

Bangor University

At a meeting of the Council held in the University on Friday, 14th February 2020.

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The appointment of Michelle Donelan MP as Universities Minister was reported. It was noted that the ministerial post did not, for the first time in a while, include the science brief which would be implemented through the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

It was noted that there was still no clear indication of how the government would take forward the Augur Report at the current time.

It would appear that the UK government was committed to Horizon Europe, however the future of the Erasmus programme was not yet clear. The University needed to consider how it would take forward the student mobility programme in the future.

The Camm Review of Governance in Wales was progressing, and an announcement was expected soon. Once the outcome of the review was known the recommendations would be considered and brought to the Council for discussion.

The Council considered whether the university would be able to increase its contribution to the USS pension scheme from 21.2%, and agreed that, given the financial challenge it would present, this was not something it could agree to at this current time.

It was noted that the Vice-Chancellor had received a letter of thanks from the Air Accident Investigation Branch for the support provided by the university, and specifically by the Prince Madog vessel, in the search for Professor David Last who w10 (w)-10 (e74(18 (r)4

A petition had been drawn up to send to the Welsh Government in relation to the reduction in train services, and increased costs, across North Wales following the change in train operator.

A survey looking at the experiences of first year Welsh students had been completed and a number of useful comments had been received which will enable Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Bangor (UMCB) to assist future first year students to settle at the University from Welcome Week onwards. Discussions were currently being held with academic schools in relation to the use of the Welsh Language during Welcome Week.

A report from the meetings of the Executive held between December 2019 and February 2020 (attached as Appendix I to the official copy of the Minutes) was received, and in particular the following were highlighted:

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A. The Pro-Vice Chancellor informed the Council that a mock REF exercise had been undertaken in December and January, which had gone smoothly, and that a full report would be brought to the next meeting.

B. The Research Grants Awards and Applications Report showed that the university was continuing to undertake internationally recognised, high quality research. However, it was also clear that currently researchers are not bringing in as much grant funding as the university would like. The unincorporated Council has agreed to continue to monitor the situation and to report back to the Council at the next meeting.

The Council ratified the sealing of documents listed in Agendum 15.