

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes from the Meeting of the Building Committee held on 10 March 2011

Present: Ms V Cooke (in the Chair), Professor A Caesar, Professor R Critoph, Mr D Elmes, Professor T Jones, Mr S Stanley.

Apologies: Mr J Higgins, Mr G Howells, Professor K Lamberts, Professor M E Smith.

In Attendance: Mr J Baldwin, Mr J Cardinal, Mr C Carrington, Ms R Drinkwater, Ms P Glover, Ms R Lambert, Ms L Pride, Mr M Stacey, Mr R Wilson.

1/10-11 Chairs Action

RECEIVED:

A summary of Chairs action taken in respect of the cancelled 2 December 2010 meeting of the Committee, (paper BC.14/10-11).

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the June 2010 meeting of Building Committee (previously circulated) be approved.

2/10-11 Matters Arising

(a) Central Campus Bus Terminus (minute 30a/09-10 refers)

REPORTED:

That the Estates Office had commissioned a Master Plan to be developed, to incorporate consideration of potential options for the creation of a central campus bus terminus, as well as development options on the Westwood and Wellesbourne campuses, the results of which would be considered by the Committee in due course.

RECEIVED:

A presentation from the University Architect, Ms L Pride, on the broad objectives for the Master Plan, noting that:

- (i) Rather than an emphasis on new building, the focus of the Plan would be on improving the public realm of the University campus, and to create integrated spaces connecting existing buildings;
- (ii) Options to improve the University's visibility from Gibbet Hill road in particular would be considered as part of the Master Plan;

- (iii) Improving pedestrian routes across campus would also be a focus of the Plan;
- (iv) The Plan was currently in a developmental stage, however it was expected that a detailed document would be available for consideration by the Committee in the Autumn.

(b) Humanities Building (minute 32b/09-10 refers)

REPORTED:

That the Option Appraisal document for the Humanities Building was currently being revised and would be brought to the Committee for consideration in due course.

REPORTED (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience)):

That there would be a need to consider how the likely short-term need to refurbish the Humanities building (given its current poor state of repair) would dovetail with any long-term plans for building resulting from the Option Appraisal.

(c) Carbon Challenge Group (minute 30b/09-10 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A report summarising the key items of business considered at the first meeting of the Carbon Challenge Group, (paper BC.15/10-11).

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the content of the report be noted;
- (ii) That formal reports from the Carbon Challenge Group be considered at each meeting of the Building Committee.

3/10-11 Chair's Business

CIF 2

RECEIVED:

The draft correspondence from the HEFCE in relation to the outcome of the University's submission under the Capital Investment Framework 2 (CIF2), (paper BC.20/10-11), noting that the submission had been successful subject to two conditions, namely:

- (a) Confirmation that the University has a Carbon Management plan in place that fully meets HEFCE's requirements;
- (b) Confirmation that environmental performance indicators are published at least annually and are shown to be broadly improving.

CONSIDERED:

- (c) An executive summary of the draft University Carbon Management Implementation Plan, (paper BC.22/10-11);
- (d) The full draft University Carbon Implementation Plan (paper BC.22a/10-11, tabled at the meeting).

RECEIVED:

A presentation from the University Energy Manager, Mr J Cardinal, noting the following key points in relation to the University's Carbon Implementation Plan:

- (e) The Implementation Plan identifies projects that would enable achievement of 99% of the University's 2020 carbon reduction targets;
- (f) The University Carbon Challenge Group would regularly challenge progress against the Plan to ensure ongoing improvement against the carbon targets.

REPORTED (by the Director of Estates):

- (g) That the proposed new CHP plant would be a key element in achieving the carbon reduction targets for the University, it being noted that a number of the proposals included in the Implementation Plan were dependent on the plant;
- (h) That behavioural changes could account for up to 10% of the University's required carbon savings over the lifetime of the Plan, as such a member of the Communications Office has been invited to serve on the Carbon Challenge Group to advise on the communication strategy to staff and students in relation to this.

RECOMMENDED (to Council):

That, subject to further comment from the Carbon Challenge Group, the University Carbon Implementation Plan, as detailed in paper BC.22a/10-11, be approved.

4/10-11 Reports from the Sub-Committees of the Building Committee

- (a) Environment and Amenities Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the meeting of the Environment and Amenities Committee held on 22 February 2011, (paper BC.18/10-11).

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the content of the report be noted;
- (ii) That the content of the United Nations report on Education for Sustainable Development be noted.

(b) Capital Planning and Accommodation Review Group

CONSIDERED:

A report summarising the main items of business from the meetings of the Capital Planning and Accommodation Review Group held on 13 December 2010 and 3 February 2011, (paper BC.19/10-11).

