

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**  
**Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD**

**at 10.00, Wednesday 24 May 2023, Senate House Council Chamber**

<b>Present</b>	Professor Nick Vaughan-Williams	Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences
	Professor Jon Coaffee	Professor, PAIS, (Deputy Chair, Research)
	Professor Fiona Copland	Head of Department, Education Studies
	Dr Susie Cowley-Haselden	Director of Academic Literacies & Skills, Warwick Foundation Studies
	Professor Caroline Elliott	Deputy Head of Department (Teaching and Learning), Department of Economics
	Professor Jon Forster	Head of Department, Statistics (Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine representative)
	Professor Richard Hastings	Director, Centre for Educational Development Appraisal and Research
	Caleb Heather	Undergraduate student representative
	Professor Ruth Hewston	Director, Centre for Lifelong Learning
	Professor Kate Ireland	Director, Centre for Teacher Education
	Professor Nina-Anne Lawrence	Director, Warwick Foundation Studies
	Professor Guy Longworth	Head of Department, Philosophy
	Professor Celia Lury (from item 051)	Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies
	Professor Alice Mah	Head of Department, Sociology
	Professor Noortje Marres	Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies
	Dr Chris Strelluf	Associate Professor, Applied Linguistics
	Professor Jacky Swan (from item 051)	Professor, Warwick Business School
	Professor Ema Ushioda	Head of Department, Department of Applied Linguistics
Dr Naomi Waltham-Smith	The Chair of the Faculty Education Committee of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences (Deputy Chair, Education)	
Professor Chris Warhurst	Director, Institute for Employment Research	
<b>Attending</b>	Gabriella Bersanetti	Senior Policy Advisor, Education (Secretary)
	Debbie Bloxham	Research Development Officer (Social Sciences), Research and Impact Services
	Christine Bradford	Academic Support Librarian
	Rose Clark	Executive Officer, Faculty of Social Sciences
	Jackie Clarke	Director of Faculty Administration, Social Sciences
	Laura King	Training Coordinator, ESRC DTP (Assistant Secretary)
	Dr Jennie Mills	Associate Professor, Academic Development Centre
	Nikki Muckle	Director of Strategic Initiatives (Social Sciences)
	Professor Celine Tan (up to item 51)	Professor, School of Law, FSS EDI Forum Chair
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Item</b>	
044	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received from Matthew Clayton, Chris Brown, Jonathan Garton, Marta Guerriero, Christoph Hoerl, Andrew Lockett, Ben Lockwood, Sabrina Muhamad Sabri, Lynne Pettinger, Ross Ritchie, Chris Rogers, Azrini Wahidin, Andrew Williams, Will Haywood, Harbeena Lalli and David Lees	
045	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> No new declarations were made.	

046	<p><b>Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion</b></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>
047	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting held on 24 February 2023</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2023 (047-BFSS240523 Public) were <b>approved</b>.</p>
048	<p><b>Matters arising from last meeting held on 24 February 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Item 032 (University Research Centres – Triennial Review 2022/23)</b> The Secretary reported that feedback from the Faculty relating to the research centre Warwick Mind and Action Research Centre (WMA) had been progressed by the Centre Director and Research Committee. The Research Centre had been approved by Senate for continuation for three years.</li> </ul>
<b>Chair's Update</b>	
049	<p><b>Chair's Business and Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair thanked Board members and in particular the student representatives for their support and input. The Chair also thanked the Secretary and Assistant Secretary for their support.</li> <li>• The Chair thanked the following Board members who were standing down, for their contributions to Warwick and the Board: Kate Ireland, Alice Mah, Ema Ushioda.</li> <li>• The Chair reported that Naomi Waltham-Smith was standing down as Deputy Chair (Education). The Chair thanked Naomi for her incredible work with the Education Committee. The Chair welcomed Caroline Elliot, who would be taking up the role of Deputy Chair (Education) from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023.</li> <li>• The Chair reported that Andy Hind would replace Kate Ireland as Director of the Centre for Teacher Education. Annamaria Pinter would replace Ema Ushioda as Head of Applied Linguistics.</li> </ul>
<b>Main Items</b>	
050	<p><b>EDI Update</b></p> <p>The Faculty's EDI Forum Chair noted the report below the line 058-BFSS240523 (Protected). The key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A project to support neurodiverse staff and students was ongoing, supported by Sue Johnston-Wilder. EDI leads would be contacted shortly to request feedback on reasonable adjustment processes.</li> <li>• A key focus would be to ensure any EDI concerns related to the Grand Challenge were highlighted. Members were asked if there were any concerns, to direct them to the EDI lead in their department.</li> </ul>
051	<p><b>Social Sciences Grand Challenge</b></p> <p>A presentation was delivered by the Deputy Chair (Education), Deputy Chair (Research) and Director of Strategic Initiatives (Social Sciences). The key details were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education workstream: Lodestars had been identified for cross-departmental intellectual collaboration and PGT programme development, utilising desk market research. Working groups took place in February 2023. Lodestar programme and student experience visions fed into the SSGC Business Case for FPSC and May Council, and into RIBA Stage 1 work. The Deputy Chair (Education) held meetings with departments to understand their education aspirations, interests, and concerns.</li> <li>• Research workstream: Wider scale consultation took place on the identified thematic priorities by discussion at the Faculty RIF and an open invite for all Faculty staff to attend online Q&amp;A sessions. SSGC Research steering group analysed the feedback received and discussed the appointment of Theme Champions. Next steps included identifying future funding to support activities and there would be a series of workshops aimed at improving the research environment: on postgraduate research; research culture and research impact.</li> <li>• The Faculty would be required to repay a loan to support the capital development and raise new income. The new income would be generated from growth in student numbers where there is</li> </ul>

