

Cross-Party Group Annual Report 2018-19

06 February 2019

Cross-Party Group on Universities

1. Group membership and office holders

Chair: Hefin David AM

Michelle Brown AM

Jayne Bryant AM

Suzy Davies AM

Llyr Gruffydd AM

Siân Gwenllian AM

Mike Hedges AM

Vikki Howells AM

Dai Lloyd AM

Darren Millar AM

David Rees AM

Bethan Sayed AM

Previous members:

Eluned Morgan AM

Julie Morgan AM

Simon Thomas AM

Secretary: Kieron Rees, Universities Wales, 2 Caspian Point, Cardiff Bay, CF10 4DW
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Other external members:

Professor Medwin Hughes (Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales Trinity Saint David)

Professor Julie Lydon (Vice-Chancellor, University of South Wales)

Professor Colin Riordan (Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff University)

Professor Cara Carmichael Aitchison (Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff Metropolitan University)

Professor Maria Hinfelaar (Vice-Chancellor, Glyndŵr University)

Professor Elizabeth Treasure (Aberystwyth University)

Louise Casella (Open University in Wales)

Amanda Wilkinson (Director, Universities Wales)

Kieron Rees (Policy Adviser, Universities Wales)

Previous members:

Professor Richard Davies (Vice-Chancellor, Swansea University)

Professor John Hughes (Vice-Chancellor, Bangor University)

Olivia Jones (Policy Adviser, Universities Wales)

Beth Button (Political & Public Affairs Policy Adviser, Universities Wales)

2. Previous Group Meetings

Meeting 1: 01 February 2018

Attendees:

Hefin David AM (Chair)
Mike Hedges AM
Jenny Rathbone AM
Mick Antoniw AM
Mark Isherwood AM
Elizabeth Treasure (Aberystwyth University)
Karen Holford (Cardiff University)
Maria Hinfelaar (Glyndŵr University)
Richard B Davies (Swansea University)
Louise Casella (Open University in Wales)
Julie Lydon (University of South Wales)
Jane Davidson (UWTSD)
Amanda Wilkinson (Universities Wales)
Beth Button (Universities Wales)
Ursula Kelly (Viewforth Consulting)
David Blaney (HEFCW)
Tom Griffin (University of South Wales)
Elin Jones (NUS Wales)
Cerith Rhys-Jones (NUS Wales)
Alexander Still (Office of Hefin David AM)
Rhys Flowers (Secretary)

Summary of issues discussed:

- Presentation Ursula Kelly of Viewforth Consulting on the economic impact of higher education in Wales.

Meeting 2: 02 May 2018

Attendees:

Hefin David AM (Chair)
John Griffiths AM
David Rees AM
Kirsty Williams AM
Elizabeth Treasure (Aberystwyth University)
Sushila Chang (Cardiff Metropolitan University)
Colin Riordan (Cardiff University)
Maria Hinfelaar (Glyndŵr University)
Richard B Davies (Swansea University)
Louise Casella (Open University in Wales)
Julie Lydon (University of South Wales)
Jane Davidson (UWTSD)

Amanda Wilkinson (Universities Wales)
Olivia Jones (Universities Wales)
Judith Evans (Coleg y Cymoedd)
Barry Liles (Coleg Ceredigion/Coleg Sir Gar)
Simon Pirotte (Bridgend College)
Jackie Doodson (Coleg Cambria)
Mike James (Cardiff and Vale Group of Colleges)
Dafydd Evans (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai)
Mark Jones (Gower College Swansea)
Sharron Lusher (Pembrokeshire College)
Mark Dacey (NPTC Group of Colleges)
Guy Lacey (Coleg Gwent)
John O'Shea (The College Merthyr Tydfil)
Iestyn Davies (Colegau Cymru)
Rachel Bowen (Colegau Cymru)
Claire Roberts (Colegau Cymru)
Celia Hunt (HEFCW)
Carmen Smith (NUS Wales)
Gwyneth Sweatman (NUS Wales)
Cerith Rhys-Jones (NUS Wales)
Alexander Still (Office of Hefin David AM)
Dewi Knight (Welsh Government)
Rhys Flowers (Secretary)

Summary of issues discussed:

- Carmen Ria Smith and Gwyneth Sweatman gave a presentation of NUS Wales's vision of opening access to higher education for students of all backgrounds
- Alastair Sim of Universities Scotland provided insight of Scottish experience in reforming the Scottish Funding Council
- The Minister for Education, Kirsty Williams AM, gave an update from Welsh Government on planned reforms within the sector and the core principles that underpin her vision for the proposed changes.

