

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
BOARD OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS
PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12:00, TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2024
SENATE HOUSE, COUNCIL CHAMBER

Present	Professor Rachel Moseley	Chair and Vice-Provost
	Professor Kate Astbury	School of Modern Languages and Cultures
	Sophie Bourne	Postgraduate Taught Student Representative (arrived at 12.45pm)
	Dr Bryan Brazeau	School for Cross-faculty Studies
	Professor Jennifer Burns	Deputy Chair of Faculty (External Engagement)
	Professor Paulo De Medeiros	Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies
	Professor David Fearn	Department of Classics and Ancient History (arrived at 1.00pm)
	Dr Marta Guerriero	Deputy Chair of Faculty (Education)/Chair of Faculty Education Committee
	Professor Stuart Hampton-Reeves	School of Creative Arts. Performance and Visual Cultures
	Professor Elisabeth Herrmann	School of Modern Languages and Cultures (left at 2.00pm)
	Professor David Lambert	Director of CADRE (left at 1.00pm)
	Professor Tim Lockley	Department of History
	Professor Christoph Hoerl	Department of Philosophy Representative
	Professor Zahra Newby	Department of Classics and Ancient History
	Dr Simon Peplow	Deputy Chair of Faculty Education Committee
	Dr Lydia Plath	Department of History
	Professor James Robinson	Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine Representative
Professor Helen Wheatley	Academic Director of Warwick Institute of Engagement	
Attending	Marie Greene	Faculty Head of Academic Services
	Alison Greenhalgh	Secretary
	Karen Jackson	Library Research and Academic Manager
	Eleanor Sanger	Assistant Secretary
	Dr Margaux Whiskin	Faculty Student Engagement Coordinator
Ref	Item	
001	<p>Apologies for absence:</p> <p>Apologies were received from Dr Rosie Dias (School of Creative Arts, Performance and Visual Cultures), Professor Teresa Grant (Centre for the Study of the Renaissance), Amanda Kowalczyk (Faculty Senior Tutor), Professor Alison Ribeiro de Menezes (Deputy Chair of Faculty (Research)), Dr Ben Richardson (Faculty of Social Sciences Representative), Dr Jane Webb (School for Cross-faculty Studies)</p>	
002	<p>Declarations of Interest:</p> <p>No new declarations were made.</p>	
003	<p>Freedom of Information and Equality and Inclusion:</p> <p>The Committee noted and agreed to abide by the Freedom of Information and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies.</p>	
004	<p>Terms of Reference and Membership 2024-25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee received and noted the Terms of Reference (ToR) and membership of the Faculty Board for 2024-25, as approved by the Senate (004-BFA121124, Public). Chair's action had been taken to approve the ToR and membership of the Faculty Education Committee (011-BFA121124, Public). 	
005	<p>Minutes of last meeting on 14 May 2024</p>	

	The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2024 (005-BFA121124, Public) were approved .
006	<p>Matters arising from last meeting on 14 May 2024</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the meeting that were not covered on the agenda.</p>
Chair's Business	
007	<p>Chair's Business and Actions</p> <p>The Committee received and noted an update from the Chair with key details and discussions, as below:</p> <p>(a) Faculty Priorities for 2024-25</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Financial stability</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This included meeting recruitment targets, improving external research funding capture, and achieving University savings. • HoDS had attended quarter one finance meetings and been asked to make savings, with a one year pause on recruitment to permanent posts and on posts for Leverhulme early career fellowships. • As a group of departments, £14m of savings need to be found. Financial mitigations were therefore in place. • Warwick was 23rd out of 24 institutions in terms of draw down from AHRC funding. The Provost expected significant improvements to that. RIS had been asked to give a breakdown to show where the Faculty and individual departments sat in the ranking. Warwick had four out of 12 successful applications; Oxford six out of 35 submitted. Highest rating institutions got around 12 and 13 out of 40 submitted. However, simply increasing numbers of applications without attending to the quality of the submissions would be counterproductive due to the time involved and potential for little return. It was important that time be invested in submitting competitive applications. • It was even more the case in respect of ERC grant applications - needed to think about how to use study leave and how to use workload allocation to support application of full economic costing grants. • Plans needed to be developed for research income and application pipeline planning for particular projects from Leverhulme/BA/Wellcome, alongside working to increase full economic costing grants. It was suspected that Oxbridge would Hoover up fully funding ECRs by Wellcome as they would be the only ones accepting them. For Leverhulme it was necessary to find 50% of salary costs and no department was in a position to do that. As Wellcome was fully funded they would be advocated for with the Provost wherever possible. • Recruitment and conversion student intake number recommendations would be sent to HoDs over next few weeks. The recommendation would be to reduce PGT targets because they were unrealistic across whole University. UG numbers would need to increase to keep financial target in place. Numbers were still up for negotiation and the Chair would meet with depts to talk through how to approach it. 2. <u>Reviewing portfolio</u> <p>This related to the financial sustainability question, which was currently being looked at, including PGT offers. It was being led by the Deputy Chair of Faculty (Education).</p> 3. <u>Faculty identity and ethos</u> <p>The Chair would send a message to Faculty staff regarding the current financial situation and University expectations, noting that restrictions in place were a temporary measure and we were still in a positive position in comparison to other institutions in the sector.</p> <p>(b) Termly Faculty Assembly</p>