	<p>appetite to grow and market demand, focusing on WBS and Economics. These departments are therefore likely to be housed in the new building(s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Board were provided an update on the progress of the project. RIBA stage 0 had been completed. A planning application was submitted and architects had been appointed. The project was currently in RIBA stage 1, a consultation was ongoing with the architects. Once complete, a plan would be developed in preparation for RIBA stage 2 by September 2023. This would be tested through consultations in the Autumn. Construction is currently planned to start in May 2025 and could take 18-24 months.</li> </ul> <p>In response to the presentation, the following points were raised during a discussion amongst members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board members noted the importance of including catering and cleaning staff in the consultation process.</li> <li>Teaching staff recruitment for student growth was noted as critical to the development. Support for the Education vision was important to enable the Faculty to make a strong business case to the University for additional funding.</li> <li>Board members felt that if an External Advisory Board were to be set up, the terms of reference would need to be very clear and a distinctive Warwick 'voice' developed, exploring the gaps in funding to support sectorial initiatives.</li> <li>Cost consultations would take place in RIBA stage 1 and through PPG there would be tight control on costs (led by Rosie Drinkwater). Until user needs were identified, space requirements could not be quantified and final costs could not be confirmed.</li> <li>Board members were requested to contact the SSGC, via <a href="mailto:ssgc@warwick.ac.uk">ssgc@warwick.ac.uk</a> for comments and any queries.</li> </ul>
052	<p><b>Education Update</b></p> <p>The Deputy Chair (Education) provided a verbal update. The key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EFSS Sub Group final report on awarding gaps would be circulated to EFSS and Board members. Thanks was given to Stefania Paredes Fuentes and members of the Sub Group. Next year, the focus would be 'belonging and community'.</li> <li>Two Directors of Education Luncheons had taken place on ITLR and Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence.</li> <li>Impacts of education related decision making would be fed into the academic governance review.</li> </ul>
053	<p><b>Academic Governance Review</b></p> <p>The Deputy Director and Head of Education Policy and Governance presented the Academic Governance Review project to Board members. The key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senate and Sub-Committees would be invited to reflect on their Terms of Reference, to include the impact they have and the communication between committees.</li> <li>The first phase included reflection of committees and best practice across the University. External reviewers would also be used.</li> <li>The 2nd phase would build on all initial findings and look at the purpose of the Senate.</li> <li>Internal departmental audits would also feed into this review.</li> </ul>

### New University Research Centre Proposals

The Chair welcomed Carole Harris, Head of Research Governance to the meeting. The Board was invited to recommend the establishment of two new Research Centres. It was noted that recommendations may be subject to any comments that the Faculty Board wishes to make with regards to the establishment of the Centre.

The Chair invited each member to share their feedback with the Board in turn, and the Board considered and made a recommendation accordingly.

#### (a) **Warwick Centre for Social Data Science (WCSDS) (Category III)**

The Head of the Education Department provided close scrutiny comments. Key points were as follows:

- A Professor had been recruited in part to establish the centre. The Centre is timely, with lots of interest in data science, within and beyond the Faculty.
- A strong governance plan was in place and there was strong support from the Faculty and Head of Department.
- Board members queried the Category III status and suggested a Category II centre, due to the interest across University and collaborative working.
- The Head of Institute for Employment Research noted that it was not submitted as a Category II, as this would have required funding within the Department.
- The representative from Warwick Business School commented that research colleagues were very supportive. There was also a query on the development of Masters programmes, due to the more focused offerings already in place at the University.
- The representative from the Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Medicine noted that there were issues in dealing with the data science environment, it was currently uncoordinated across the University. A University wide discussion on this would be beneficial.

