

Some items are noted as “Exempt information not included” as they contain information that would be withheld from release to the public because an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 10.00am, Wednesday 21 February 2024, CMR 1.0, University House		
Present	Professor Nick Vaughan-Williams	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences (Chair)
	Professor Matthew Clayton	Head of Department, Politics & International Studies
	Professor Gill Cooke	Director of Education, WMG (Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine representative)
	Professor Fiona Copland	Head of School, School of Education, Learning and Communication Sciences (SELCS)
	Professor Caroline Elliott	Professor, Department of Economics & Deputy Chair of Faculty, Social Sciences (Education)
	Professor Richard Hastings	Director, Centre for Research in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CIDD), School of Education, Learning and Communication Sciences (SELCS)
	Professor Nina-Anne Lawrence	Director, Warwick Foundation Studies
	Professor Ulf Liebe	Head of Department, Sociology
	Professor Ben Lockwood	Head of Department, Department of Economics
	Professor Guy Longworth	Head of Department, Philosophy
	Professor Celia Lury	Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies
	Professor Christopher Moran	Professor, PAIS & Deputy Chair of Faculty, Social Sciences (Research)
	Professor Goldie Osuri	Professor, Department of Sociology
	Professor Olympia Palikara	Professor, Education Studies (SELCS) & Deputy Chair of Faculty, Social Sciences (External Relations)
	Professor Ross Ritchie	Professor, Warwick Business School
	Professor Jacky Swan	Professor, Warwick Business School
	Fiona Wallace	Director of Education, Warwick Foundation Studies
	Professor Chris Warhurst	Director, Institute for Employment Research
Professor Andrew Williams	Head of Department, School of Law	
Attending	Gabriella Bersanetti	Senior Policy Advisor, Education (Secretary)
	Andrew Calvert	Acting Research and Academic Support Manager
	Rose Clark	Executive Officer, Faculty of Social Sciences
	Professor Jennie Mills	Associate Professor, Academic Development Centre
	Nikki Muckle	Director, Strategic Initiatives (Social Sciences)
	Alex Pilkington	Policy Advisor (Assessment & Regulations) (Assistant Secretary)
	Professor Celine Tan	Professor, School of Law, FSS EDI Forum Chair
	Aiden Thompson	Research Strategy and Development Manager
Ref	Item	
027	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from: Ilinca Balasa, Christine Bradford, Jackie Clarke, Jon Coaffee, Thomas Crowther, Jonathon Garton, Marta Guerriero, Will Haywood, Caleb Heather, Andrew Lockett, Mark Pulsford, Claudia Rei, Chris Rogers.	
028	Declarations of Interest No new declarations were made.	

029	<p>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</p> <p>The Chair invited members to consider items through the EDI lens and reflect how as members the Board could support and champion its principles.</p> <p>The Chair read the following statement: “all members should actively engage in the committee conversation and activity whether online or in person, if members would like to discuss a change or needs, they have that would support access and participation in the meeting, then please do reconnect with the chair and/or secretariat.”</p>
030	<p>Minutes of last meeting on 15 November 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2023 (030-BFSS210224, Public) were approved.</p>
031	<p>Matters arising from last meeting on 15 November 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 010 (University Research Centres – Triennial Review 2023/24) The Secretary reported all research centres considered by Faculty Board in November were approved for continuation by research committee on 31 January 2024, and feedback had been provided to research directors.
Chair’s Update	
032	<p>Chair’s Business and Actions</p> <p>The Chair reported that there was an update to the Social Sciences Grand Challenge (SSGC), which would be presented by Nickki Muckle and Alasdair Macintosh during the meeting.</p>
Main Section	
033	<p>Education and Student Experience Strategy</p> <p>The Director of Education Policy and Quality presented the report on the Education and Student Experience Strategy (033-BFSS210224 Public). The key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University had accelerated educational student experience over the last few years and had produced outstanding results in terms of success in TEF, outcome of students achieving, closing the disparity and gaps with the student body, and staff being promoted on the teaching track. • The previous education strategy, which had been published in 2018, was acknowledged as needing to be refreshed and renewed. • The Institutional Teaching Learning Review 2023 (ITLR) was an opportunity to take stock and assess progress. This presented a valuable opportunity to pause, reflect, and approach the renewal process differently. • The Head Together conference on 29 February 2024 would draw upon lessons learned from ITLR and take learning forward. • A green paper would be launched and shared at the event for wider consultation. • Co-creation workshops for each Faculty would gather feedback and discuss the needs for education in respective areas. A draft strategy would be presented to Council in July. <p>In response to the presentation, the following points were raised during a discussion amongst members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members raised concern regarding the effective engagement of students, historically focused on Undergraduate (UG) rather than Postgraduate (PG). Suggestions were made to explore alternative approaches for engaging PG students beyond traditional student experience channels. • It was acknowledged that there were limitations of in-person events, and planned online events. The need for creative digital engagement within resource constraints was recognised, and innovative suggestions were welcomed. • Acknowledging rapid University growth, it was noted the Academic Strategy Committee aimed to integrate resources and strategies holistically for an improved student experience, addressing past compartmentalisation issues.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board members discussed the suitability of current student and pastoral support models for the future, exploration of alternative support sources beyond personal tutors was suggested.