	<p>It was proposed that the next Faculty Assembly would take place in week 11. It would focus on PGT and how to address the international market, and bring different MA programmes together in way that did not dilute disciplinary specificity but allowed economy of effort in core skills development, etc.</p> <p>(c) Warwick Transformation</p> <p>A meeting was due to take place that day for HoDS and DAs regarding progress towards hub ways of working and how the communities of practice could help colleagues understand different departments work and build resilience through staff working in roles across depts.</p>
Faculty Business	
008	<p>Student Representatives Update</p> <p>The Committee received a verbal report with key details and discussions, as below:</p> <p>(a) UG Representative</p> <p>There was no UG representative at the meeting.</p> <p>(b) PGT Representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SU was currently waiting on confirmation from departments as to who SSLC representative were. • It was proving useful sitting on other Boards through the SU in seeing how things linked up. • There was a lot of appetite to take part and it would be good to get a better idea as term progressed to how people were doing and areas that could be worked on. • It would be good to involve students in spaces outside of committees where University consultation took place, e.g. Academic Governance Review. <p>(c) Student Engagement Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on building a community of mature students within the Faculty had taken place. A Teams group, meeting and social event had given mature students the opportunity to get to know each other and get the conversation going about what it meant to be a mature student here. Having a social space and events for them to get together was good but it was also about having meetings on a fairly regular basis to get a better understanding of what that experience looked like. Issues around being a mature student included being able to socialise with each other, timetabling and study/digital skills. • A revised approach on how to support SSLCs had taken place with other student engagement coordinators. As well as attending SSLCs, they would also have separate conversations with academic convenors to see if there were any issues and if support was needed, as well as seeing what support student reps needed.
009	<p>External Engagement Update</p> <p>The Committee received a verbal report with key details and discussions, as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwick Venice Centre structures of engagement and management had changed; still Faculty internal group, but Venice Advisory Board did not now include relevant department HoDs that taught in Venice. Professor Jenny Burns, Deputy Chair of Faculty (External Engagement) was a member of the new Advisory Board and could bring issues and business from departments to the Board and vice versa. • There was focus on collaboration with institutions in Venice and other institutions with bases in Italy, e.g. NYU in Florence and Monash Prado. • There were plans to change the formal status of the Centre to a cultural foundation, as it was already being used for more than maximum 10% research activity compared to 90% teaching, opening up more opportunities for research and potentially commercial use. • There were also plans to establish annual themes for activities at the Centre. There might be funds to support this if in line with research spotlights in some way.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EUTOPIA week in November 2025 would be hosted by Ca' Foscari so Warwick Venice Centre would be involved. Lots of collaboration and shared interests with Ca' Foscari had emerged over recent months and weeks. There was a strong will to take conversations forward and a request made to have a bilateral Faculty discussion day, building on the early research speed dating event in May 2023, between Ca' Foscari and Warwick. EUTOPIA week at the end of this week hosted in Paris would have research days on cultural heritage and five colleagues from Warwick would be present. • A meeting had taken place with Jackie O'Hanlon, Director of learning at RSC, on collaboration around undergraduate student skills, employability, cultural leadership, and more vocational elements within postgraduate taught. • More connected communities funding was to come, with another call for international partnership funding to be announced. There was a lot of enthusiasm for trying to get more applications, especially for international partnership fund, particularly from Arts, so should be looked on favourably. The net amount of money available was small with less money than previously, due to not being able to access EU funds.
010	<p>Faculty Boards: A Review of Faculty Academic Governance</p> <p>The Committee received reports (010-, 010a- and 010b-BFA121124, Public). The Chair provided context on the review of University academic governance that had taken place in 2023-24 and the subsequent creation of a task and finish group to consider how Faculty governance should work and how Faculty, department and Faculty executive board would operate in relation to University committees.</p> <p>Key points and discussions were as follows:</p> <p>(a) Faculty Management Board/Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was concern about the lack of broader representation from the Faculty in the new group and no student representation or SU members. • Advantage of the current Faculty Board was received reports from AFRIC and AEC which enabled a broad overall view of both priorities. In proposal, both committees would report up. Did not want to duplicate workload, but it was important to have a group that thought about how research and education were connected. • It was useful to have an understanding of what the Faculty strategy more broadly was with joined up thinking about what priorities were. • In the proposal there was no space for colleagues from bodies like WIE; would want them to sit on research and education committees as per external engagement. • It was welcomed that the three faculties were working to align and do similar things. A sense of equity across the University would make it easier for people outside the Faculty structure to see openings and opportunities to get involved in conversations. • Faculty HoDs' Forum would continue as it was a completely different setting to the strategic group. • There was a commitment to using spaces outside of formal committees to ensure breadth of voice from across the community. The role of committee chairs was to ensure conversations happened to bring business from the group down and from departments up. • It was important for all faculty-level committees to hold to account university committees rather than just implementing and cascading down from above, and a need to avoid double direction signalling, and have actual commentary and feedback that would go upwards. • Clarity was needed on the direction of travel for delegation of authority from Provost to Vice-Provosts; that should happen at the Faculty Management Board/Group. • The Committee was supportive of having a more strategic group at Faculty level. <p>(b) Faculty Education and Student Experience Committee</p>