**DECISION:** The Board recommended the establishment of the Warwick Centre for Social Data Science (WCSDS) to the Research Committee, noting a suggestion that the Research Committee discuss the categorisation of WCDS further with IER.

#### (b) **Doctoral Education and Academia Research Centre (DEAR) (Category II)**

The Head of the School of Law provided written close scrutiny comments, which were presented verbally by the Chair. Key points were as follows:

- The proposal was detailed and carefully considered. The aims of the proposed centre were clear and coherent, complementing both departmental and University strategic goals. There was support across the University for such a centre to coordinate and develop research into doctoral education and academia. It was seen to contribute to the research goals of the FSS Grand Challenge.
- It was noted that a research grant exists which would enable the centre to launch with a solid financial foundation.
- The Board requested a review of the allocation of resources. Concerns were raised that the allocation of staff hours and budget would not be sufficient given the extent of activities. The Head of Education Studies confirmed that the figure would be reviewed as the Centre develops.
- The Board recommended that the governance aspects of the proposal required further detail, including providing information on a steering or advisory group.

**DECISION:** The Board recommended the establishment of the Doctoral Education and Academia Research Centre (DEAR) to the Research Committee, noting the recommendations of reviewing the allocation of resources and the governance aspects.

055	<p><b>SU Cost of Living Survey Report</b></p> <p>The Undergraduate Student representative presented the SU Cost of Living Survey Report (055-BFSS240523). The key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report highlighted that the cost of food, access to hardship funds, students needing to work and the cost of socialising were the main issues.</li> <li>• The Board were asked to consider the issues affecting students and consider the wider context of the Grand Challenge. This would include free socials for students to ensure there would be opportunities to socialise and access to food preparation areas. It was noted these could be integrated into café areas in the new building.</li> <li>• The Board were concerned with student’s reporting difficulties in accessing hardship funds. Members were asked to consider communication and process.</li> <li>• The Board were asked to assist in encouraging students to participate in the next survey taking place in Term 1.</li> <li>• The Chair noted that it would be important for the Finance General Purposes Committee to view and consider the report. The Board would support this at Senate.</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	
056	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
<b>Next meeting: Wednesday 15 November 2023, 2pm</b>	
<b>Items below this line are for receipt and/or approval, without discussion</b>	
<b>Subsidiary and Sub-Committee Reports</b>	
057	<p><b>Faculty Education Committee: unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2023</b></p> <p>The Board received and noted the report (057-BFSS240523)</p>
058	<p><b>Faculty of Social Sciences ED&amp;I Report to the Social Inclusion Committee held on 17 April 2023</b></p> <p>The Board received and noted the report (058-BFSS240523 Protected)</p>
<b>Relevant Senate Committees Minutes and Reports</b>	
Board of Graduate Studies Minutes	<a href="http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/bgs/minutes/">http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/bgs/minutes/</a>
Partnerships Committee Minutes	<a href="https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/partnerships/minutes/">https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/partnerships/minutes/</a>
Academic Quality and Standards Committee Minutes	<a href="http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/aqsc/minutes/">http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/aqsc/minutes/</a>
University Education Committee Minutes	<a href="https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/ec/minutes/">https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/ec/minutes/</a>
Student Learning Experience and Engagement Committee Minutes	<a href="https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/sleec/minutes/">https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/sleec/minutes/</a>
University Research Committee Minutes	<a href="https://warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/committees/resc/minutes">https://warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/committees/resc/minutes</a>

**DECISIONS AND ACTIONS**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DECISION/ACTION</b>	<b>LEAD AND DUE DATE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>2022-2023</b>			
<b>054 (a) New University Research Centre Proposals</b>	The Board recommended the establishment of the Warwick Centre for Social Data Science (WCSDS) to the Research Committee, noting a suggestion that the Research Committee discuss the categorisation of WCDS with IER.	<b>Research Committee</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>054 (b) New University Research Centre Proposals</b>	The Board recommended the establishment of the Doctoral Education and Academia Research Centre (DEAR) to the Research Committee, noting the recommendations of reviewing the allocation of resources and the governance aspects.	<b>Research Committee</b>	<b>Complete</b>