UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK BOARD OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12:00, TUESDAY 13 MAY 2025 SENATE HOUSE, COUNCIL CHAMBER		
Present	Professor Rachel Moseley	Chair and Vice-Provost
	Sophie Bourne	PGT Student Representative
	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 (arrived at 12.50pm)
	Dr Rosie Dias	School of Creative Arts. Performance and Visual Cultures
	Professor David Fearn	Department of Classics and Ancient History
	Professor Teresa Grant	Centre for the Study of the Renaissance
	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
	Professor Christoph Hoerl	Department of Philosophy
	Professor Tim Lockley	Department of History
	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
	Dr Jane Webb	School for Cross-faculty Studies
Attending	Oliver Cooper	Faculty Director of Administration
	Alison Greenhalgh	Secretary
	Karen Jackson	Library Research and Academic Manager
	Eleanor Sanger	Assistant Secretary
	Dr Margaux Whiskin	Faculty Student Engagement Coordinator
Ref	**Item**	

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033	**Apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Amanda Kowalczyk (Faculty Senior Tutor), Professor David Lambert (Director of CADRE), Dr Michael Meeuwis (Chair of Arts Equality and Inclusion Forum).
034	**Declarations of Interest:** No new declarations were made.
035	**Freedom of Information and Equality and Inclusion:** The Committee noted and agreed to abide by the Freedom of Information and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies.
036	**Minutes of last meeting on 26 February 2025** The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2025 (036-BFA130525, Public) were **approved**.
037	**Matters arising from last meeting on 26 February 2025** There were no matters arising from the meeting that were not covered on the agenda.
	Chair's Business
038	**Chair's Business and Actions** The Committee received and noted an update from the Chair with key details and discussions, as below: **(a) Financial Sustainability**

	• The picture was changing very fast in terms of student recruitment.
	• As well as postgraduate, undergraduate overseas recruitment conversions were now looking much lower than anticipated. As a result, departments would be asked to take more undergraduate home students where possible.
	• The immigration white paper included a tax on international student income which would also need to be addressed in the budget.
	• The Faculty was currently on target for undergraduate home students. In some cases, postgraduate offers were below the usual level which could mean considering students with a low 2.1 rather than a high classification.
	• It was acknowledged that departments had made changes and were actively responding to and managing the situation. This demonstrated to the University that departments understood the situation and were active in doing what they could to mitigate against it. This put the Faculty in a good position and appreciation was expressed for all the work done by colleagues so far.
	• There was some discussion around what and how things were being communicated to students, noting that it was important to reassure students and clarify the situation with regards to possible reduced module options next year.
	• QS rankings were now more important than NSS and REF in respect of the financial impact on the University. The Faculty overall largely contributed to bringing the University's ranking up.
	• It would not be a case of admitting students unable to meet the outcomes of their degree. Students should not be set up to fail and the right students needed to be on the right courses, but more flexibility would be required around selection and recruitment.
	• With a reduction in module selection next year, it would be a good idea to share a central Faculty resource of modules that still had spaces on them.
	• Clearing would also present opportunities to recruit prospective students who had upgraded.

Faculty Business

039	**Warwick Transformation**
	The Committee received a verbal report with key details and discussions, as below:
	• The Consultants had now largely left although work on some specific projects was still taking place; now moving into business as usual, continual improvement and operational excellence.
	• Project Ignite had started with HR looking to bring to Success Factors modules of recruitment, onboarding and position management. This was a large project to be delivered by November this year which would prove very useful once live.
	• The technology plan had been approved, prioritising the needs of each Faculty. Overall, the University's priorities were virtually the same as the Faculty of Arts.
	• The University's Education Group plan had been approved at the design authority stage and benefits should start to be seen in the next few months.
	• There was now a physical Faculty of Arts hub space for colleagues from HR, IDG, RIS, Finance, etc., to come and work in the Faculty. As more implementations came out of Warwick Transformation, other people would join the hub. There would also be an event for professional services staff in the Faculty to help them understand the role of the hub and its benefits.
	• A project was planned for the start of the academic year for a student management system to create a single place for student data and the complete student journey, without having to report to different areas. A faculty-level approach would be useful around issues of student data, access permissions and confidentiality.

