

The National Assembly for Wales - Higher Education Review

Key Points - Presentation by University of Wales, Bangor - 31.1.2001

BANGOR'S MISSION

- Mission is genuinely diverse and includes:
 - excellence both in research and teaching
 - an international role and a partnership with regional community.
- These roles are strongly inter-related with research of international excellence informing student teaching of high quality and feeding through to the regional community in terms of widening access and economic development.
- The regional importance of this diverse mission will be illustrated:
 - in widening access through the Talent Identification Programme and the Community University of North Wales
 - in economic development through TCS partnerships with SMEs.

ISSUES PARTICULAR TO BANGOR

Geographic location means that University:

- is a major regional employer
- is an important focus for cultural activities
- has a sparsely populated local catchment area so that students must be

attracted from outside the area for residential study. Bangor has had to work hard to counter the increasing costs to individual students:

- stay at home tendency
- reduction in full-time mature students

GLOBALISATION

- Presents a major opportunity but requires investment.
- Bangor approach is to develop distance learning courses based on internationally acknowledged areas of expertise and offering these in partnership with other institutions.
- Bangor is now seeking a role within the UK e-University and the parallel European initiative for the Four-Motor Regions.

WORKING WITH THE REST OF THE SECTOR

- Bangor's leadership of the Community University of North Wales has established a partnership with NEWI and the eight FE Colleges in the region.
- Bangor and NEWI have established a research partnership in Chemistry and are currently jointly involved with the Welsh College of Medicine in the expansion of medical education in North Wales.
- Bangor and NEWI have set up a Joint Working Group to explore the possibility of a strategic alliance to enhance collaboration, ensure that future development is complementary and further strengthen the contribution of Higher Education to the North Wales region.