

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Board of the Faculty of Social Studies

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

Present: Professor R Lindley (Chair), Dr A Adams, Professor C Aubrey, Professor H Beale, Dr G Bhambra, Professor N Crafts, Professor R Davies, Professor E Dowler, Mr M Feven, Dr C Harrison, Dr C Hoerl, Professor C Hughes, Professor D Joly, Dr David Lamburn, Professor G Lindsay, Professor M Luntley, Professor J McEldowney, Professor A Neal, Dr F Peter, Professor A Reeve, Professor B Rosamond, Dr R Smith, Dr H Spencer-Oatey, Ms A Stewart, Professor M Waterson, Dr M Watson, Dr R Wilson.

Apologies: Professor R Aldrich, Dr C Anderson, Professor P Christensen, Professor D Chung, Professor P Edwards, Professor J Faundez, Mr R Green, Mr M Hall, Professor P Huddleston, Dr F MacCallum, Professor P Marginson, Dr F McKay, Professor A Muthoo, Ms O Oyinlola, Dr E Proto, Professor A Prout, Professor S Rai, Professor C Read, Dr J Smith, Mr S Speight, Mr E Stewart, Professor H Thomas, Professor N Thrift, Professor J Tritter, Dr M Watson, Professor D Wilson, Professor W Wilson, Dr M Wyness.

In Attendance: Ms A Bell (Secretary), Ms A-C Bennion, Ms N Muckle, Ms H Wollerton.

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26/08-09 Constitution, Membership and Terms of Reference

REPORTED:

That Dr Gurminder Bhambra had replaced Professor N Charles as a member of the Board representing the Department of Sociology.

27/08-09 Minutes

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the Faculty Board meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008, as set out in paper BFSS16.08-09.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Faculty Board meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November be approved.

28/08-09 Matters Arising

REPORTED:

- (a) Change of Faculty Name (minute BFSS.4.08-09 (a) refers)

That the outcome of the ballot of members of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies regarding the proposed change of name of the Faculty from the Faculty of Social Studies to the Faculty of Social Sciences was considered at the meeting of Senate on 3 December 2008, that the Senate recommended (to the Council) that the change of name be approved, and that Council at its meeting on 11 December 2008 resolved that the Council approved the change of name of the Faculty of Social Studies to the Faculty of Social Sciences with effect from 1 October 2009, noting that consequential revisions to relevant governing instruments would be brought forward to the next meeting of the Council in March 2009.

(Draft unconfirmed Senate minute 45/08-09 and Council minute 53/08-09 refer)

RECEIVED:

- (b) Papers from the Assistant Secretary to the Board outlining revisions to be made to the University's Ordinances and Regulations in relation to the adoption of a new Faculty name (paper BFSS.23/08-09) and to the Constitutions of the Faculty's Research Centres (paper BFSS.24/08-09).

RESOLVED:

- (c) That Paper BFSS.24/08-09 be amended to remove references to the Centre for the Study of Sports in Society.
- (d) That each department be asked to ensure that the appropriate further actions be taken in relation to their own websites, prospectuses and so on, in order to be ready for the launch of the new Faculty name at the start of the next academic year.

RECOMMENDED: (to the Council)

- (e) That the revisions to the University's Ordinances and Regulations in relation to the adoption of a new Faculty name, as laid out in paper BFSS.23/08-09, and to the Constitutions of the Faculty's Research Centres, as laid out in paper BFSS.24/08-09(revised), be approved.

29/08-09

Chair's Business

- (a) Effectiveness Review of Non-Departmental Governance

RECEIVED:

A written report from the Faculty Lunch on the proposed Governance review, as set out in paper BFSS.25/08-09, and an oral report from the Chair, noting the following:

- (i) That Steering Committee had approved an approach to the Effectiveness Review of Non-Departmental Governance and details would be published in due course.
- (ii) That the Chair of Faculty had expressed a number of observations and reservations about the proposed approach:

- (A) That academics should take the lead in the Review. The proposals needed to be clarified as regards whether or not the Administration is leading the Review with the advice of a committee of academics (the Effectiveness Review Consultative Group) or a committee of academics is leading the Review with the support of the Administration.
- (B) That the proposed composition of the Consultative Group lacked sufficient numbers and balance between the faculties, especially given the logistics of following the proposed activities over a relatively short space of time. Nor does it appear, as a 'consultative group', to draw sufficiently on colleagues who have particular research experience relevant to governance consultation.
- (C) The timing of the Review was now very tight and coincided with a particularly busy time of the year for those most involved in academic management and administration. Points relating to the nature of the Review and the timetable slipping had been expressed at the FSS lunch two months ago (November) – see BFSS.25/08-09.

