

CONFIRMED

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences held on Tuesday 12 February 2019.

Present: Professor M Nudds (Chair), Professor S Becker (Economics), C Bisping (Chair of EFSS), Professor D Branch (Arts), Dr J Elias (PAIS), Professor R Goodwin (BFSEM Representative), Professor R Hastings (Chair of FSS Research & Impact Committee), K Jackson (Library), Dr E John (Philosophy), Professor V Kalra (Sociology), Professor G Lindsay (Deputy Chair; CEDAR), Dr N Murray (CAL), Professor F Peter (Philosophy), S Petropoulos (PG Student Representative), Dr L Pettinger (Sociology), Professor B Richardson (PAIS), Dr R Ritchie (WBS), Professor E Smith (CES), Professor J Smith (Economics; Chair of IT Committee), C Tilley (WFS), Professor E Ushioda (CAL)

Apologies: Dr D Britnell (Faculty Senior Tutor), D Da Silva Lopes (PGT Student Representative), Professor N Gane (ESRC DTP), Professor C Hoerl (Philosophy), Dr A Hollinshead (CLL), K Ireland (CTE), Professor U Liebe (Q-Step), Professor A Lockett (WBS), Professor C Lury (CIM), Dr N Marres (CIM), Dr I Molinaro (WFS), S Polhill (UG Student Representative), Professor A Sanders (Law), Dr G Schwartz-Leeper (Arts Representative), A Stavridou (PGR Student Representative), Professor C Warhurst (IER), R Wee (UG Student Representative), Professor A Williams (Law), R Woolley (Library)

In attendance: J Clarke (Director of Administration, Social Sciences), V Cox (Assistant Secretary), Dr B Dixon (RIS), Dr F Groenhout (Secretary), B Kirk (Assistant Secretary), C Silvester (RIS)

24/18-19 Conflicts of Interest

REPORTED:

- (a) That, should any members or attendees of the Board have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education Code of Governance (2014), available online from <http://www.universitychairs.ac.uk/publications/>;
- (b) That there were no conflicts of interest to report.

25/18-19 Minutes

CONSIDERED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 13 November 2018.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 13 November 2018 be approved.

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26/18-19 Matters Arising

(a) Membership 2018-19

REPORTED:

That Dr Gavin Schwartz-Leeper, School for Cross-Faculty Studies, has been appointed the Board of the Faculty of Arts Representative on the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

(b) ESRC IAA Award

REPORTED:

- (i) That the University of Warwick has been awarded a second round of funding from the ESRC for its Impact Acceleration Account (IAA).
- (ii) That this funding includes the £800,000 base rate and an additional £300,000 which should be spent over the next 5 years.
- (iii) That the funds will be available from April 2019.
- (iv) That any remaining funds from the previous IAA award need to be spent before April 2019.

(c) Timeliness of Feedback Annual Report

REPORTED:

- (i) That there has been a decrease in several departments in the rate of feedback being returned within 20 working days.
- (ii) That departments are encouraged to ensure that feedback is returned to students within 20 working days.
- (iii) That BFSS will return to considering timeliness of feedback on a termly basis if the degree of timeliness is not improved.

27/18-19 Chair's Business

RECEIVED:

A report on the planned refurbishment of Social Sciences lecture rooms (paper BFSS.07/18-19).

REPORTED:

- (a) That there will be two refurbishment projects taking place over summer 2019.
- (b) That the refurbishments will take place in the Economics Department and the ground floor lecture theatres.
- (c) That it is intended that all work will be completed by Welcome Week.

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- (d) That in order to ensure this is possible, work will begin during the summer term 2019.
- (e) That the Estates team responsible for the project intend to be more communicative with Departments particularly regarding when there is likely to be noise disruption.

CONSIDERED:

- (a) That the study space on the ground floor of the Social Sciences Building will be unavailable whilst work is being completed on the ground floor lecture theatres.
- (b) That the teaching rooms in the Social Sciences Building will be made available for study whilst the ground floor corridor is out of use.
- (c) It was requested that lecterns in the ground floor lecture theatres should be made accessible for colleagues with visual impairments.

28/18-19 Faculty of Arts proposal for a new School of Creative and Visual Cultures

RECEIVED:

A business case, prepared by the Faculty of Arts, for the creation in that Faculty of a new School of Creative and Visual Cultures (SCVC) (paper BFSS.08/18-19).

