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PROFILES OF CORPORATION BOARD MEMBERS

David Ashelby (Until June 2022)

David is the retired Academic Secretary of Swansea Metropolitan University. He has broad experience of Education which has included involvement with national developments particularly in the post 16 sectors, the parallel developments of academic and vocational routes, and institutional collaborations.

Helen Bjork (Until May 2023)

Helen is currently working as a tutor assessor with Gower College Swansea and previously taught at Coleg Sir Gar. She holds a teaching qualifications and is a fluent Welsh Speaker. She worked previously with Citizens Advice Bureau, Carmarthenshire Training and as an Employment Coach for A4E. She volunteered with Victim Support, Tenovus Cancer Research and spent 20 years as a Youth Leader. She is also very active in the local church with the food bank and the music group.

Mike Day (Until September 2020)

Mike is a Director of two companies promoting educational developments for children and young people. He is a Founding Trustee of International Education Wales, a charity seeking to promote the exchange of best educational practice between Wales and other countries. He is also a Councillor for Sketty Ward.

Andrew Donald (Until May 2022)

Andrew works for Centric plc in Distributed Energy, He has an extensive awareness of the Public and Private Sectors with a passion for Finance, Sport, Education and Renewable Energy. Previous positions include Telecoms, IT, Professional Sports and Manufacturing so he brings a wide range of experience to the Board.

Meirion Howells (Until June 2024) Chair

Meirion is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building. He worked in the construction industry as a Quantity Surveyor, became a director of a large construction company. From 1994 he set up a Project Management Consultancy. He currently gives his time to local projects on a pro bono basis.

Mark Jones

Mark is Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Gower College Swansea. Prior to returning to Swansea Mark had been Principal of

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Bridgend College for 8 years. Mark is a qualified teacher as well as being a qualified chartered accountant.

Michaela Leyshon (Until August 2023) Michaela is an Associate Solicitor with Smith Llewelyn Partnership and a Senior Lecturer at Swansea University delivering the Legal Practice Course and supervising the Law Clinic. She is a Lay Inspector with Estyn. And has previously been a governor at Llwynderw Primary School and a trustee of CISS (Cancer Information & Support Services). She is a committee member of the Swansea & District Law Society and a fluent Welsh speaker.

Laimis Lisauskas (Until July 2021)

NUS Branch President

Rev Dr Adrian Morgan (Until May 2023)

Adrian is Vicar of Casllwchwr and Gorseinon. He read Welsh at Aberystwyth and Theology at Peterhouse, Cambridge. While completing a doctorate, sponsored by the AHRC, enjoyed university teaching.

Cllr Sam Pritchard (Until Council changes nomination or until May 2024)

Sam is a Swansea County Councillor and the current Cabinet Member for Children Services. He is also the members' champion for young carers and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

Dr Jonathan Rance (Until August 2024)

Jon spent his career managing a hi-tech company, including the development and application of the company's mathematical modelling software to a wide variety of engineering discipline. After retiring from his company he now helps run a petrophysics company and is the Chairman of Swansea's rowing club.

Ray Singh CBE (Until June 2022)

Ray Singh CBE is a Barrister-at-Law, a Judge as a full and part-time for 20 years, is also a Vice-Chair of Grwp Gwalia CYF, an Independent Member of Velindre Cancer and Welsh Blood Service, NHS Trust, President of Children's Contact Centres Network, Wales, the Chair of Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil Children's Contact Centres, a Trustee/Board member of National Association of Children's Contact

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Centres of England Wales and N.Ireland, a trained Mediator in Family and Children Matters, a former Governor of Swansea Metropolitan University, a Former CRE Commissioner, UK and Commissioner for Wales and lastly , the current Chair of Race Council Cymru.

Professor Catrin Thomas (Until August 2024)

In her role as Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Professor Catrin Thomas is responsible for providing strategic and operational academic leadership across the University. A mathematics graduate from the University of Exeter with a PhD in fluid mechanics from the University of Swansea, she joined the University in 1989 as a Senior Lecturer in Mathematics. She has subsequently held a number of senior posts including Head of Department, Academic Registrar and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic). She played a key role in Trinity College Carmarthen's successful application for Taught Degree Awarding Powers in 2009, and has subsequently led the process of academic integration in a series of institutional mergers. She has been a QAA reviewer and was chair of the QAA's working group on developing Guidelines for Higher Education Providers for Effective Practice in Examining and Assessing in a Language other than English. Her work includes providing leadership in the development, implementation, ongoing monitoring and review of the University's academic regulatory framework and quality assurance systems, and overseeing the University's collaborative partnerships.

Denise Thomas (Until June 2022)

Teaching Staff Governor

Cllr Desmond Thomas (Until Council changes nomination or until May 2024)

Des was brought up in the east side of Swansea and undertook an Engineering Apprenticeship with ICI on leaving school. He worked in industry then in research at Swansea University for 30~+years. He has served as a City Councillor for 40+years currently holding the position of Presiding Member. He has served as a Magistrate in Swansea for 30+years. He is a governor of Whitestone Primary School and Ysgol Llynderw Primary School, and is a member of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority.

Pam Walters (Until May 2023) (Vice-Chair)

Pam has had a diverse career and worked within education for 25 years. She has performed a range of strategic and operational management

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roles primarily focused on business development, income diversification, partnership working and collaborative curriculum planning. She has worked on many national and regional developments and contributed to the development of the 14-19 Learning Pathways Strategy and the Youth Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Strategy. Pam is passionate about FE, improving the life chances for all learners and working to identify and address the skills needs of the economy.

Gary Williams (Until May 2021)

Gary is a graduate of the FE system having been a full-time FE student on leaving school at the age of 16. Following successful studies in hotel and catering management and a career in Hotel Management, he entered FE as a lecturer. Following several career moves through the teaching 'ranks' he became Principal and Chief Executive of Newark and Sherwood College and the Weston College. In both instances Gary's strength in turnaround management and leadership led to successful independent inspection judgements for the colleges. In 2000 Gary joined the set up team for the establishment of the Learning and Skills Council and as Executive Director for Wiltshire and Swindon was responsible for the funding and planning of post-16 education across the county. In 2002 Gary joined Tribal Group to head up their FE services division providing strategic leadership and management advice to colleges and universities in the UK and New Zealand. Gary has served on the Board of GCS since 2010.

Susan Williams (Until September 2024)

Although now retired, Susan worked as a Social Worker and later as a Social Work Team Manager for Swansea Council Social Services Department. She was warranted as a Mental Health Social Worker for 20 years, and also acted as Lead Manager for Safeguarding Investigations for many years. Her professional work involved extensive inter-agency and multidisciplinary working; additionally, managing a busy social work team inevitably developed her interpersonal, supervisory and negotiating skills. She brings to the Board decades of experience of working with Local Government. Outside of work, she was a member of the Llangennith Hall Management Committee, serving as Treasurer.

Dr Sarah Weir (Until Audit 2024)

Sarah has recently retired from Local Government where she had a successful career for 16 years as a Strategic Project Manager delivering major capital educational projects as part of the Quality in Education programme. Prior to this she worked for ELWA as an ~Education Manager for 9 years where she managed research and development

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projects in conjunction with Careers Wales, Training providers and FE Colleges as well as Aberystwyth University. She is a great supporter of further and higher education and achieved her PhD based on research looking at the wider benefits of learning within communities.

Two students, one of whom is the elected President of the College Branch of the NUS (Until June 2021).