Meeting 3: 04 July 2018

Attendees:

Hefin David AM (Chair)
David Rees AM
Elizabeth Treasure (Aberystwyth University)
Maria Hinfelaar (Glyndŵr University)
Richard B Davies (Swansea University)
Karen Holford (Cardiff University)
Julie Lydon (University of South Wales)
Amanda Wilkinson (Universities Wales)
Olivia Jones (Universities Wales)

David Blaney (HEFCW)
Bethan Owen (HEFCW)
Phil Boshier (National Assembly for Wales)
Rhys Flowers (Secretary)

Summary of issues discussed:

- Professor Karen Holford of Cardiff University gave a presentation on the Reid Review
- Dr David Blaney of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales spoke about the future of research and innovation in Wales.

Meeting 4: 07 November 2019

Attendees:

David Rees AM (Acting Chair)
Suzy Davies AM
Cara Aitchison (Cardiff Metropolitan University)
Maria Hinfelaar (Glyndŵr University)
Richard B Davies (Swansea University)
Julie Lydon (University of South Wales)
Colin Riordan (Cardiff University)
Amanda Wilkinson (Universities Wales)
Olivia Jones (Universities Wales)
David Blaney (HEFCW)
Jane Johns (HEFCW)
Lynette Thomas (Open University in Wales)
Kieron Rees (Universities Wales)
Ben Lewis (Cardiff University)
Amy Sykes (Cardiff University)
Sarah Andrews (Public Health Wales)
Gwyneth Sweatman (NUS Wales)
Cerith Rhys-Jones (NUS Wales)
Luke Young (Office of Jeremy Miles AM)
Ryland Doyle (Office of Mike Hedges AM)
Phil Boshier (National Assembly for Wales)
Rhys Flowers (Secretary)

Summary of issues discussed:

- Sarah Andrews of Public Health Wales gave a presentation on how the Healthy Colleges and Universities Framework can help tackle the issues of mental health at universities
- Ben Lewis, Director of Student Support and Wellbeing, Cardiff University, spoke about how his institution were addressing the issue
- President of NUS Wales, Gwyneth Sweatman, outlined how student mental health was a priority for her organisation

- Kieron Rees of Universities Wales spoke about how student mental health was a priority for Welsh universities and outlined how the sector as a whole was coming together to tackling the issue.

Meeting 5: 06 February 2019

Attendees:

Hefin David AM (Chair)
 Jenny Rathbone AM
 Siân Gwenllian AM
 Professor Julie Lydon OBE
 Professor Maria Hinfelaar
 Professor Colin Riordan (Cardiff University)
 Amanda Wilkinson (Universities Wales)
 Kieron Rees (Universities Wales)
 Dr David Blaney (HEFCW)
 Lynette Thomas (Open University in Wales)
 Professor Oliver Turnbull (Bangor University)
 Professor Leigh Robinson (Cardiff Metropolitan University)
 Gwyneth Sweatman (NUS Wales)
 Cerith Rhys-Jones (NUS Wales)
 Joni Alexander (NUS Wales)
 Ryland Doyle (Office of Mike Hedges AM)
 Alex Still (Office of Hefin David AM)
 Craig Lawton (Office of Suzy Davies AM)
 Phil Boshier (National Assembly for Wales)
 Professor Roger Awan-Scully (Cardiff University)
 Dan Hurley (Universities UK)
 Tom Woodward (Welsh Government)
 Mairwen Harris (Universities Wales)
 Rebecca Taylor (Universities Wales)
 Bethan Lewis (BBC Wales)
 Rhys Flowers (Secretary).

Summary of issues discussed:

- Professor Roger Awan-Scully of Cardiff University gave a presentation on the Welsh public's current views on devolution and Brexit
- Dan Hurley, Policy Manager at Universities UK, outlined how the higher education sector is planning for Brexit and the potential implications of a no deal scenario
- Annual General Meeting of the Group with Hefin David AM re-elected as Chair and Kieron Rees of Universities Wales elected as its new secretary.

3. Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations and charities with whom the Group has met during the preceding year.

None.

Annual Financial Statement.

06 February 2019

Cross-Party Group on Universities

Chair: Hefin David AM

Secretary: Kieron Rees (Universities Wales)

Group's Expenses.	None.	£0.00
Costs of all goods.	No goods purchased.	£0.00
Benefits received by the group or individual Members from outside bodies.	No benefits received.	£0.00
Any secretariat or other support.	Four Cymru provided secretariat support for the group on behalf of Universities Wales	£3325.00
	02 May 2018: speakers' travelling expenses	£340.71
	<i>All costs paid by Universities Wales</i>	
Services provided to the Group such as hospitality.		
All refreshments paid by Universities Wales.		
Date	Description and name of provider	Cost
01 February 2018	Charlton House Catering	£121.22
02 May 2018	Charlton House Catering	£212.16
04 July 2018	Charlton House Catering	£119.94
07 November 2018	Charlton House Catering	£86.82
05 February 2019	Charlton House Catering	£64.80
Total cost		£604.94