



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES
CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION
 DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

Executive Report to Council

Please note that we are trying to reduce the number of individual papers provided to Council. This report brings together updates on a number of work strands (including Wales Studies and events, which previously had separate papers), making it easier to show how all work strands fit into our strategic objectives for 2018-23.

Objective / area	Actions since last meeting and next steps
Overarching strategy and planning	<p>The 5-year strategy continues to be used to inform the Society's project proposals and funding bids, as well as an annual activity tracker used by the staff team.</p> <p>Following Council's initial consideration of the Strategic Equality Plan in June, we have refined the document. The General Purposes Committee reviewed a second draft in September, and (with some changes) recommend it for adoption by Council at this meeting.</p>
<p>Work towards strategic objective 1:</p> <p>Champion research</p>	<p>Wales Studies</p> <p>We launched a postgraduate poster competition in the summer, and on 14 August eleven students within the field of Wales Studies attended a poster-training session at Swansea University. Feedback was unanimously positive, and each participant will now submit a poster of their research for the competition by the end of September, along with 9 other PGRs who were unable to attend the training. The posters will be exhibited at the launch of the Wales Studies Network later this year.</p> <p>The Wales Higher Education Libraries Forum have worked with us to develop a survey so that we can continue to build our database of ongoing projects in Wales Studies; we would like to thank Steve Williams for his efforts. The survey is available here.</p> <p>The brochure showcasing Wales Studies research and activities will now be launched in Cardiff in mid-November – date to be confirmed. The event will also see the launch of the Wales Studies Network, so that we continue to build on the activities to date and bring scholars and practitioners together.</p> <p>We have also had a number of meetings with government representatives; the Minister for International Affairs and the Welsh Language has stated her interest in the field and particularly welcomes the opportunity to use new narratives to better promote Wales internationally. There is also interest within the Education department for potentially reviving the <i>Contemporary Wales</i> journal, and there may be funding available.</p>

	<p>Emory University and the Atlanta Studies Network</p> <p>The Society was invited by the Welsh Government to be a participant in Statement of Intent with Emory University (incorporating the Atlanta Studies Network) to promote ongoing mutual cooperation in educational and research activities to strengthen university and civic-cooperation. The other participants are the university sector in Wales and HEFCW.</p> <p>Multilingualism Symposium (26-27 March 2020, Cardiff)</p> <p>Invitations have been sent to a number of speakers, and the programme continues to develop. Confirmed speakers include Professor David Gramling (University of Arizona), Professor Wei Li (UCL), Professor Mari Jones FLSW (University of Cambridge) and Professor Antonella Sorace (University of Edinburgh).</p> <p>A funding application has been submitted to the office of the Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language, and we await a response. The National Assembly has confirmed that it will provide pro bono staff support from November through to early April; this will be invaluable in helping to plan, deliver and report on the Symposium.</p> <p>Other developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The President and Chief Executive recently met with the Chair and Chief Executive of HEFCW respectively; they had positive discussions about the potential for future collaboration and funding, including around the Early Careers Academy. A further meeting will take place in November with a view to establishing a firm funding framework for the Society. • In June, the General Secretary represented the Society at a convention of learned academies in Philadelphia – see report here. • On 25 June we worked with the British Academy to bring together relevant academics/policymakers at the University of South Wales, to discuss a policy document accompanying the BA’s Childhood Project. • In July, we once again sponsored WISERD’s annual PhD poster competition. It was won by Sophie Baker of Bangor University, for her research into language and psychosis. • We are working with the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) to develop a roundtable event on the future of Research and Innovation (and its funding) in Wales, provisionally to take place in Swansea in spring 2020. • We are supporting Cardiff Met and the Wales Centre Public Policy to deliver a third Wales Economic Symposium, provisionally to take place in Cardiff in late May 2020.
<p>Work towards strategic objective 2: Contribute expertise</p>	<p>Policy work</p> <p>In late June, the Society submitted two responses to the government consultation on the new national curriculum for schools: one prepared by the Education Committee, the second by the Welsh Dimension and International Perspective working group.</p> <p>We have prepared a briefing for the Children, Young People and Education Committee of the National Assembly on the Welsh Dimension and International</p>