- The Committee was happy for quality assurance responsibility to sit within the FESEC as the Faculty knew to what standards departments should be held and to ensure that departments delivered strategy.
- The Committee welcomed the focus on strengthening communication from departments through Faculty to the University. It was also important that it was a two-way process and included communication between Faculty and departments, as well as Faculty pushing up and the University sending things down for consultation.
- With regard to ‘purpose,’ it was important that FESEC be strategic in specific areas, not just operational. A rewording was suggested that the FESEC oversee the educational strategy of the Faculty and its alignment with/in relation to University strategy.
- The Committee was reasonably happy with the direction of travel of the paper.

(c) Faculty Research Committee

- It was acknowledged that people valued the more informal space for discussion of research issues but that without a formalised committee it was difficult to be heard at University Research Committee and research executive.
- There was a current challenge in that what departments thought best research looked like was often not in line with current and future directions of travel on research funding and broader landscape, demonstrating that there needed to be a balance between strategic direction and local discussion.
- It was important that there continued to be a space where Faculty research themes were developed in response to University research themes and opportunities for questioning and challenging.
- Research was more complex than the other two, especially given earlier discussions around should a committee align to current context and, given changes to the research landscape, was there a committee for owning the agenda.
- Parity was needed in the aims of the University’s research and education committees as it would be difficult if, sitting at the same level reporting up, they had different aims.
- It was noted that research was not reflected in the same way as education and was regulated differently. The ethics process sat outside Faculty level, with a different approach to quality assurance.
- It was noted there was no student membership, acknowledging that there were difficulties in recruiting research students to representative roles at Faculty level, but that they should be included in the membership and offered out every year.
- As well as students, there should also be representation from other faculties for interdisciplinarity in research and between faculty research groups.
- Research-led teaching needed to also be included for links between research and impact, and research and teaching, as a space where that could be strategically discussed to inform the University better about what the aim of activities. Teaching-led research was also important, including pedagogic research.
- It made sense for impact to be broader for positive relationships between external research, impact partners and the Faculty.

Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion

011	<p>Chair’s Action: Arts FEC Membership and ToR 2024-25</p> <p>The Committee received and noted the report (011-BFA121124, Public).</p>
012	<p>Arts Faculty Education Committee minutes</p> <p>The Committee received and noted the report (012-BFA121124, Public).</p>

013	Arts Faculty Research and Impact Committee minutes The Committee received and noted the report (013-BFA121124, Public).
014	Arts Equality and Inclusion Forum minutes The Committee received and noted the report (014-BFA121124, Public).
Other	
015	Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University had been involved in an institutional bid led by BCU for a consortium of universities and employers to support the growth of creative industries. Funded by investment from AHRC, it created an opportunity to work with business in the Createch space and was a major step forward in Createch, enabling investment and knowledge exchange in the region. • Through SCAPVC's involvement, this demonstrated to the Institution that the Faculty of Arts had potential to be a significant player in attracting government research funding. • Enormous thanks were given to colleagues in the Faculty who had contributed to working on the successful bid, in particular to Dr Chris Bilton from SCAPVC.
016	Senate Subcommittee Minutes and Reports Board of the Faculty of Arts http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/bfa/minutes Faculty Education Committee https://warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/committees/bfa/fec/minutes/ Education and Student Experience Committee https://warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/committees/esec/minutes/ Learning and Teaching Subcommittee https://warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/committees/lts/minutes/ Postgraduate Research Subcommittee https://warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/committees/prs/minutes Quality and Standards Subcommittee https://warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/committees/qss/minutes/ Student Success Subcommittee https://warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/committees/sss/minutes/
Next meeting: 12:00, Wednesday 26 February 2025	