ADDUNED CYMRU – THE WALES PLEDGE

The University of Wales is custodian of many important academic and cultural assets and through Adduned Cymru – The Wales Pledge, we will ensure that these will continue to benefit the whole of Wales. This will entail a series of strategic arrangements and the establishment of a number of separate charitable bodies to safeguard the traditional services associated with the University.
**Timeline**

1893:
- University of Wales founded with three foundation colleges - University College Wales, University College North Wales, and University College South Wales and Monmouthshire
- Great Seal affixed to the Royal Charter which constitutes the University of Wales

1903: Foundation stone of University of Wales Registry laid

1904: University of Wales Registry established in Cardiff

1920: A fourth college, University College Swansea, added

1921: First female University chair (Professorship) awarded by the University of Wales to Mary Rhiannon Williams

1922: University of Wales Press founded

1931: The Welsh National School of Medicine incorporated

1960: Gregynog bequeathed to University of Wales

1967: The Welsh College of Advanced Technology enters the federal university as the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology (UWIST)

1971: St David's College, Wales' oldest degree-awarding institution, suspends its own degree-awarding powers and enters the University of Wales

1985: Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS) established

1988: UWIST and University College Cardiff merge, forming the University of Wales College of Cardiff (UWCC)

2003: The Cardiff Institute of Higher Education and the Gwent College of Higher Education become full constituent institutions

2004:
- Cardiff University ceases to be a constituent institution
- North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI), Swansea Institute of Higher Education, Trinity College, Carmarthen, and the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama admitted to the University of Wales as full constituent members

2007:
- University changes from a federal structure (one university with many member institutions) to a confederation of independent higher education institutions
- The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama leaves the University

2011: The University of Wales announces its decision to merge with The University of Wales: Trinity Saint David and Swansea Metropolitan University under the charter of University of Wales: Trinity Saint David

2012:
- Swansea Metropolitan University and University of Wales: Trinity Saint David merger
- Announcement of the creation of Adduned Cymru: The Wales Pledge
Founded by Royal Charter in 1893, the University of Wales has a long and proud history, playing an important role in the development of higher education in Wales. What remains from those early days is the University’s commitment to serve the people of Wales.

Over the years the University has adapted in order to continue to be at the heart of the nation’s academic, intellectual and cultural life. Responding to Government policy and the decisions of the founding University institutions to seek their own degree awarding powers, the University of Wales has undergone radical restructuring.

In 2007 the University was restructured when it was clear that the original ‘federal’ structure of the University of Wales no longer served the Welsh higher education sector. More recently, in October 2011, the University of Wales announced that it planned to merge with the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David (UW:TSD) and Swansea Metropolitan University under the 1828 Charter of UW:TSD. This historic decision supports Welsh Government policy for the restructuring of the higher education sector in Wales and, most importantly, allows the University of Wales to continue its mission and commitment to support the academic, cultural and economic life of Wales as part of the enlarged post-merger university. The new university is expected to be fully integrated by 2017.

An imperative for the governing body of the University of Wales at this time of transformation and change is the University’s legacy and commitment to safeguard the academic and cultural activities traditionally associated with the University. To take this forward, in December 2012 the University Council announced Adduned Cymru - The Wales Pledge.
The Wales Heritage Academy will be established to promote the language, heritage and culture of Wales, traditionally provided by the University of Wales. The new Academy will maintain its strong links with academic institutions, and develop further links with the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David (our merger partner) and other academic and cultural bodies in Wales. This will be reflected in the structure of the new Academy.

The University will commit an initial sum of half a million pounds to the academy to further the work of the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies and the Dictionary of the Welsh Language. Building upon the academic interests of the transformed (post merger) University in addition to other strategic partners, the Wales Heritage Academy will establish a range of academic and cultural programmes to celebrate the dynamic heritage of Wales.

The University's commitment to the development of Welsh language, culture and the nation's academic excellence to date is clearly shown by its support for:

The Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies (CAWCS) – a dedicated research institute in Aberystwyth, which carries out collaborative research projects into the language, literature and history of Wales and the other Celtic countries, and CAWCS longest standing research project – Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru (A Dictionary of the Welsh Language) – work to produce the first standard historical Welsh dictionary began in 1921. The final volume was published in 2002, with a new project to re-edit the first edition currently underway.
The University of Wales Press

Originally founded in 1922 the University of Wales Press has a proud tradition of serving Wales and all its universities by publishing outstanding scholarly publications in both Welsh and English to further knowledge and to inspire scholars and students alike.

