

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

ASSEMBLY

An extraordinary meeting of the Assembly will be held on Friday, 11 March 2016
at 9.30am in **H0.52, Humanities Building**.

Ken Sloan
Registrar and Chief Operating Officer

A G E N D A

1. Confirmation of Quoracy
2. Chair's Business
3. Conflicts of Interest
4. Standing Orders of the Assembly

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer on the Statutes relating to the Assembly and the operation of the Standing Orders.

5. Motion to the Assembly: Higher Education (HE) Green Paper

TO CONSIDER:

A motion moved by Professor Gurminder Bhambra, Sociology, and seconded by Dr Laura Schwartz, History, as detailed in the paper (A.01/15-16, attached).

6. Motion to the Assembly: Prevent

TO CONSIDER:

A motion moved by Dr Justine Mercer, Warwick UCU President, and seconded by Dr Myka Tucker-Abramson, English and Comparative Literary Studies, as detailed in the paper (A.02/15-16, attached).

As at 1 March 2016

HE Green Paper Motion**This Assembly notes:**

1. The government's recently published Green Paper proposing reforms to higher education that include the introduction of a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) based on metrics; an opening of higher education to private for-profit providers; and the exemption of universities from the Freedom of Information Act.
2. That our Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart Croft has described these reforms as 'nothing less than the most momentous changes in higher education that England has ever seen...a final move to a position in which students are all seen primarily to be 'consumers', rather than people striving to advance their knowledge and skills. The move from education as transformation to education as transactional is potentially the most very profound'
3. That the University of Warwick's submission to the Green Paper consultation was:
 - a) Highly critical of the TEF, saying, "Not only do we consider that the TEF will not provide any additional useful information but it may in fact be damaging to the international reputation of our universities".
 - b) Concerned about the potential for insufficiently rigorous institutions to be granted Degree Awarding Powers.
 - c) Supportive of the removal of universities from the Freedom of Information Act.

This Assembly believes:

1. That the TEF's proposals to measure teaching quality according to market-based metrics such as future graduate earnings will not only be inaccurate but also fundamentally at odds with the central mission of higher education.
2. That the purpose of the TEF is not to improve teaching quality but to justify the proposal embedded within it – to raise the cap on tuition fees.
3. That the exemption of universities from the Freedom of Information Act will not only make them less accountable as public institutions, but also deny student campaigners and trade unions an important tool currently used to ensure fairness and transparency in our workplace.

This Assembly resolves:

1. That our Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart Croft should release a public statement opposing the proposed Green Paper reforms, and thus reflecting the strong feeling in the University of Warwick as a whole.
2. That our Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart Croft should send a copy of this statement to Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities and Science.
3. That given similar opposition from other Vice-Chancellors expressed in their submissions to the consultation, our Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart Croft should join together with other Vice-Chancellors in UUK to oppose these measures.

Proposed by: Gurminder Bhambra

Seconded by: Laura Schwartz

Prevent Motion**This Assembly notes:**

1. In February 2015, the government's Prevent strategy came into force placing a statutory duty on all public bodies (including Higher Education Institutions) to comply with the requirements of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and Prevent agenda.
2. That the Prevent agenda requests University staff (including academic, administrative and support staff) to report students they believed to be at risk of 'radicalisation' and to teach 'British values'.
3. The University of Warwick has already approved its plans, without consultation with the University community (staff and students), on how it will implement the Prevent strategy, and has not made these plans public.
4. The University and Colleges Union passed policy at its national conference in May 2015 opposing the Prevent Duty.
5. The Warwick Students' Union passed a motion in Term 1, 2015/16, entitled 'Counter Terrorism and Security Act: Students, Not Suspects' opposing the Prevent strategy.

This Assembly believes:

1. The broad definition of terrorism will stifle campus activism.
2. The monitoring of students/staff will destroy the trust needed for a safe and supportive learning/working environment.
3. The Prevent duty is discriminatory in that it will encourage disproportionate surveillance of Muslim and BME students.
4. The Prevent duty threatens academic freedom in placing restrictions not only on what can be taught as part of the curriculum but also on invitations to outside speakers.
5. The Prevent duty encourages individual institutions to impose even more draconian measures through over-compliance in a culture of competition between universities.

This Assembly resolves:

1. That our Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart Croft should release a public statement acknowledging the University membership's strong opposition to the Prevent strategy on the above grounds.
2. That the University complies with the minimum legal obligation in discharging its statutory duty under the Prevent agenda and the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015.
3. That the University, with immediate effect, ceases its engagement with the Home Office approved WRAP training for University staff, noting that where any safeguarding or more general duty-of-care concern is raised that may put a staff member or student at risk of harm, there are established procedures of prompt referral which relevant staff should be aware of and should be able to act on accordingly.
4. That the University, with immediate effect, engages in meaningful consultation with the Warwick community (staff and students) on its proposed implementation plans with the Prevent agenda prior to any final submission to HEFEC in April 2016.
5. That the University, with immediate effect, publishes all materials linked to its compliance with the Prevent duty and the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, and resolves to be more open and transparent about how its engaging with Prevent, Channel and other similar initiatives.
6. That our Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart Croft should send a copy of this statement to Jo Johnson, the Minister of State for Universities and Science.

Proposed by: Justine Mercer

Seconded by: Myka Tucker-Abramson