

TUCO Welsh Regional Meeting Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 10:00 am via MS Teams

MINUTES

Attendees:	Jeremy Mabbutt	Aberystwyth
	Angela Church	Bangor
	Jason Edwards	USW
	Jane Eve	TUCO
	Vanessa Heritage-Smith	Wrexham Council
	Judith Hoyle	TUCO
	Annabel Hurst	Cardiff
	Ian Kemp	Denbighshire
	Sarah McLoughlin	TUCO Academy
	Andrew Phelps	Cardiff Met
	Dafydd Williams	Conwy Council
	Sue Williams	Wrexham Council
Apologies:	Kevin Hodson	UWTSD

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Apologies as listed above. Jeremy announced that following the Christmas break, Aberystwyth have some 1,000 students still on campus and Bangor have 700.

2. TUCO Update – Winter Virtual Conference

Jeremy commented that he particularly liked the speaker who presented on Mental Health and Wellbeing. However, Angela was slightly disappointed in this because the content was very similar to a recent TUCO webinar.

Jane explained that the TUCO Team are on part-time furlough with most of the Category team working 3 out of 5 days. She is available every morning with a full day on Wednesdays.

3. Frameworks Update

Temporary Structures – this is a DPS to which Danco Ltd have now been added.

Regarding re-tenders, Mandy Johnston is looking at Waste and on the IFDC framework Hannah will be hoping to include a Lot for High Street Coffee Shops. Jane asked members if anyone had anything they would particularly like to see on this.

Kim Ashley will be working on the new Meat and Poultry contract but it is not yet clear how she will carry out the sampling for this. Jane asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be on the Tender Working Party and if so to contact Kim Kim.Ashley@tuco.ac.uk

Catering Light and Heavy Equipment has been extended by a year. Milk and Bread has also been extended but Hannah is now re-tendering this. Nicola Mellor has started work on the new Temporary Staffing framework.

Jane mentioned the 'Too Good to Go' App for waste food. Several of our members are now using this – details will be put on the Sustainability page of the website. Jason mentioned that he is using this at South Wales and finds it useful as it saves having to throw away waste food. Jane also asked the group if they had any particular topics they would like to see covered in a webinar. Jeremy asked everyone to check that they are purchasing items through the TUCO frameworks and thereby getting the best prices.

The Retail framework has been put in place to replace the old Confectionery agreement. Angela asked what the current situation is regarding NISA and Terms and Conditions.

4. Training Academy Update

Sarah explained that everything is now being done online. Level II Food Safety and Allergens are free of charge and we can be flexible on dates. Level III Food Safety and Allergens Refresher and Level IV Food Safety are all free of charge. This can tick your compliance boxes and is also good for mental wellbeing. The Social Media course on 16th February at a cost of £25 is sold out. On 17th/18th February is the Qualified First Aider for Mental Health at £200 charge. Annabel has done this one and found it very good. On 10th March is a Leadership day course and on 6th April a one day First Aid course for £25. Sarah reminded everyone that staff can still undertake training whilst on furlough.

5. Board Update

Jeremy reported that framework spend is down everywhere apart from Sandwiches. All the staff at TUCO are currently on partial furlough.

6. Updates from Members

Bangor

They still have four outlets open with another on standby for students quarantining etc. They were intending to have a return date of 18th January but this is now not looking likely. They have been giving out individual bags for quarantining international students with enough food for 24 hours. All the four outlets which are open are very quiet.

Cardiff Met

Andrew reported that they had opened early in the New Year but very soon after closed down fully. Hot food is being delivered to Cyncoed Halls to the students in their rooms where around 250 are isolating. The university made the decision to close and all members of staff are on furlough. It will potentially be mid-February before they are in a position to open anything on site. Last term they introduced a new EPOS Till System and will be taking over the main Food Court from the SU. They are refurbishing another outlet on the Llandaff site. The supplier of the Till System is a company called Kappture and going forward the university hopes to be completely cashless.

Denbigh

The schools are open and they are feeding vulnerable children and children of key workers. Numbers of children within the schools varies from around 40-50 to schools feeding just 2 children. None of their staff have been furloughed however there has been a number of cases of Covid amongst members of staff.

South Wales

5 of their 11 outlets are open with some staff furloughed.

They continue to offer free isolation packs for anybody in a flat with someone who has tested positive. They have now gone cashless but are looking at September before regular business returns. They have applied for funding from the government to get completely rid of disposable coffee cups. They had 800 people on site in the halls before Christmas. 70% of the team are furloughed with key staff at each campus checking diligence. Jason explained that he has been looking after accommodation temporarily.

Wrexham

Vanessa reported that they are in a very similar position to Denbigh – feeding children of key workers and vulnerable children. Some schools do not want any catering staff in whatsoever so at the moment there are no hot meals. The most numbers in one school are around 20. None of the staff have been furloughed.

Cardiff

Annabel has 4 outlets open and no staff furloughed. Residential catering is in a delivered format. For staff safety everything is online so they are delivering about 500 – 600 meals per day. Students are back in residence now. Where less outlets are open staff have been redeployed across campus. Last term they implemented online ordering. Click and Collect and Click and Deliver. This happened much quicker than anticipated. They are now looking at the next academic year.

Jason added that he has also relocated staff. He asked about Takeaway facilities – are students allowed to use the dining areas? At Cardiff everything has been moved to Click and Collect. At South Wales they had allowed students to sit in the dining areas at a social distance, this is mainly for their wellbeing and to get them out of their rooms. The Welsh government has now said that if it is a catered hall, the students are allowed to sit and eat in the dining areas in their social bubbles.

Aberystwyth

1,000 students are now back in the halls but all the rest have been told not to come back. They are now giving a refund for every week that the students are being told not to return. Online ordering and grocery delivery is now open from the LIDL shop and that is all they have until at least mid-February. They are looking to do a 'May Ball' weekend event to try to end the academic year on a high. This will all be held outside, with restrictions hopefully having been lifted by then. Jason asked if anyone plans to have double graduations this year. Bangor are planning double graduation, though Angela is not confident it will proceed. Jeremy remains hopeful that both the May Ball and graduation ceremonies will go ahead. Cardiff were also planning double graduations but are now doubtful that these will go ahead.

7. Ideas for Future Presentations

It was agreed to invite both Lazy Days Foods and LWC in to present at the next meeting.

8. Any Other Business

Angela commented that Harlech have not loaded any Allergen information onto ProcureWizard. Jane will look into this.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place around mid-March – exact date to be confirmed.