



THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES
CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

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

Chief Executive – Report to Council

| Area | Actions since last meeting and next steps |
|--|--|
| Overarching strategy and planning | <p>The 5-year strategy is being actively used to inform the Society’s project proposals and funding bids. The accompanying fundraising plan and communications plan have been reviewed and approved by the General Purposes Committee, and (along with the strategic equality plan) are presented to Council elsewhere in this meeting.</p> |
| <p>Work towards operational objective 1: Champion research</p> | <p>Following an excellent set of nominations, our committees have awarded a total of seven medals this year – two Dillwyn Medals for social sciences (Dr Stuart Fox and Dr Luke Sloan, both Cardiff University); two Dillwyn Medals for STEMM (Dr Emily Shepard, Swansea University and Dr Rebecca Melen, Cardiff); the Frances Hoggan Medal (Professor Tavi Murray, Swansea); the Menelaus Medal (Professor Roger Owen, Swansea emeritus); and the Hugh Owen Medal (Professor Enlli Thomas, Bangor University).</p> <p>We plan to launch our Wales Studies prospectus – alongside a PhD poster competition – at an event in the Senedd in early October. Two charitable trusts have been approached for financial support towards the prospectus and for related developments to the LSW website.</p> <p>The President, Vice-President (Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences) and Chief Executive met the First Minister and Education Minister in March. We highlighted our work to support the HE sector and Wales Studies, and Kirsty Williams noted the helpfulness of the Society’s contributions to the new school curriculum. Both Ministers are supportive of our work on soft power and multilingualism (see under objective 3).</p> <p>We have also had helpful meetings with Lynne Neagle AM (Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee), Phil Boshier (Senior Researcher, National Assembly) and Universities Wales’ group of Pro-Vice Chancellors for Research.</p> <p>On 25 March we collaborated with the Royal Society on a ‘Net Zero Wales 2040’ seminar focusing on carbon-removal technologies (25 March); it was attended by a wide range of HE, government and business representatives.</p> <p>On 25 June we are working 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.</p> <p>The University of Wales Restricted Endowment Trust has not yet given us an answer on the possibility of funding an LSW Fulbright scholarship. Fulbright’s deadline for a decision is the end of June, so this might be delayed until the next academic year.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>Earlier in June, we exhibited at the Royal Society of Chemistry’s ‘Science in the Assembly’ event at the National Assembly.</p> <p>The Chief Executive has met with Nia Roberts, Head of Innovation and Research Engagement at Welsh Government’s London office. She is distributing copies of our ‘Wales and the World’ publication in London and will keep us informed of relevant news. One such piece of news – the appointment by UKRI of new Board and Council members – has led us to actively encourage Fellows to put themselves forward for these positions.</p> |
| <p>Work towards operational objective 2:</p> <p>Contribute expertise</p> | <p>The LSW Education Committee has agreed that its first priority is to respond to the Welsh Government’s consultation on the new school curriculum. They will focus on overarching aspects of progression and specialisation – plus implementation of the Welsh Dimension and International Perspective. In addition, some Fellows have been approached and invited to consider drafting a short piece to illustrate what progression and specialisation could look like within their discipline within the new curriculum / Areas of Learning and Experience. We will also invite the wider Fellowship to indicate whether they are interested in contributing their comments, in line with the Education Committee’s approach.</p> <p>Welsh Government has commissioned LSW to map resources currently available for teaching the Welsh Dimension and International Perspective. We are sub-contracting individual researchers, plus the Wales Alliance for Global Learning, to carry out this work.</p> <p>Working with the Welsh Centre for International Affairs, we produced a report reflecting third sector and academic views on Wales’ new International Strategy. It was well received by the Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language, and draft documentation appears to directly reflect some of our proposals. Subsequently, the Chief Executive led a workshop at the Wales International Development Summit, to discuss whether a supplementary International Development Strategy might be needed.</p> <p>The Society submitted comments (prepared by Professor Helen Fulton FLSW, chair of the Open Access working group) to ALLEA’s recent survey on open access publishing in May, Work on the Society’s position paper on Open Access publishing / Plan S will begin in late June, and will be an opportunity to engage newly elected Fellows.</p> |
| <p>Work towards operational objective 3:</p> <p>Promote learning and debate</p> | <p>Steering groups have been established to develop a series of events on Wales and Soft Power (to launch at Cardiff Metropolitan University in the autumn) and a Multilingualism Symposium (Cardiff, March or April 2020). We are also supporting Cardiff Met and the Wales Centre Public Policy to deliver a Wales Economic Symposium, which will be a second follow-up to the LSW International Symposium on Peripheral Economies. This is likely to take place in Aberystwyth between 20-21 April 2020.</p> <p>We recently met with two key National Assembly officials, Elin Jones AM (Presiding Officer) and Manon Antoniazzi (Chief Executive). They expressed support for our proposed events, especially on multilingualism, and for a potential LSW pairing scheme between AMs and academic researchers.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>After developing a project proposal for further schools engagement, we have submitted a funding bid to 5 charitable trusts; so far we have received one (negative) response. To continue developing this work, the Chief Executive has met with several groups of teachers/advisers – including the Executive Committee of the Athrofa teacher training institute, the South-East Wales schools consortium network, and Rhondda Cynon Taf’s Youth Engagement & Participation Service – to ascertain schools’ needs more clearly.</p> <p>Following discussions with Radio Cymru, at least 12 of our Welsh-speaking Fellows have expressed interested in working with the station to share their expertise and publicise their work.</p> <p>The ‘Our Global Health’ event series concluded with a lecture by Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard, Chair of the Royal College of General Practitioners, on the sustainability of universal health coverage. A report on all 7 lectures will be published in due course.</p> <p>We are developing our plans for the Soft Power events series and Languages Symposium – these are covered elsewhere on the agenda.</p> <p>We have had a positive meeting with the Director-General of National Museum Wales, where we discussed several possible avenues for collaboration.</p> |
| <p>Work towards operational objective 4: Develop the Fellowship</p> | <p>A total of 48 new Fellows (including one Honorary Fellow) were elected to the Fellowship in the 2018-19 cycle. More than 20 attended our first induction for new Fellows, held immediately prior to the AGM on 22 June. This was a helpful opportunity to introduce them to the Society’s aims, officers and staff, and to discuss our plans and how Fellows can work with us.</p> <p>The President recently wrote to all Vice-Chancellors, outlining our ambition to establish an Early Careers Academy. The Chief Executive is following up with phone calls and meetings to seek further views on what such an Academy might do, and how it can be set up. He has also met with Liam Morgan of Welsh Crucible, to help identify how the Academy can differentiate itself from the work of the Crucible.</p> <p>The Chief Executive and General Secretary will meet with key personnel at Wrexham Glyndŵr University in July. As well as discussing the Early Careers Academy, they will give advice on improving the university’s nominations for Fellowship.</p> |
| <p>Staff / office and miscellaneous developments</p> | <p>We have now commissioned Preact to implement Microsoft Dynamics 365 for the Society. This will take place over the coming two months, with a view to the project being completed in July (in time for the new Fellowship election cycle).</p> <p>The Chief Executive and Clerk continue to develop their skills in fundraising – including by attending a seminar on legacy giving, and the annual fundraising conference of the Foundation for Social Improvement.</p> |