	• Recruitment was currently taking place in HR for Heads of People Partnering and Advisory who would line manage and coordinate the Faculty Strategic People Partners. Once recruited the allocation of portfolios for people partners would take place.
040	**Faculty Assembly** The Committee received a verbal report with key details and discussions, as below: • The Faculty Assembly on PGT took place on 8 May; attendance and engagement were good and there was lively discussion. • Action plans from the discussion would be shared with Directors of Graduate Studies and HoDs. • Short term action included around academic skills, opening up of modules and recruitment. Longer term ideas linked to strengthening courses and new collaborations. • It was acknowledged that it was a very well-designed session and a big step in the right direction for the Faculty.
041	**External Engagement – International Partners** The Committee received a verbal report with key details and discussions, as below: • Applications to all Seed Funds looked healthy at 162 applications, with 18 from Arts spread across every Seed Fund and with interest across the board; would be looking at how this compared with previous lists and outcomes. • There was a University visit to Washington University, St Louis, last week privileging Arts and Social Sciences. It had proved very positive with Washington University looking for two symposia to take place in October this year and spring 2026. • Indian interests were predominantly from English and Renaissance Studies with a ISR visit and general delegation to India. There was a private university near Delhi that colleagues in the Faculty were interested in and a follow up meeting was being planned. • The IEWG would be focusing on Africa in its meeting the following week. A request was made to members and the Faculty to provide some talking points or to highlight any issues they would like raised for the meeting.
042	**Student Representatives Update** The Committee received a verbal report with key details and discussions, as below: **(a) UG Representative** There was no UG representative at the meeting. **(b) PGT Representative** • There was still some confusion in the broader SU as to student voice with regards to new Faculty Steering Groups; aware there was a working group to discuss the matter. • There had been no PGR student reps in the Faculty this year. This would be a SU priority next year and it would help if departments could promote as well. Being a PGT rep had proved very valuable, and was a good thing to include in a CV. • It was important to have the PGR voice in university governance and members were asked to communicate with PGR communities and encourage engagement. **(c) Student Engagement Coordinator** • Only one PG rep had attended the Faculty's student voice meeting at the end of April. Also, had been invited to a lot of UG SSLCs meetings, but only one PG SSLC meeting in Film and TV. Therefore, was considering how to improve support for PG SSLCs and would liaise with SU about it.