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

5/10-11 Life Sciences

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science on developments in relation to Life Sciences accommodation, noting that:

- (a) A sub-group of the Life Sciences Strategy Group, comprising of colleagues from the School of Life Sciences, the Warwick Medical School and Systems Biology have drafted a paper outlining the key strategic research priorities to underpin a phased building programme for a new-build Life Sciences building, for consideration by the CPARG at its April meeting;
- (b) Consideration relating to the new building were still in the early stages and a location had yet to be identified for the new building;
- (c) It was the expectation that the new-building would be highly interdisciplinary in nature, accommodating colleagues from a broad range of departments and disciplines, rather than being restricted to the 'core' Life Sciences-related departments;
- (d) The Building Committee would be kept apprised of further developments relating to the building proposal.

REPORTED (by the Director of Estates):

- (e) That the proposed timescales for construction of the initial phase of the new building would fall outside of the CIF2 funding window, however there may be potential to bid for CIF2 funding for the design phase of the project.

6/10-11 Coventry House

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Head of Capital Projects on developments in relation to the future plans for Coventry House, noting that:

- (a) The proposals for the future use of Coventry House necessitate a significant proportion of bookable space to ensure optimal utilisation of space (e.g. for employer presentations, skills training etc), and options were being investigated for the best way to manage this space;
- (b) It was expected that the graduate space within Coventry House would be similar in nature to an 'informal' Research Exchange;
- (c) There was a likelihood that, due to ongoing problems in securing long-term accommodation, the NHS Institute would not vacate the building until May 2011;
- (d) Given the delay in the vacation of the building, there was a risk that the space would not be usable from the start of the 11/12 academic year, noting however that this was not expected to cause significant problems for the continuation of activities expected to be housed in Coventry House in the future.

REPORTED (by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science):

That, whilst the incorporation of graduate space within Coventry House could be expected to benefit the student experience, it was likely that the use of the space by postgraduates in science departments would be limited, given the more lab-based requirements of these students.

REPORTED (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience)):

That the creation of dedicated postgraduate space would align Warwick more closely with its competitors

REPORTED (by the Student's Union Finance Officer):

That feedback from student forums had indicated that there was a strong desire for dedicated, non-department based, postgraduate space at the University.

7/10-11 Estates Management Statistics

CONSIDERED:

An executive summary and detailed Institutional Performance Report providing analysis of the University's performance in the latest Estates Management Statistics, including a comparison against peer institutions, (paper BC.2/10-11).

REPORTED (by the Director of Estates):

- (a) That the University had recently submitted its Estates Management Statistics return for the 09/10 academic year to the HESA, the results of which would be available in the Autumn;
- (b) That the metrics reported in paper BC.2/10-11 related to 08/09 academic year and as such the conclusions in the report would no longer reflect the current picture of University space;

RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the content of paper BC.2/10-11 but postpone detailed consideration of the University's space metrics until the publication of the results of the most recent Estates Management Statistics in Autumn 2011.

8/10-11 Capital Projects

CONSIDERED:

A paper detailing (i) progress on major capital projects and associated issues with programme delivery and (ii) potential University capital projects currently under consideration (paper BC.21/10-11).

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

9/10-11 Finance Report

CONSIDERED:

The Estates Office Finance Report, (paper BC.16/10-11).

REPORTED (by the Head of Estates Finance):

That the deferral of £6.55m of new build spend to the 2011/12 financial year related to the TM2 and student residences projects, and not to the IIPSI building project as noted in paper BC.16/10-11.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the paper be noted.

10/10-11 University Strategy (Vision 2015)

RECEIVED:

The Building Committee response to the Vision 2015 consultation, (paper BC.17/10-11), it being noted that formal feedback would be presented to the Committee on its response in due course.

REPORTED:

- (a) That comments received from Committees and colleagues of the University during the Vision 2015 consultation period were incorporated into a revised version of the strategy document;
- (b) That the University Council gave its support to the refreshed Vision 2015 Strategy document at its meeting on 17 February;
- (c) That a Strategy Implementation Plan was currently being developed to address a number of the comments received during the consultation process.

11/10-11 Building Names

CONSIDERED:

The proposal to name the new 'TM2' Medical School building the 'Mechanochemical Cell Biology' building.

RECCOMENDED (to Council):

That the proposal to name the new 'TM2' Medical School building the 'Mechanochemical Cell Biology' building be approved.

12/10-11 Date of the Next Meeting

REPORTED:

That the next meeting of the Committee would take place on Thursday 9 June 2011 at 10am in the Council Chamber, University House.