

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.00AM, Thursday 24 February 2022, Online via Microsoft Teams

Present	Professor Nick Vaughan-Williams	NVM	Vice Provost and Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences (Chair)
	Professor Matthew Clayton	MC	HoD, Politics & International Studies (PAIS)
	Professor Jon Coaffee	JC	Director of ESRC DTP and Deputy Chair, Research
	Professor Jonathan Forster	JF	HoD, Statistics (Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine representative)
	Dr Marta Guerriero	MG	Associate Professor, Sustainable Development (Board of the Faculty of Arts representative)
	Professor Ruth Hewston	RHe	Director, Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL)
	Professor Christoph Hoerl	CH	Professor, Philosophy
	Professor Kate Ireland	KI	Director, Centre for Teacher Education (CTE)
	Professor Guy Longworth	GLo	HoD, Philosophy
	Professor Celia Lury	CL	Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (CIM)
	Professor Noortje Marres	NM	Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (CIM)
	Dr Troy McConachy	TM	Associate Professor, Department of Applied Linguistics
	Dr Ines Molinaro	IM	Director, Warwick Foundation Studies (WFS)
	Dr Chris Rogers	CR	Associate Professor, Department of Politics & International Studies
	Professor Emma Smith	ES	HoD, Education Studies (DES)
	Professor Jeremy Smith	JSm	HoD, Economics
	Professor John Solomos		Professor, Sociology
	Professor Jacky Swan	JSw	Professor, Warwick Business School (WBS)
	Professor Ema Ushioda	EU	HoD, Applied Linguistics (DAL)
	Professor Azrini Wahidin	AW	Professor, Department of Sociology
Dr Naomi Waltham-Smith	NWS	Associate Professor, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies and Deputy Chair, Education and Chair of EFSS	
Professor Christopher Warhurst	CW	Director, Institute of Employment Research (IER)	
Attending	Mahfia Watkinson	MW	Assistant Registrar (Teaching and Learning), Education Policy and Quality (Secretary)
	Jackie Clarke	JC	Director of Faculty Administration

	Laura King	LK	Training Coordinator, CIM (Assistant Secretary)
	Becca Kirk	BK	Widening Participation Officer, Law (Assistant Secretary)
	Kate Mawson	KM	Associate Professor, CTE and Faculty Student Engagement Coordinator
	Dr Jennie Mills	JM	Associate Professor, Academic Development Centre (ADC)
	Sam Roseveare	SR	Director of Regional and National Policy (for item no.032)
Ref	Item		
025	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received from: Professor Nicholas Gane (Sociology), Professor Jonathan Garton (Law), Professor Richard Hastings (CEDAR), Karen Jackson (Library), Professor Andrew Sanders (Law), Dr Anna Tranter (WFS)</p>		
026	<p>Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest declared.</p>		
027	<p>Equality, diversity and inclusion The Chair invited members to consider items through the EDI lens, and reflect how as members the Board can support and champion its principles.</p>		
028	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021 The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2021 were approved with no corrections.</p>		
029	<p>Matters arising from meeting held on 18 November 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to 006.BFSS.21-22, an update on the Race Equality report would be circulated shortly. • It was reported, in relation to 012.BFSS.21-22, there was currently no role descriptor for the academic integrity (AI) lead. This was anticipated to be implemented when the policy is reviewed after a year of implementation. <p>ACTION MW to obtain the final copy of the Race Equality report for circulation to the Board.</p>		
030	<p>Membership update</p> <p>It was noted that the new Sociology representatives are Professor John Solomos (replacing Professor Virinder Kalra) and Professor Nicholas Gane (replacing Dr Maria do Mar Pereira).</p>		
Chair's Update			
031	<p>Chair's Business and Actions</p> <p>The Chair thanked Dr Innes Molinaro, who would be retiring, for their outstanding leadership contribution and excellent support to the Faculty Board.</p> <p>The Chair gave an update on the Grand Challenge. Members would recall that at the last meeting a short vision statement had been discussed. This had been developed, the statement received support from University committees and received outline backing from Council. The vision statement would be integrated into the University's new strategy. A resource request to work with external consultant services had been approved and a tender process was currently ongoing. The consultants would act as critical friends, undertake a full sight appraisal of buildings, usage, future needs, examine potential development slots. Initial approval was also granted for professional services support to resource a</p>		

	<p>programme team. Once a team was set up, discussions would start with wider academic and professional service staff. A further update would be provided at the Board meeting in Term 3.</p> <p>The Chair requested members to provide a positive response and support for the call to provide departmental representatives to support the Faculty at various University committees.</p>
Strategic Item	
032	<p>Opportunities in the external landscape that will enhance the Warwick Social Sciences offer</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Sam Roseveare, Director of Regional and National Policy, Warwick University. SR gave a brief overview of the current political landscape and higher education policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was currently a leadership vacuum at No.10 and a reliance on the Secretary of State. Also a lot of uncertainty at the Department of Education. The current Education minister was critical of the higher education sector. • The government were focusing more on other home policy issues, rather than the pandemic. This would accelerate over the next 12 months and include post-16 reform and research and innovation. • The Augar review had been published. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No tuition fee cuts. - Changes to terms and conditions. - The repayment threshold would be lowered. - Two consultations announced. - The minimum entry requirements consultation was very unlikely to affect applicants to Warwick. • There would be no update on the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill until May. SR reported that the new Secretary of State was not keen to engage in policy debates, so this could disappear all together. • The government was keen on investing in R&D. There is a strong emphasis on innovation. <p>SR offered Board members assistance in navigating the policy environment, through 1:1 sessions or working with departments. There would be the opportunity to engage with senior civil servants through the Whitehall and Industry Group. A monitoring service was available to departments, the University has unlimited licenses. SR reported that the Warwick position with engaging with policy makers had declined and SR would be welcome to have conversations to see how this could be improved.</p> <p>NWS requested further insights on the Freedom of Speech Bill. SR would provide this after the meeting.</p> <p>CW queried the capturing of data on engaging with policy and noted that his department is regularly in contact. The data is captured from an intuitional level and the relative position has gone down as other institutions has increased. CW and SR to explore this further.</p> <p>KI requested an update on universities supporting schools. AW enquired how the new R&D budget will impact REF 2028. SR reported that in April there would be an update on this.</p> <p>The Chair thanked SR for his very interesting overview and willingness to engage with colleagues.</p>