REPORTED:

- (a) That if approved, it is anticipated that the introduction of the School would be rolled out in three phases.
- (b) That it is hoped that the creation of the School would bring together a number of small departments and potentially lead to the creation of new undergraduate courses.
- (c) That the creation of the SCVC would not involve any redundancies.
- (d) That student representatives and the unions are currently being consulted.

CONSIDERED:

- (a) Concerns were raised (by the Co-Director of the Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature and the Arts) in relation to Phase Two of the project, in terms of the merits of integrating the research-intensive Departments of Film and Television Studies and History of Art respectively into a school intended to emphasise art practice.
- (b) It was clarified (by the Head of the Faculty of Arts) that no compulsion exists for any department to join the SCVC and that the details of Phase Two implementation remain open for discussion and decision.

RECOMMENDED: (to Senate)

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That the business case for the creation of a new School for Creative and Visual Cultures be supported.

29/18-19 Health and Safety

REPORTED:

- (a) That the Faculty and its constituent departments are required to have a certain number of First Aid at Work trained colleagues, in direct proportion to the number of staff in each building (distribution of First Aiders is calculated across buildings, rather than departments).
- (b) Departments have been asked to provide staff numbers to Tina Jones (fss@warwick.ac.uk) to allow the required ratios to be calculated for the Social Sciences Building and on Westwood Campus.

CONSIDERED:

It was questioned where the nearest defibrillators to the Social Sciences Building and Westwood campus are located.

RESOLVED:

That further information on the locations of defibrillators will be provided at the next meeting.

30/18-19 Athena SWAN

REPORTED:

- (a) That submissions were expected from IER and Law in November 2018.
- (b) That a submission by CTE is expected in April 2019.
- (c) The results of the November 2018 application round are expected in late April 2019 and will be reported to the next meeting of the Board.
- (d) That the possibility of renaming the Athena Swan Committee the Equality and Diversity Committee is being considered, to reflect a shift in focus to implementing Departmental action plans.

31/18-19 Research Development Funds 2018-19

REPORTED:

- (a) The first deadline for the 2018/19 round of the Faculty's Research Development Fund was 23 November 2018. Six applications (with a total value of £38,805) were received from four departments (Economics x 3, PAIS, Philosophy, and Sociology).
- (b) The Faculty Assessment Panel rejected one bid and the remaining five applicants were asked to address the Panel's comments and/or questions before funding could be confirmed.

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- (c) There remained approximately £20,000 of the 2018/19 funding allocation available.
- (d) The next deadline for applications was 5 February. Two further applications were received. The Panel will reach a decision at their 19 February meeting whether to publish a final, third deadline to enable remaining funds to be awarded.
- (e) The panel further confirmed £500 to support the Early Career Forum and £500 to support the attendance of non-Warwick-based academics at a workshop being delivered by Research and Impact Services on the ESRC New Investigator Grant (this scheme is aimed at those within four years of their PhD who do not necessarily have a pre-existing contract with their prospective host institution). The application deadline for this support is 15 February, with the workshop scheduled for 13 March.
- (f) Outcomes from the 2017/18 round of Research Development Fund awards will be reviewed at next term's RIC and reported to the Faculty Board at its June meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Departments are encouraged to consider applying for support via the Faculty's Research Development Fund.
- (b) That Departments are encouraged to communicate any reflections on the strengths and weaknesses of the current configuration of the Fund to the Secretary of Faculty Research and Impact Committee.

32/18-19 Report from the Faculty Education Committee

RECEIVED:

A report from the Chair of the Faculty Education Committee (paper BFSS.09/18-19).

REPORTED:

- (a) That the review of the credit module framework was discussed.
- (b) It was noted (by the Chair of EFSS) that although the Faculty's undergraduate provision is in line with the anticipated credit system, postgraduate provision would need adapting.
- (c) That the Committee recommended that the working group carefully consider the implications a revised academic year could have for staff and student workloads.

33/18-19 Report from the Faculty Research and Impact Committee

RECEIVED:

- (a) A draft FSS Research Impact support strategy (paper BFSS.10/18-19).

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- (b) A brief report from the Chair of the Faculty Research and Impact Committee.