034	<p>Social Sciences Grand Challenge (SSGC)</p> <p><i>Exempt information not included.</i></p>
035	<p>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) Update</p> <p>The Faculty's ED&I Forum Chair presented the report (035-BFSS210224 Public). The Board welcomed the report and key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Faculty, WBS held gold, Sociology held silver, PAIS held a conditional silver, and CIM bronze in the most recent outcomes of departmental submissions for the Athena SWAN awards. Nine departments hold bronze and Law had applied for silver in January 2024, and CIDD would apply for silver in 2026. The ED&I forum chair, raised three main concerns for the Board to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance and the role of the ED&I forum was discussed in terms of its formal constitution and strategic role, with consideration given to renaming it. Ideas were shared about the responsibilities of the ED&I Forum Chair, emphasising the need for workload recognition if strategic changes were made. The issue of representation within committees was raised, particularly in terms of aligning with the demographics of the student population. Despite inclusion in the grand challenge, efforts to incorporate ED&I into design work had not progressed since last year and would be picked up. <p>In response to the presentation, the following points were raised during a discussion amongst members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair noted the Academic Governance Review would address the issue of diversity and committee representation, prompting consideration of alternative approaches to membership and composition. Clarification of reporting structures and ensuring alignment between inclusive education and ED&I initiatives could help streamline efforts and enhance effectiveness.
036	<p>Academic Governance Review</p> <p>The Head of the Philosophy Department as a member of the Senate working group, presented a report (036-BFSS210224 Public). Key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Academic Governance Review highlighted a serious commitment to addressing issues, including those related to ED&I to improve governance and reporting lines for the Senate and its sub-committees in scope. Members were encouraged to engage with the consultation process and offer feedback on the Green paper. A white paper would be drafted and presented to Senate in April.
037	<p>Education Update</p> <p>The Deputy Chair (Education) provided a verbal update. The key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work was progressing on new 2025-26 Undergraduate Degrees, such as Economics and Management, and Social Sciences. Further new PGT programs were being developed, such as a Master of Social Data Science. Efforts were underway to restart work on the Social Science Student Experience, with an initial meeting scheduled to discuss the student experience workstream, aiming to establish links with ED&I initiatives and to be co-created with students. Information events had been organised, with the next event focusing on disabilities, particularly invisible disabilities. A third-term information event would focus on inclusive education.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each term, the Faculty Education Committee would include a standing item celebrating NSS (National Student Survey) or PTES (Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey) results.
