reyer Zwiggelaar, Head of the Graduate School.

Non-voting members: Professor Iain Barber; Dr Alistair Shepherd; Dr Guy Baron; Dr Cathryn Charnell-White; Professor Simon Cox; Dr Andrew Davies; Professor Andrew Evans; Dr Thomas Jansen; Professor Jamie Medhurst; Professor Helen Roberts, Director of Research Excellence and Impact; and Dr Anoush Simon.

Academic Board members in attendance: Professor Joanne Hamilton, Associate Dean Learning and Teaching, FELS; Mr Ian Munton, Director of Student Services; Dr Malte Urban, Associate Dean Learning and Teaching, FASS; and Mr Steve Walsh, Head of Planning.

In attendance: Dr Gwawr Taylor, University Secretary; Mr Tim Davies, Director of Information Services; Dr Gethin Rhys, Mrs Kim Bradick, Deputy Registrars; Mrs Jean Jones, Head of the Vice Chancellor's Office; and Ms Emma Williams, Acting University Secretary and Academic Registrar.

Apologies for absence had been received from Lucy Trotter; Sarah Higgins, Professor Anwen Jones, Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor, FASS; Dr Fred Long, Associate Dean Learning and Teaching, FBPS; Professor Colin McInnes, Pro Vice-Chancellor, (Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation); Professor Mererid Hopwood; Professor Nigel Holt; Professor Neil Glasser, Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor, FELS; Alexander Pitchford; Dr Alex Mangold.

33. MATTERS RAISED BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

1. Welcome

1. The following were welcomed to their first meeting of Senate:

1. Gwawr Taylor, University Secretary;
2. Alistair Shepherd, Department of International Politics.

2. May Bank Holiday

NOTED

A proposal that teaching should proceed on the final Monday of Semester 2 as already timetabled for the bank holiday of 1 May 2023.

RESOLVED

To approve the proposal to proceed with teaching on 1 May 2023, and to update the Dates of Term for 2022/23 accordingly.

3. Student Awards

RECEIVED

Report by the Deputy Registrar, Academic Registry (SEN2223-045)

NOTED

Following discussion with Academic Registry, the Department of International Politics had proposed to rename the I L Gowan Prize Political Science as follows: Ivor L Gowan Prize, Politics and International Relations. The prize had been founded in 1989 with a donation from Emeritus Professor I L Gowan, formerly Professor of Political Science at Aberystwyth, and the department was satisfied that the new name would be in keeping with the original aim while also ensuring an accurate reflection of current teaching and research.

RESOLVED

To confirm the renaming as the Ivor L Gowan Prize, Politics and International Relations.

4. Chair of Senate Examination Board

RECEIVED

Report from the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning, Teaching and Student Enhancement (SEN2223-046)

NOTED

In response to the increased frequency of meetings, and to ensure timely approval of student progression and awards, it was proposed to enable the Pro Vice-Chancellor (LTSE) to delegate the role of Chair of Senate Examination Board to a member of Academic Board

RESOLVED

To approve changes to the membership of Senate Examination Board as published in Academic Quality Handbook 3.5.7. The Chair would be a Pro Vice-Chancellor responsible for academic standards, unless the PVC delegated this responsibility to a member of Academic Board.

34. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were reported.

35. AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN RESPONSE TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION

RECEIVED

Report from the Academic Registrar (SEN2223-048)

NOTED

1. The proposed amendments to regulations were in response to UCU industrial action. They were designed to enable students to receive module results, progress in their study schemes, receive award results and, where qualified, attend graduation ceremonies in future.
2. Senate welcomed the proposal to establish a working group to oversee the situation as it developed. This would include representation from the Students' Union and staff from Faculties, the Academic Registry, Communications and Information Services.
3. The working group would invite departments to provide feedback on the requirements of Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs), and any impact on the achievement of learning outcomes at scheme level.
4. A series of general principles were proposed in the paper. It was agreed that the 2nd principle should be amended to state that 'students should not generally be required to undertake assessment on modules if the assessment did not run as scheduled . . . '.
5. In proposing measures to enable degrees to be awarded where scheme learning outcomes could be demonstrated to have been met, the proposals drew on previous experience of industrial action in 2006 and 2018, of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, and also QAA and UUK guidance. They would enable degrees to be awarded where marks were available in at least two thirds of credit used to calculate the award, including those modules with Y indicators for partial completion (at least 50% of module assessments).
6. Concerns were raised that in the case of Integrated Master's scheme, the proposals could enable students to graduate with no marks at the level of the award (level M) and it was agreed that the working group should consider further adjustments to the regulations to safeguard those awards. It was also agreed that the working group should look at the wording on the award of degrees in comparison with the adjustments approved during the pandemic, to consider the impact on current Year 2 students in the event that industrial action continued into 2023/24, and to consider the basis on which students could be expected to make an informed decision on accepting indicative degree classes.
7. Modules with no assessment (Q indicator) or partial assessment (Y indicator) would be excluded from the standard cap on the number of credits which could be taken during August resits. Year 2 students with weak performance would need additional support to progress into the final of study in 2023/24.
8. There would need to be further discussion on the impact on the PGCE course, and also on Distance Learning schemes.
9. Students' Union representatives had discussed the draft proposals with the Academic Registrar, and confirmed their support of the overall amendments to regulations.

10. Once finalised by the working group, amendments to regulations and other associated measures would be communicated to students and staff by means of a joint statement between the University and the Students' Union.
11. Negotiations with UCU were continuing at a UK level.

RESOLVED

12. To approve the amendments to regulations and associated measures in response to industrial action, with minor amendments as noted in the minutes.
13. To establish a working group to oversee the implementation of amendments to regulations and associated measures in response to industrial action. This would include consideration of points noted by Senate and recorded in the minutes.

36. ANY OTHER BUSINESS, MEETING REVIEW, AND FUTURE BUSINESS

NOTED

The next meeting of Senate had been rescheduled and would be held on 3 May 2023.

HGRh 20/04/23