	• Thanks were given to History, English and Classics for providing updates on change of academic convenors. Would be useful to know if other depts were going to have similar changes so that support could be offered and things set up for the next academic year.
043	**Faculty Steering Group Transition** The Committee received report (043-BFA130525, Public) with key points and discussions, as follows: • A working group with Vice-Provosts and representatives from each Faculty had worked on developing the proposal, taking into account comments from the previous Faculty Board meetings. • The report circulated was not the finished article; after this further round of consultation with Faculty Boards the reiterate proposal would go to the Academic Strategy Committee in June and the final proposal to Senate. • There were two issues to be resolved: the question of membership and student voice, and provision of secretariat support. EPQ would not act as secretariat to the new group as it was not an academic committee reporting to Senate. • Membership of the group seemed quite large and replicated FOAMO in terms of membership and what it covered. The Faculty also had HoDs meetings, which was a much smaller, dynamic group. • It was asked whether HR should also be included in the memberships and Academic Directors of Connect programmes so each side could be aware of what the other was doing and Arts could connect with SEM and Social Sciences Connect. • In terms of proposed student representation, there were only two student reps. It would be good to have three for representation from all levels of student experience. • There was still clarity needed as to the purpose of the FSG compared to the current Faculty Board. Also, questions around duplication and hearing the same thing in different meetings. • The Faculty Board currently did not have any formal powers apart from to approve the constitution of new research centres or their disestablishment. The University's Academic Governance Review had recognised this and recommended replacing the Board with a body that had some powers, a stronger voice and direct reporting line to UEB. • It was agreed that the proposed FSG met these requirements but there was concern that the language used suggested the main remit of the group was the power it had to disestablish schools and departments if required. • It was suggested that the FSG should report to Senate as well as UEB to ensure transparency. The FSG would report to UEB in order to give Faculties a direct voice to UEB and enable better communication and challenge to UEB. • The FSG was not part of the academic governance structure reporting to Senate as it would not be making decisions about quality and standards of research and education. This would be done by Faculty education and research committees of which the FSG would have oversight to ensure joined up delivery of Faculty strategy and priorities. • It was suggested that it was worth explicitly saying in the ToR that the FSG was a faculty-level forum for considering research and teaching matters together. • The FSG would not replace FOAMO which was a useful forum to share knowledge and good practice across the Faculty and with University partners. • More decisions were being delegated to Faculties and Faculty leadership was accountable for the financial picture of the Faculty as a whole. This included guiding HoDS and DAs in decisions such as intake in relation to the whole budget and to give strategic oversight. It was not intended for FSG to control what departments did in their individual strategies but to facilitate joined up conversations about department strategies, etc.

	• FOAMO was a more extensive forum than the FSG, that met monthly as opposed to twice a term. It was important to ensure the two agendas did not clash but complemented each other. • The size of membership needed to be controlled but also needed to include departmental representation to be an effective group with inclusion of voice beyond the same people; needed to look at the other areas of membership and slim those down in order to ensure departmental representation, then look at business partner elements and whether those should be as and when required. • There was a tension in creating a blueprint for FSGs that would be the same for all Faculties. The University was keen on harmonisation, but it seemed reasonable to allow flexibility and acknowledge that each Faculty was different and would have a different FSG, with a level of coherence around reporting lines and a shared set of expectations. • The discussion was found to be very useful and focused. Colleagues who sat on Senate would have further opportunity to feed into the ongoing discussions. It was suggested that members discuss with colleagues in departments, for feedback to Senate, to ensure a useful and fulsome discussion and confidence that the right voices had been heard. **ACTION:** Faculty structures to be mapped in respect of creating a blueprint for FSGs.
044	**Arts Education Committee Update** The Committee received report (044-BFA130525, Public) with key details and discussions, as follows: • The Curriculum Management project was looking for pilot departments to work with them as well as reps from each department to act as champions. • The Compassionate Communications project was also looking for reps from each department to act as compassionate communications changemakers. The general feeling in the AEC was positive, with a lot of departments interested to try and participate. • Some Board members felt that the compassionate comms project would make additional work for departments who already did this, and that there were too many requests for departmental staff to act as champions for different University projects. • The level of communication was very different across all academic departments, with some being very compassionate when dealing with students, others less so, but would feedback members concerns.
045	**Arts Faculty Research and Impact Committee Update** The Committee received report (045-BFA130525, Public) with key details and discussions, as follows: • The Midlands4Cities (M4C) final round would be in October. • Warwick would be regional lead for doctoral landscape awards but there was no clarity on what students do to apply for funding now that the M4C website had closed. • The Doctoral College needed to make sure students received communications about the availability of PGR funding as a matter of urgency.
046	**Arts Equality and Inclusion Forum Update** • There was no meeting in Term 2. • New ToR were agreed at the meeting on 8th May and would be sent by correspondence for the Faculty Board to approve.
Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion	
Other	
047	**Any other business** • A proposal from Warwick Foundation Studies to change their name to Warwick Global Academy would be sent round by correspondence for Faculty Board approval.

	• The Chair gave a warm thank you to Alison Greenhalgh for her professional and collegial support to the Board and Faculty and wished her all the best for the future.
048	**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/