The University of Wales Council has resolved to establish a separate charitable body to safeguard and broaden the work of the University of Wales Press.

The University of Wales is committed to see the great work of the Press continue and Council will transfer an initial sum of half a million pounds to support this. This will allow the Press to develop a new strategic plan, to expand its educational remit and to embrace the opportunities associated with digital/online and electronic publishing.

The Press will maintain its strong links to academic institutions, develop further links with the University of Wales: Trinity Saint David, and it will aim to forge new relationships with other cultural and national bodies in Wales. This will be reflected in the structure of the new Press.
This historic house and estate was gifted to the University of Wales by Margaret Davies of Llandinam in 1960. It is primarily used by staff and students from Universities across Wales, playing an important role in facilitating collaborative work.

The University of Wales will establish a new charitable body to safeguard Gregynog Hall and the estate for the nation. The membership of the new body will initially be appointed by the University and the Margaret Davies Charity, but in the longer term it will reflect the interests of a broader range of stakeholders, including from the higher education sector in Wales. Initial funding for the new body will be provided from the University’s unrestricted endowments.

Gwasg Gregynog (The Gregynog Press)
The Gregynog Press was established in the grounds of Gregynog Hall in 1922 by Gwendoline and Margaret Davies and it gained a reputation for producing limited edition books of the highest order and ranked alongside the leading private presses of the day, before its activities were curtailed by the second world war.

The University inherited the goodwill and some of the assets of The Gregynog Press in the 1960’s and re-established the press in 1978 under its Welsh title: Gwasg Gregynog. Today, Gwasg Gregynog continues the traditions of its forebears, and is operated as a registered charity. The Council of the University has resolved that under Adduned Cymru this important press will also be safeguarded for the nation.
The Wales Universities Trust

The University of Wales has received numerous charitable gifts over the years, which have been donated for dedicated purposes or beneficiaries. The University holds these ‘restricted endowments’ in a trustee capacity. At the end of the 2011/12 financial year, these restricted funds stood at £5.5 million.

In order to protect these gifts and ensure they are used only for their original purpose, the University Council has determined to transfer them to a new charitable trust - The Wales Universities Trust. The trust will be independent of the University and will have representatives of the higher education sector in Wales to reflect the wishes of the original benefactors.

The legacy of the Welsh Churches Act

The Church in Wales was established by the Welsh Church Act 1914 at which time part of the land held by the Welsh Commissioners was distributed to The University of Wales (for the benefit of member institutions named in the Act). The University holds this land, which now comprises some 170 acres of land, in a trustee capacity.

Since 1939/40 the universities in Wales have gained substantially from the proceeds of sale of Welsh Church Act land, with the universities of Aberystwyth, Bangor, Cardiff and Swansea each receiving £2.7 million, and the University of Wales £1.8 million.

The University Council has determined that the remaining land should be sold, with sale proceeds distributed between the institutions named above in accordance with the Act. Pending disposal, Council has agreed to place this land into the safekeeping of the new Wales Universities Trust.
Message from the Chair of the University of Wales Council, Mr Alun Thomas

Working in partnership with our strategic partners, the public and with bodies who have an interest in the delivery of the mission of the University of Wales, Adduned Cymru – The Wales Pledge will put together a range of strategic arrangements to safeguard some of the core traditional services associated with the University.

The Pledge marks our commitment and stewardship as a University Council to safeguard a number of key cultural attributes associated with the University.
Message from
The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales, Professor Medwin Hughes DL DPhil DPS FRSA

The University of Wales is a strong brand. It has a long and proud history dating back to 1893 and has made an outstanding contribution to the higher education sector. The time, however, is right for structural change.

As part of the University’s transformation through the merger process, the creation of Adduned Cymru – The Wales Pledge will ensure that the University is faithful to its core values. Through the establishment of new charitable bodies and the transfer of multi million pound investments, the University has been honourable and faithful to the historic cultural legacy and the mission given to the University of Wales by our forebears. These new structures will support a range of academic and cultural initiatives which reflect the very best of the history and legacy of the University of Wales.

Within a period of transformational change for higher education in Wales, Adduned Cymru reaffirms a clear commitment to safeguarding a range of cultural and academic assets for future generations and will make an important contribution to the culture, society and economy of Wales for decades to come.

Adduned Cymru – The Wales Pledge
As part of the University’s commitment to consult with its stakeholders, the University is keen to hear any comments you may have regarding Adduned Cymru – The Wales Pledge. Please visit the comments sections on the University Wales website to submit your views - www.wales.ac.uk/stakeholdersvoice