REPORTED:

- (a) That the Research and Impact Committee (RIC) met on 22 January 2019. In addition to regular reporting updates, the main business was focused on:
 - (i) a detailed evaluation of new University Research Centre (URC) proposals and URC triennial review documents;
 - (ii) final comments on the Faculty's Impact Strategy; and
 - (iii) a presentation, update, and discussion of research opportunities associated with the Coventry City of Culture initiative.
- (b) That RIC received feedback from Departments that impact-related work should focus on supporting a universal, organic culture of impact embedded in research, rather than it being seen as an additional activity devised to meet instrumental REF requirements.
- (c) That there was variation across Departments as to what activities would be helpful.
- (d) That the Strategy is supported by and aligned with plans for the second round of ESRC IAA funding.

34/18-19 ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership Update

RECEIVED:

A brief report from the Director of the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership.

REPORTED:

- (a) That the DTP Open Competition has now closed for 2019 entry; the DTP is currently processing applications.
- (b) That the closing date for the ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship Scheme that is administered by the DTP is 22 March 2019. Applicants need to contact Research and Impact Services to finalise their costings by 8 March. The DTP has seven PDF awards to allocate across the six partner institutions.
- (c) That the DTP Director (Nicholas Gane) will step down this year and the DTP is currently in the process of appointing a successor.
- (d) That declarations of interest are invited for a colleague to serve as convener of the ESRC MSc programme, as the incumbent (Mick Hammond) has sabbatical leave scheduled for the 2019/20 academic year.
- (e) That the annual review meeting with the ESRC is scheduled for 12 February 2019 and through the course of this, further information will be sought from the ESRC on the mid-term review of all DTPs that will take place in autumn 2019.

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RESOLVED:

The Committee thanked Dr Gane for his work as Director of the DTP.

35/18-19 Warwick Q-Step Centre Update

RECEIVED:

A brief report from the Director of Warwick Q-Step.

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That the annual Spring Camp (taking place Monday 18 – Tuesday 19 March) will be advertised shortly to students.
- (b) That the Nuffield Foundation is currently considering whether to renew funding to Warwick Q-Step Centre. The result of their decision is expected at the annual meeting on 12 February.
- (c) That the Q-Step Centre intends to introduce a new suite of modules which it hopes will be attractive to students outside of PAIS, CIM and Sociology.

36/18-19 Review of Faculty Research Centres

RECEIVED:

The recommendations of the Faculty Research Committee in relation to the review of Faculty Research Centres:

- (a) general recommendations regarding the review process.
- (b) the dis-establishment of three Research Centres:
 - (i) Centre for the Study of Safety and Well-Being
 - (ii) Legal Research Institute
 - (iii) Centre for Rights, Equality and Diversity
- (c) the establishment of two new Research Centres:
 - (i) Centre for Critical Legal Studies
 - (ii) Quantitative and Analytical Political Economy Centre
- (d) the triennial review of two Category II Research Centres:
 - (i) Centre for the History of Medicine
 - (ii) Warwick Cancer Research Centre
- (e) the triennial review of four Category III Research Centres:
 - (i) Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs
 - (ii) Centre for Human Rights in Practice
 - (iii) Warwick Mind and Action Research Centre
 - (iv) Industrial Relations Research Centre

(paper BFSS.11/18-19).

REPORTED:

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- (a) That RIC members would welcome the provision of clearer guidance on the application of review criteria to Research Centres.
- (b) That a one-size fits all would be inappropriate and any criteria would need to reflect the scope and breadth of activities carried out by the Research Centres.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations made by RIC be communicated to University Research Committee.

37/18-19 Any Other Business

38/18-19 Next Meeting

REPORTED:

That the next meeting of the Board will take place on 4 June 2019, 2.00pm, Council Chamber, Senate House.

39/18-19 Chair's Action

REPORTED:

That the Chair of the Board, acting on its behalf, has taken action to appoint Dr O Hasan (PAIS) to the membership of the Partnerships Committee as the second representative of the Faculty of Social Sciences, replacing Dr D Hartas (CES).

40/18-19 Report from the Faculty Education Committee

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Education Committee held on 29 January 2019 (paper BFSS.12/18-19).

41/18-19 Report from the Faculty Research and Impact Committee

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Research and Impact Committee held on 22 January 2019 (paper BFSS.13/18-19).

42/18-19 Faculty Lunches in 2018-19

REPORTED:

That the remaining Faculty of Social Sciences Lunch would take place as follows in 2018-19:

Summer term: 4 June 2019, 12 noon, Council Chamber, Senate House.

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43/18-19 Dates of 2018-19 Board Meetings

REPORTED:

That the Board would meet subsequently as follows during the academic year 2018-19:

Summer Term: 4 June 2019, 2.00pm, Council Chamber, Senate House.