Main items

033	<p>Research report</p> <p>JC provided an oral report on Research matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The UKRI draft EDI strategy was open for consultation until 28 March 2022• Interim report from the independent review into research bureaucracy (led by Professor Adam Tickell) was published in January. More use would be made of the two stage application process.• ‘Levelling Up’ White Paper has pledged to increase public investment in R&D outside of south-east England. This would bring lots of opportunities to the West Midlands area.• ESRC – has published their response to review of PhD in the social sciences. ESRC would extend funding from 3 to 3.5 years as standard and include compulsory placements.• The UKRI New Deal for Postgraduate Research (“the New Deal”) was a long-term piece of work that aims to improve the experience and quality of postgraduate research training in the UK. It was now seeking views on what the most appropriate goals for research should be.• 161 research applications were submitted from the Faculty, valued at £18 million, with good spread across all departments. Nine postdoctoral fellowships would be submitted. <p>The Chair thanked JC for his reporting and requested for this to continue at future Board meetings</p>
034	<p>Education report</p> <p>NWS provided an oral report on Education matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the Education Committee the members focused on ideas for the ambition of Social Sciences education and themes. An update report was provided on the progress of the Curriculum Review Project. Constructive and helpful meetings between Lisa Whiston and education leads in departments had taken place. The review would not simply be quality assurance, it would come with structured support and coordinated collaborative working with LCUD.• Faculty Education Chairs would be asked for feedback and impact on programmes on the proposed shape of the academic year.• The EFSS sub-group were continuing their work on decolonising the curriculum. They hope to provide a guide to departments to support initiatives. The next meeting would focus on the Attainment dashboard.• There were plans to provide an event, if useful for depts, to implement plans on blended learning. Request to depts to set out innovations. Board members were asked to consider ideas for future events. A suggestion of curriculum sustainability was made.

035	<p>Athena Swan Report</p> <p>The Board received the annual report on departmental progress towards securing the Athena Swan award (paper 035.BFSS.21-22)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target of 70% of departments to hold Athena Swan by the end of 2022. Planned submissions for CTE, Applied Linguistics, Education Studies and CLL. • Robert Horton, Law School is an Athena Swan reviewer and would be setting up a forum to support engagement with the Athena Swan process. He would be happy to offer services to review submissions. AW confirmed she is a reviewer, so could also help support departments. • Warwick would not be running a pulse survey going forward and taking a new approach with more frequent short and quick surveys. Topics included: hybrid working, thrive at work, social inclusion. <p>KI requested a formal timeline on the staff surveys and analysis. JC would request further clarity on this.</p> <p>CW requested a communication to all staff to inform of the change in survey structure.</p>
Other	
036	<p>Any other business</p> <p>The Chair welcomed suggestions from members on the format and content of meetings. CW requested Sam Roseveare, Director of Regional and National Policy to be invited to a future meeting.</p> <p>Members were reminded of future meetings of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences for the remainder of 2021/22, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 24 February 2022, 10.00am-12noon, Senate House Council Chamber or via Teams (tbc). <p>Members were invited to contact the secretariat at least three weeks in advance of the respective meetings to propose agenda items to facilitate Chair approval. It was noted that papers for the Board would be required at least two weeks in advance of the meeting to facilitate paper production and circulation.</p>
Items below this line were received and/or approved, without discussion	
037	<p>ITLR – Introducing the 2023 Review [report to EFSS]</p> <p>Members received the paper 037.BFSS.21-22.</p>
038	<p>Curriculum Review Project update [report to EFSS]</p> <p>Members received the paper 038.BFSS.21-22.</p>
Subsidiary and Sub-Committee Reports	
039	<p>Members received a copy of the Faculty Education Committee: confirmed minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2021 (paper 039.BFSS.21-22)</p>
Senate Committees Minutes and Reports	
040	<p>Board of Graduate Studies Minutes</p> <p>http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/bgs/minutes/</p>

041	Partnerships Committee Minutes https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/partnerships/minutes/
042	Academic Quality and Standards Committee Minutes http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/aqsc/minutes/
043	University Education Committee Minutes https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/ec/minutes/
044	Student Learning Experience and Engagement Committee Minutes https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/sleec/minutes/
CLOSED BY 11.10AM	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS		
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE
029	ACTION MW to obtain the final copy of the Race Equality report for circulation to the Board.	MW/next meeting