(b) Festival of Social Sciences

REPORTED:

- (i) That the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies had agreed to hold a Warwick Festival of Social Sciences during Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2009, but the decision was made subsequently to delay it until later in the year, to avoid clashing with a highly congested administrative agenda for the Spring Term.

CONSIDERED:

- (ii) The creation of a working group to coordinate and organise the Festival, ensuring that all departments in the Faculty were represented.

RESOLVED:

- (iii) That a working group be set up, led by Professor Christina Hughes (Sociology).

30/08-09

Items for Strategic Discussion

(a) Research Ethics

RECEIVED:

An oral review and written report (as set out in Paper BFSS.21/08-09, tabled at the meeting) of the experience to date of the Research Ethics process led by Professor Geoff Lindsay, Chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences Research Ethics Sub Committee (HSSREC), noting that Professor Lindsay invited Board members to reply by email by 27<sup>th</sup> February to the question: "Are there new ethical challenges facing colleagues?"

RECOMMENDED:

That as the HSSREC considers that it may not be receiving proposals for ethical approval for all research that should be subject to this process, that Professor Lindsay be asked to analyse past proposals that were not submitted to the Committee to decide on whether they should have been and provide a report to the Board with his findings.

(b) Module Approval Proposal

RECEIVED:

Departmental reports sent to the Secretariat in response to the request for information about module approval processes within academic departments with a view to recommend that approval of modules be delegated to departments within the Faculty.

*NB Paper BFSS.22/08-09, a composite report of all the departmental reports, was compiled and circulated following the meeting.*

RESOLVED:

That the Secretariat be asked to convene a meeting as soon as possible of both the Undergraduate and the Graduate Studies Committees of the Board to consider what the Faculty can offer to the Effectiveness Review of Non-Departmental Governance and review the departmental reports as set out in Paper BFSS.22/08-09.

31/08-09 Report from the Faculty Undergraduate Studies Committee

RECEIVED:

The unconfirmed minutes of the Undergraduate Studies Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (BFSS.17/08-09).

32/08-09 Report from the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee

RECEIVED:

The unconfirmed minutes of the Graduate Studies Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (BFSS.18/08-09), noting that:

- (i) The student representative had not been present at the meeting, but that she would be very welcome at future meetings.
- (ii) It is intended that the summer meeting concentrate on more strategic matters.
- (iii) The deadline for papers for the summer meeting will be Friday 24 April.

33/08-09 Report from the Faculty IT Committee

RECEIVED:

The draft minutes of the Faculty IT Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (BFSS.19/08-09).

34/08-09 Report from the Faculty Research Forum

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the Faculty Research Forum held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 (BFSS.20/08-09).

CONSIDERED:

A proposal from the Chair of the Faculty Research Forum for support for Chairs of departmental research committees.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal from the Chair of the Research Forum, Professor Shirin Rai, to establish a Departmental Research Director's Group to consider matters of common interest and to feed back its views to the Forum or directly to Faculty Board, as appropriate, be approved.
- (b) That the Research Support Services document on research funding be loaded to the Faculty webpage once it is launched.

35/08-09 Matters Relating to Faculty Research Centres

- (a) Royal College of Nursing Research Institute

CONSIDERED:

The Constitution of the Joint Advisory Board of the Royal College of Nursing Research Institute, as set out in paper BFSS.26/08-09, noting that the Constitution meets the requirements of a Management Committee, as confirmed by the Deputy Registrar.

RECOMMENDED: (to Senate)

That the Constitution of the Joint Advisory Board of the Royal College of Nursing Research Institute, as set out in paper BFSS.26/08-09, be approved.

- (b) Centre for Human Rights in Practice

REPORTED:

- (i) That, following the last meeting of the Board, it had been resolved that there seemed to be general merit in the proposal for the creation of a Centre for Human Rights in Practice but that it should be further developed in order to clarify the School's approach to creating the Centre with guidance from the Chair of the Faculty and the Head of Governance Support Services and re-considered by the Board at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008.
- (ii) That further advice had been sought by the School and that a revised proposal would be presented to the Board for approval at a future meeting.

36/08-09 Any Other Business

REPORTED:

(i) Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS)

That the University was working on establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with CASS and that the Vice-Chancellor would be travelling to China from 14-27<sup>th</sup> May, noting that CASS was composed of several institutions and that the Chinese Scholarship Council had indicated it may provide partial funding for PhDs.

(ii) Faculty Forum on Teaching and Learning

That the next Forum on Teaching and Learning would take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

37/08-09 Date of the Next Meeting

REPORTED:

That the next meeting of the Board would take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 10am in the Council Chamber, University House.

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