	<p>Perspective aspect of the new curriculum, Wales Studies, and the future of the University of Wales Press. The briefing is intended to inform the Committee’s scrutiny of the Minister for Education in mid-September.</p> <p>We have recently submitted two other consultation responses: comments on the Government’s draft International Strategy; and a submission to the National Assembly on Welsh Government budget proposals for 2020-21.</p> <p>We are continuing to support Professor John Wyn Owen’s work on One Health Wales, with a view to securing a commitment to the approach from Welsh Government. To take the agenda forward, a meeting of key stakeholders will take place at Cardiff Metropolitan University on 23 November.</p> <p>Curriculum resources audit</p> <p>As noted at the last meeting, Welsh Government also commissioned us to audit existing educational resources which support the Welsh Dimension and International Perspective aspect of the new curriculum. The report was submitted in August. It provides the details of over 3,200 resources, and signposts a further 1,000. The report also makes clear recommendations for next steps, and highlights that the issue seems not be a shortage of resources, but rather their under-utilisation. Teachers require more guidance about exploring the multiple narratives of Wales and its diverse contexts, and existing resources require appropriate curation.</p> <p>We are in touch with some of the Education Minister’s key advisers, and will continue to provide advice, including further commissioned work if required.</p> <p>Work with partner academies</p> <p>ALLEA (the European alliance of academies) will hold its annual General Assembly in London from 3-5 June 2020 – the first time the event has taken place in the UK. The British Academy are leading on preparations, and are working partnership with LSW, the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh; together, we are the four UK-based academies with ALLEA membership. We are helping to shape the panel discussions at the event; more information soon.</p>
<p>Work towards strategic objective 3: Promote learning and debate</p>	<p>Wales and the World event series</p> <p>Coinciding with the development of the Welsh Government’s International Strategy, this series of events aims to expand the discussion and deepen our understanding of Wales’s “soft power” assets. The overall aim of the series is to identify concrete instruments of soft power and how they can be deployed to the advantage of Wales.</p> <p>The first event is a day conference to be held on Monday 28 October at Cardiff Metropolitan University. Registration is open and speakers will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eluned Morgan AM, Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language • Paul Brummel, Head of Soft Power and External Affairs, Communication Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office • Professor Karen Smith, Professor of International Relations, London School of Economics

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imants Liegis, Latvia's Ambassador to France• Peter Florence, Director of the Hay Festival <p>Other events are in development. Those confirmed so far are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 December: An evening exploring the role of culture, the creative industries and heritage in developing Wales's international profile• Week commencing 10 February 2020: Universities as Global Communities, Bangor University <p>Supported events</p> <p>In addition to our own conferences, we are supporting the following forthcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'The Many Faces of Type 2 Diabetes' – 12 October, Cardiff University• 'A Curriculum for a Successful Future?' – 17 October, Swansea University• 'Exploring Medieval Wales: Power, Language(s) and Literature' – 9 November, St Fagans National Museum of History <p>We are exploring opportunities for a closer partnership with Cardiff Science Festival, which we supported earlier this year. The Festival produced an excellent report highlighting strong public engagement, and there is scope for the Society to gather evidence at this year's festival for our own public engagement plans.</p> <p>We are also working with the Open University to plan an accessible public event to complement the Languages Symposium (see above), probably in North Wales.</p> <p>Schools engagement</p> <p>We have continued to develop our proposals for schools work. We have met a number of stakeholder groups, submitted funding bids to eight charitable trusts, and have launched a teacher survey to gather more detailed views about what the Society might prioritise in this area.</p> <p>We are also in the early stages of discussion about a potential launch of a Welsh counterpart for the Irish Young Scientist competition.</p> <p>Eisteddfod Genedlaethol</p> <p>The Society hosted a lecture by Yr Athro R. Gwynedd Parry at the Eisteddfod in Llanrwst, on the topic 'Y Gyfraith y nein Llên / The Law in Our Literature'. We also hosted a Fellows' reception.</p> <p>We continue to support the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's prize for the best article in <i>Gwerddon</i>, a multidisciplinary journal. This year it was won by Dr Lowri Cunnington Wynn of Aberystwyth University's Department of Law and Criminology.</p>
Work towards strategic objective 4:	<p>Fellowship nominations</p> <p>Following detailed work by the Fellowship Committee, the guidelines for this year's process were improved, with an emphasis on encouraging nominations from all areas</p>

Develop the Fellowship	<p>of academic achievement – including research, but also leadership, teaching and administration. This year is also the first in which previous nominations will not be automatically rolled over; instead, a fresh nomination will need to be submitted.</p> <p>Nominations opened slightly later than usual, in mid-August, due to delays in finalising the guidelines and preparing our new IT system for processing nominations. Accordingly, the deadline has also been moved to later in October.</p> <p>Early Careers Academy</p> <p>We have now had feedback on the proposed Academy from 5 of the 8 Welsh universities plus the Open University. <i>See the separate paper on this matter.</i></p>
Staff / office and miscellaneous developments	<p>In August, the Society received the quality mark from the Charity Excellence Framework, demonstrating our commitment to excellence in strategy, governance and other areas. We plan to use the Framework’s resources to plan further improvements in our policies and practice.</p> <p>We are in the process of testing Dynamics 365, the system which will enable LSW staff to manage contact information, Fellowship and medal nominations, event grant requests, committee information and our own funding applications in one place. We hope to sign off on the installation by the end of October.</p>