

University and College Union

To HESC

From Bethan Winter

Date 29th May 2019

Agenda Item

For Information and decision

Subject Higher Education Institutional Governance in Wales

1. Introduction

- 1.1 UCU recognises the significant challenges currently facing the Higher Education (HEIs) sector in Wales and believes that having good and effective governance is essential in order to address these and secure the sustainability of the sector for future generations (Welsh Government, 2015). Despite the existence of legal and regulatory requirements along with a raft of codes of guidance, reviews and best practice recommendations on governance, we would contend that the system of governance that currently operates in HEIs in Wales is not fit for purpose and is proving detrimental to the students, staff and communities that they serve.

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2.3 **Shifting balance of authority between Governing Body, Executive and Senate:** UCU are concerned that

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Governing Body to consist of between 12 and 18 members inclusive of staff and student representation with well-organised and supported sub-committees: evidence has found that reducing the size of the Governing Body results in improved business processes and outcomes.

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appointments process must become more transparent and inclusive of the diverse groups working within and in collaboration with HEIs.

- 3.14 **Governing Body members to be adequately remunerated:** Members to be paid annual stipend of £3,000. The Chair to receive £6,000. Provision for payment to be made to charity for those who wish to waive the fee.

4. Proposed next steps

- 4.1 HESC to approve discussion document and its proposals
- 4.2 UCU devise 'best practice' policy for HE governance in Wales
- 4.3 Minister has requested that HEFCW review HEI governance in Wales and UCU need to feed ti4e3T7

University and College Union Scotland. Response to Review of Higher Education Governance, Scotland: UCU.

Welsh Government (2015). Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, Cardiff: Welsh Government