

Cross-Party Group on Universities

Meeting notes

Date of meeting 12.30pm, Tuesday 09 January 2018

Location Conference Room A, Tŷ Hywel, National Assembly for Wales

Present **Assembly Members:** Hefin David AM; David Rees AM.
University Members: Amanda Wilkinson; Beth Button.
Others: Rhys Flowers (Secretary); James Pritchard (Office of Hefin David AM); Rhys Williams (Office of Hefin David AM).

1. Welcome and introduction

- In opening the meeting, members placed on record their thanks to the group's previous Chair, Huw Irranca-Davies AM, for his hard work and commitment during its first year.

2. Election of office holders

- Hefin David AM was elected as the new Chair of the group following nomination by David Rees AM and seconded by Amanda Wilkinson
- Rhys Flowers was re-elected as Secretary
- The Annual Report and Financial Statement was noted and agreed that a copy would be sent to the Tabling Office.

3. Future Group activities

- Discussions were held about the upcoming report looking at the economic impact of Welsh universities. The report's author, Dr Ursula Kelly, will present her findings at the next meeting of the group
- It was agreed that an invitation would be extended to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport to attend the next meeting
- Further discussions were held about potential topics for the spring meeting, with an agreement that the group would look into the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Cross-Party Group on Further Education and Future Skills
- It was felt that a meeting of this nature would be an opportunity to explore a number of common interests between the two sectors
- Other issues flagged as being important for future discussion included a session on the Reid Review, which is looking at government funded research and innovation in Wales.