038	<p>University Research Centres – Triennial Review 2023/24 (category II)</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the Assistant Secretary to the University Research Committee. The Board was invited to consider the paperwork provided by the Centres, and to recommend their continuation to the Research Committee. It was noted that recommendations may be subject to any comments that the Faculty Board wishes to make with regards to the continuation of the Centre. Additionally, Faculty Board was invited to consider a proposal for the dis-establishment of the Warwick Institute for the Science of Cities (WISC).</p> <p>The Chair invited each close scrutiny member to share their feedback with the Board in turn, and the Board considered and made a recommendation accordingly.</p> <p>(a) Centre for Digital Inquiry (CDI) (Category II)</p> <p>The Head of the Economics Department provided close scrutiny comments. Key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three key research themes were mentioned, and there was a request to expand upon them further. There was some uncertainty regarding the technical aspects, particularly whether the second large grant proposed was awarded or not. The report did not include a list of publications. A query was raised regarding how boards in non-cognate areas could access and assess the quality of publications reported. <p>DECISION: The Board recommended the continuation of the Centre for Digital Inquiry (CDI) to the Research Committee, noting the recommendation was subject to these points.</p> <p>(b) Warwick Analytical Science Centre (WASC) (Category II)</p> <p>The Head of the School of Law provided close scrutiny comments. Key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The centre had an excellent reputation, with a long-established and well-run history. The transition of directors expected to be seamless due to the new director's experience. It was observed that the website was slightly out of date. <p>DECISION: The Board recommended the continuation of the Warwick Analytical Science Centre (WASC) to the Research Committee.</p> <p>(c) Zeeman Institute: Systems Biology & Infectious Disease Epidemiology Research (SBIDER) (Category II)</p> <p>The Head of the Philosophy Department provided close scrutiny comments. Key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The centre had demonstrated a strong impact, warranting recommendations for fellowship and membership. There was a query raised in the paperwork regarding the reason for the centre categorisation, and this should be made clearer. <p>DECISION: The Board recommended the continuation of the Zeeman Institute: Systems Biology & Infectious Disease Epidemiology Research (SBIDER) to the Research Committee.</p> <p>(d) Centre for the Study of Women and Gender (CSWG) (Category II)</p> <p>The Head of the School of Education, Learning and Communication Science provided close scrutiny comments. Key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The centre hosts several events aimed at supporting inclusion.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With only seven PhD students, the centre's a relatively small size. However, there was a suggestion that supporting these students in alignment with the grand challenge could be prioritised. • A concern was raised regarding paperwork inconsistencies, where the papers request detail that was not always provided. Specifically, when claiming international centre status, there was a need for substantiation, and more evidence was required to support such claims. <p>DECISION: The Board recommended the continuation of the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender (CSWG) to the Research Committee.</p> <p>(e) Proposal to dis-establish Warwick Institute for the Science of Cities (WISC)</p> <p>A verbal update was provided. The key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The centre had been under review due to initial financial losses, leading to a reassessment of its long-term financial sustainability. This review identified inefficient funding structures. • Concerns were raised about the future of the partnership with New York, which was not considered during the review of disestablishing the centre. <p>DECISION: The Board recommended the disestablishment of the Warwick Institute for the Science of Cities (WISC) to the Research Committee.</p>
039	<p>Research Update</p> <p>The Deputy Chair of Faculty (Research) provided a verbal update. The key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of a Faculty Policy Hub, promised as a deliverable from ESRC impact funds, presented an exciting opportunity to generate pathways to impact. • A consultation was underway regarding six research themes for the SSGC. Currently, these themes were in a pause phase until research spotlights occur. • There was consideration of the Faculty becoming a consultative membership status of the United Nations. • It was noted as a goal to cultivate a comprehensive understanding of research culture at the Faculty level in the context of social sciences.
Other	
040	<p>Any other business</p> <p>The Board expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the outgoing Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences for exceptional leadership and wished him well for his new appointment.</p> <p>Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences meetings, 2023/24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 15 May 2024, 10.00am-12.00pm, Senate House Council Chamber.
Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion	
041	Faculty Education Committee: confirmed minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2024
042	Athena Swan Annual Reports
Relevant Senate Committees Minutes	
043	Board of Graduate Studies Minutes http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/bgs/minutes/
044	Partnerships Committee Minutes https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/partnerships/minutes/
045	Academic Quality and Standards Committee Minutes http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/aqsc/minutes/
046	University Education Committee Minutes https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/ec/minutes/

047	Student Learning Experience and Engagement Committee Minutes	https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/sleec/minutes/
048	University Research Committee Minutes	https://warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/committees/resc/minutes

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
2023-2024			
038 (a) Research centre continuation proposal	The Board recommended the continuation of the Centre for Digital Inquiry (CDI) to the Research Committee, noting recommendation was subject to these points.	Research committee	Complete
038 (b) Research centre continuation proposal	The Board recommended the continuation of the Warwick Analytical Science Centre (WASC) to the Research Committee.	Research committee	Complete
038 (c) Research centre continuation proposal	The Board recommended the continuation of the Zeeman Institute: Systems Biology & Infectious Disease Epidemiology Research (SBIDER) to the Research Committee.	Research committee	Complete
038 (d) Research centre continuation proposal	The Board recommended the continuation of the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender (CSWG) to the Research Committee.	Research committee	Complete
038 (e) Research centre disestablishment proposal	The Board recommended the disestablishment of the Warwick Institute for the Science of Cities (WISC) to the Research Committee.	Research committee	Complete