

Cross-Party Group Annual Report

Cross Party Group Details

Cross Party Group Title:

Cross Party Group on Universities

Group membership and office holders

Name of Group Chair:

Hefin David MS

Names of other Members of the Senedd:

Heledd Fychan MS

Huw Irranca Davis MS

Mike Hedges MS

Laura Anne Jones MS

Sioned Williams MS

Jayne Bryant MS

Name of Secretary and Organisation:

Joshua Bell, Universities Wales

Names of other external members and organisations represented:

Professor Paul Boyle, Vice Chancellor Swansea University

Professor Wendy Lerner, Vice Chancellor Cardiff University

Dr Ben Calvert, Vice Chancellor University of South Wales

Professor Edmund Burke, Vice Chancellor Bangor University

Professor Maria Hinfelaar, Vice Chancellor Wrexham University

Professor Elwen Evans, Vice Chancellor UWTSD

Professor Jon Timmins, Vice Chancellor Aberystwyth University

Professor Rachael Langford, Vice Chancellor Cardiff Metropolitan University

Ben Lewis, Director Open University

Amanda Wilkinson, Universities Wales

Other meetings of the Group since the last AGM

Meeting 1

Date of Meeting:

29 March 2023

Attendees:

Hefin David MS – Chair of the CPG

Professor Maria Hinfelaar – Vice Chancellor Wrexham Glyndŵr University

Dr Ben Calvert - Vice Chancellor USW

Professor Cara Carmichael Aitchison - Vice Chancellor, Cardiff Metropolitan University

Steve Thomas - Head of Communications and Public Affairs, Aberystwyth University

Alex Still – Office of Hefin David MS

Darcie Kleuskens – Scholar

Amy Nguyen – Scholar

Orla Tarn – President, NUS Wales

Lisa Childs – Wales Director, NUS Wales

Jamie Insole – Policy Officer, UCU

Kevin McStravock – Lead Policy Officer, QAA

Ioan Bellin - Rhys ab Owen MS Office

Níamh Salkeld - Plaid Group Office

Susana Galvan – Executive Director, Taith

Jamie Arrowsmith – Director UUKI

Georgia Marks - Public Affairs Adviser, UCAS

Harriet Barnes – HEFCW

Emilia Douglas – Office of Laura Anne Jones MS

Amanda Wilkinson – Director, Universities Wales

Gwen Williams – Assistant Director, Universities Wales

Kieron Rees – Assistant Director, Universities Wales

Matthew Wilks - Scholarships, Mobilities & Alumni Manager, Global Wales

Joshua Bell - Public Affairs Advisor, Universities Wales

Summary of the issues discussed:

The Cross-Party Group on Universities focused on the topic of international. Two Global Wales' scholars joined the session in the Senedd and shared their experiences and reflections on studying in Wales. The CPG took place on the one-year anniversary of the Ukraine/Wales Twinning Agreement, and Professor Cara Aitchison provided an update to members on the partnership. The CPG was attended by over thirty guests, and it was agreed that the group would write to the Minister for Education, highlighting the work of Global Wales.

Meeting 2

Date of Meeting:

12 July 2023

Attendees:

Hefin David MS – Chair of the CPG

Alex Still – Office of Hefin David MS

Professor Maria Hinfelaar - Vice Chancellor Wrexham University

Professor Cara Carmichael Aitchison - Vice Chancellor, Cardiff Metropolitan University

Professor Colin Riordan - Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff University

David Price – Interim Director, Open University

Iestyn Davies - Pro Vice-Chancellor, UWTSU

Lynette Thomas – Deputy Director, Open University

Georgia Marks – Public Affairs Adviser, UCAS

Angela West - HEFCW

Emma Mock - HEFCW

Kevin McStravock - QAA

Lisa Childs – Wales Director, NUS Wales

Jamie Insole – Policy Officer, UCU

Amanda Wilkinson – Director, Universities Wales

Joshua Bell - Public Affairs Advisor, Universities Wales

Chris Laity - Policy Advisor, Universities Wales

Below are guests who were invited by Colleges Wales:

Philip Blaker - Qualifications Wales

Lisa Mytton - NTFW

Josh Miles - L&WI

Kay Smith - L&WI

Rachel Rees - EWC (Senior Policy and Planning Officer)

Joe Rossiter - IWA

Barry Walters - Pembrokeshire College

Sharon James - CAVC

Andrew Cornish - Coleg Sir Gar / Ceredigion

Mark Dacey - NPTC

Mark Jones - Gower College

Amy Evans - ColegauCymru

Jamie Adair – ColegauCymru

Summary of the issues discussed:

Universities Wales partnered with Colleges Wales to hold a joint Cross Party Group (CPG). Joining together the CPG on Universities and the CPG on Further Education and Skills, the session focused on the Transitions to Employment report, published by The Minister for Education and the Welsh Language, and authored by Hefin David MS. The meeting included discussion around the report's recommendations and joint areas of interest, including widening access and economic impact.

Meeting 3

Date of Meeting:

6 December 2023

Attendees:

Hefin David MS – Chair of the CPG

Alex Still – Office of Hefin David MS

Niamh Salkeld – Education Adviser, Plaid Group Office

Professor Elizabeth Treasure – Chair of Universities Wales and Vice Chancellor of Aberystwyth University

Professor Maria Hinfelaar - Vice Chancellor Wrexham University

Professor Paul Boyle – Vice Chancellor Swansea University

Darren Xiberras – CFO, Cardiff University

Mairwen Harris - Head of Governance and Clerk to the Board, Cardiff Metropolitan University

Vivienne Stern MBE – Chief Executive of Universities UK

Jamie Insole – Policy Officer, UCU

Gareth Lloyd – Wales Official, UCU

Orla Tarn – President, NUS Wales

Georgia Marks – Public Affairs Adviser, UCAS

Kevin McStravock - Lead Policy Officer (Nations & Europe), QAA

Amanda Wilkinson - Director, Universities Wales

Kieron Rees – Assistant Director, Universities Wales

Joshua Bell - Public Affairs Advisor, Universities Wales

Summary of the issues discussed:

Universities Wales hosted the latest Cross Party on Universities, which focused on the financial sustainability of the higher education sector in Wales. Speakers included Vivienne Stern MBE, who provided an update to the group on UUK’s work on funding and sustainability, and international student recruitment. Professor Paul Boyle provided an update on behalf of Universities Wales, highlighting the significance of financial pressures on Welsh universities, and the actions being taken by institutions to mitigate these challenges. The group agreed to work with its Chair, Hefin David MS, to place an article capturing the views and priorities of the higher education sector, specifically relating to financial sustainability.

Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations and charities the Group have met during the previous year.

[names of lobbyists/organisations/charities should be included as follows, e.g.]

Name of Organisation:

Universities UK

Universities Wales

Name of Group:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Name of Organisation:

N/A

Name of Group:

N/A

Annual Financial Statement

Cross Party Group Title:

Cross Party Group on Universities

Date:

03/01/24

Name of Chair:

Hefin David MS

Name of Secretary and Organisation:

Joshua Bell, Universities Wales

Title	Description	Amount
Group's Expenses	Lunch for guests in Ty Hywel (x2) Invoiced 29 th March 2023 and 19 th July 2023.	£514.66
Costs of all goods	No goods bought	£0.00
Benefits received by the group or individuals members from external bodies	No benefits received.	£0.00
Any financial support or other support.	No financial support was received.	£0.00
Total		£664.40

Services provided to the Group, such as hospitality.

All hospitality paid for [include the name of the group/organisation].

Date	Name and description of provider	Costs
		£0.00
Total		£0.00