



JCO479 (a)

COUNCIL

UNRESTRICTED Minutes of the meeting held at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 26 November 2025 in the Teaching and Learning Building, Carmarthen campus

UWTSD and UW Council Members:

Emlyn Dole (Chair)
Professor Elwen Evans KC (Vice-Chancellor)
Timothy Llewelyn
Nigel Roberts
Dr Liz Siberry

In attendance:

Gavin Bessant, Director of Financial Services
Vanessa Cashmore, Acting Principal, Coleg Sir Gar
Sarah Clark, University Secretary and Clerk to the Councils
Sharon Lusher, PVC (FE)
Peter Mannion, Chief Operating Officer
Dr Chris Marshall, Chief of Staff
Professor Conny Matera-Rogers, PVC (International)
Jane O'Rourke, Chief People Officer
Professor Mirjam Plantinga, PVC (Education)
Lynwen Davies (Translator)

UW Council Members:

Dr Stuart Robb
Iwan Thomas

UWTSD Council Members:

Richard Bills (online)
Dr Tracy Cruickshank
Gwyneira Davies
Dr Deborah Hughes
Rowland Jones
Jacqui Kedward (online)
Chris Martin
Richard Norton
Jonathan Pugh
Emlyn Schiavone (online)
Katrin Shaw
Jennifer Taylor

Observer:

Tianran Liu (SU)

Margaret Williams, Secretary

Minute	Main discussion points
25.70 Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from Professor Kyle Erickson, Geraint Evans, Geraint Roberts and Deris Williams.
25.71 Declarations of interest	Council RECEIVED an update to the Register of Interests 2025/26 to include new members of the UWTSD Council ((JCO428).
25.72 Chair's report	Council RECEIVED the Chair's report (JCO429).
25.73 Vice-Chancellor's report	Council RECEIVED an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.
25.74 RPC reports	<p>Council CONSIDERED the reports of the RPC meetings held on 13 October and 15 November 2025 (JCO431).</p> <p>Presenting the reports, the Chair of RPC drew members' attention in particular to:</p> <p>(a) the financial update, which was presented to Council as a separate agenda item;</p> <p>(b) the Committee's annual report 2024/25.</p> <p>Council RECEIVED the Committee's annual report 2024/25 (JCO432).</p>
25.75 Financial update	Council RECEIVED the financial and cash management report (JCO433).
25.76 ARC reports	<p>Council CONSIDERED the reports of the ARC meetings held on 20 October and 17 November 2025 (JCO436).</p> <p>Presenting the reports, the Chair of ARC drew members' attention in particular to:</p> <p>(a) the updated Risk Register and proposed changes to the Risk Management and Assurance Policy;</p> <p>(b) recommendations in respect of the appointment of auditors;</p>

	<p>(c) the External Audit report and draft financial statements 2024/25, which were presented to Council as a separate agenda item;</p> <p>(d) the update on cybersecurity and anti-fraud controls presented in the biannual Transparency report.</p> <p>Council RECEIVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Corporate Risk Register and appendices (JCO465); (b) an extract from the Transparency Report relating to cybersecurity (JCO466); (c) the Committee's Annual Report 2024/25 (JCO437). <p>Council APPROVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the revised Risk Management and Assurance Policy (JCO464); (b) ARC's proposal that the External Audit tender be deferred by 12 months, on the assumption that plans for the 2026/27 audit cycle would be finalised in early 2027; (c) ARC's proposal to extend the current Internal Audit contract until 31 July 2027, on the understanding that this would be the final extension.
<p>25.77 Financial statements 2024/25</p>	<p>Council CONSIDERED the External Audit report and opinion on the financial statements 2024/25 (JCO438a), together with the audited annual report and financial statements for the University and its subsidiaries (JCO439a).</p> <p>Council noted that the documents had been considered in detail by ARC.</p> <p>Council APPROVED the signing of the annual report and financial statements, subject to the completion of any outstanding items.</p>
<p>25.78 NGC report</p>	<p>Council CONSIDERED the report of the NGC meeting held on 16 October 2025 (JCO441).</p> <p>Presenting the reports, the Chair of ARC drew members' attention in particular to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Committee's discussion of the recommendations of the Governance Effectiveness Review (GER) and the action plan prepared by the Clerk, a draft of which was presented to Council as a separate agenda item;

	<p>(b) the Committee’s consideration of the Gillies report on the University of Dundee, which included some observations on challenge and financial literacy that Council would wish to consider in the context of the GER report and the planned ‘re-induction’ of members;</p> <p>(c) progress with the recruitment of new independent members.</p> <p>Council RECEIVED:</p> <p>(a) the Complaints Annual Report 2024/25 (JCO467); (b) the Committee’s Annual Report 2024/25 (JCO442).</p> <p>Council NOTED:</p> <p>(a) the Gillies Report on the University of Dundee (JCO468) and AGREED that further reflection would take place in the context of the GER action plan.</p>
25.79 Governance Effectiveness Review 2025 action plan	<p>Council CONSIDERED the proposed Governance Effectiveness Review 2025 action plan (JCO443).</p> <p>Council noted that the draft plan had been discussed in detail at NGC at its October meeting, and that the version presented reflected the outcomes of its deliberations. An implementation time scale was included. NGC’s discussion had taken account of the Gillies report and Advance HE’s recently published report ‘Shaping the future of HE governance’.</p> <p>Council APPROVED the action plan, noting that implementation would be monitored through NGC.</p>
25.80 Academic Board report	<p>Council RECEIVED the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 12 November 2025 (JCO453).</p>
25.81 Minutes	<p>Council APPROVED the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2025 (JCO454).</p>
25.82 Prevent annual report	<p>Council CONSIDERED documentation relating to the University’s compliance with its responsibilities under the Prevent Duty as follows (JCO456):</p> <p>(a) Annual Accountability Return (b) Annual Data Return (c) Prevent Action Plan</p>

	(d) Prevent Risk Register Council APPROVED the signing of the Annual Accountability Return and Annual Data Return prior to submission to Medr.
25.83 Date of next meeting	22 January 2026

Meeting terminated 1.10