

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK			
Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences			
Minutes of the meeting held at 10.00AM, Thursday 26 May 2022, Senate House Council Chamber			
Present	Professor Nick Vaughan-Williams	NVM	The Vice-Provost and Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences (Chair)
	Professor Jon Coaffee	JC	Professor, PAIS, (Deputy Chair, Research)
	Dr Naomi Waltham-Smith	NWS	Associate Professor, CIM (Deputy Chair, Education)
	Professor Matthew Clayton	MC	HoD, Department of Politics & International Studies
	Professor Nicholas Gane	NG	Professor, Department of Sociology
	Dr Marta Guerriero	MG	Associate Professor, Sustainable Development (Board of the Faculty of Arts representative)
	Professor Richard Hastings	Rha	Director, Centre for Educational Development Appraisal and Research
	Professor Kate Ireland	KI	Director, Centre for Teacher Education
	Professor Guy Longworth	GL	HoD, Department of Philosophy
	Professor Celia Lury	CL	Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies
	Professor Andrew Sanders	AS	HoD, School of Law
	Professor Jeremy Smith	JSm	HoD, Department of Economics
	Dr Anna Tranter	AT	Senior Teaching Fellow, Warwick Foundation Studies
	Professor Ema Ushioda	EU	HoD, Department of Applied Linguistics
	Professor Christopher Warhurst	CW	Director, Institute for Employment Research
Dr Chris Rogers	CR	Associate Professor, Department of Politics & International Studies	
Attending	Mahfia Watkinson	MW	Assistant Registrar Teaching and Learning (Secretary)
	Laura King	LK	Training Coordinator, ESRC DTP (Assistant Secretary)
	Becca Kirk	BK	Widening Participation Officer, Law (Assistant Secretary)
	Jackie Clarke	JC	Director of Faculty Administration, Faculty Social Sciences
	Rose Clarke	RC	Executive Officer, Faculty Social Sciences
	Kate Courage	KC	Academic Support Librarian, Library
	Sue Emms	SE	BDP (External). For agenda item 055.
	Alasdair MacIntosh	AMI	Programme Manager, Estates. For agenda item 055.
	Kate Mawson	KM	Associate Professor, CTE (Faculty Student Engagement Coordinator)
	Dr Jennie Mills	JM	Associate Professor, Academic Development

	Daniel Walder	DW	BDP (External). For agenda item 055.
Ref	Item		
045	<p>Apologies for absence Ananya Bagri (UG Student Rep); Maurizio Cuttin (UG Student Rep), Jonathan Forster (Statistics) Jonathan Garton (Law), Ruth Hewston (CLL), Christoph Hoerl (Philosophy), Adam Khan (PGT Student Rep), David Lees (Modern Languages), Andy Lockett (WBS), Ben Lockwood (Economics), Noortje Marres (CIM), Troy McConachy (DAL); Ross Ritchie (WBS), Ollie Sanderson Nichols (UG Student Rep), John Solomos (Sociology) Jacky Swan (WBS), Emma Smith (DES); Azrini Wahidin (Sociology)</p>		
046	<p>Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest declared.</p>		
047	<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>		
048	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2022 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2022 were not circulated with the agenda, to be approved remotely following the meeting.</p>		
049	<p>Matters arising from meeting held on 24 February 2022 Members received the Race Equality Report. Item 035, Athena Swan, would be added to the November meeting agenda.</p>		
Chair's Update			
050	<p>Chair's Business and Actions</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Board members to the first in person BFSS meeting since November 2019 and also welcomed those members attending online.</p> <p>Thanks were given to the student members for their contributions and insights: Ollie Sanderson-Nicholls, Ananya Bagri, Maurizio Cuttin and Adam Khan.</p> <p>The Chair invited colleagues to reflect on how the Board could build on student engagement work to strengthen student input into academic governance.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Jeremy Smith (Economics) who would be standing down as Head of Department, for their contribution and excellent support to the Faculty Board. Ben Lockwood would be replacing Jeremy.</p> <p>Mahfia Watkinson, Board Secretary, was moving to a new role withing EPQ, Head of Quality and Partnerships. The Chair thanked Mahfia for her commitment, support and dedication to the Board.</p> <p>The Chair informed the Board of the very sad news of the passing of Dr Timothy Sinclair. He was a highly respected and much loved colleague in PAIS and across the University. Tim had been a leading scholar of the global political economy of money and finance. The Board expressed their condolences and thoughts were with Tim's family and friends.</p>		

Main Items	
051	<p>Proposal to establish a new Research Centre</p> <p>The Board received the proposal to establish a new University Research Centre (Category II) - ‘Warwick Centre for Applications of the Mathematical and Computing Sciences (WCAMCS)’. Cha presented the proposal and welcomed comments from Board members.</p> <p>Members welcomed the Centre and gave their support, with the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board noted that as the topic area was interdisciplinary, there should be further focus on relationships with Social Sciences. Key to development was engagement with the Centre for Digital Inquiry (CDI) and some assurances were required on how links would be made with key partners, i.e. WBS. • Further focus required on how to develop themes in relation to funding. <p>DECISION:</p> <p>The Research Centre would be invited to revise and re-submit. Re-submission would be circulated for comments once received.</p>
052	<p>REF 2021</p> <p>The Chair congratulated colleagues and the Faculty on the outstanding REF results, the culmination of seven years hard work of all staff.</p> <p>The Deputy Chair (Research) provided a summary of the results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall performance was excellent. • Four academic disciplines, Economics (2nd), Classics (3rd), Computer Science (4th), and Business & Management (5th) featured in the UK’s Top 5 institutions • A further five disciplines, Mathematical Sciences (6th), Law (8th), Philosophy (8th), Politics and International Studies (9th) and Sociology (10th) featured within Top 10. • Warwick was rated as 7th overall for ‘outputs’ which reflects the consistently high quality of its published academic work. • The results also recognised an increase in the economic and societal impact of the University’s research, which highlights the real-world benefit of the University’s work. • 50% of Warwick’s submitted research was awarded the highest possible rating of ‘world leading’ (4 stars). A further 42% is ‘internationally excellent’ (3 stars). <p>It was agreed that further work was required on impact, however there had been some excellent individual scores. JC would be circulating a new acceleration bid for comment and asked colleagues to contribute with their impact stories.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed comments from the Board.</p> <p>IER noted that the Faculty does incredibly well and requested that this should be highlighted to the University in conjunction with further investment to reflect these successes. Board members requested that staff time should be funded to develop impact case studies, with a University recognition that this takes time. NWS noted this was a particular challenge for EDI and support for workload would be required. JC to raise workload at Research Committee.</p> <p>Board members noted that further leadership was required at University level on impact and to develop for next REF. There were significant successes in individual case studies on impact and what we could learn from 4* case studies. Members suggested a Faculty strategy on impact, some departments were already creating departmental impact strategies. The Chair would report these comments back to</p>

	<p>Research Committee, as impact is currently included within their agenda and encouraged members to start these conversations within the Faculty.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members to contribute their impact stories on the circulated acceleration bid. • The Chair to report comments to Research Committee.
053	<p>Research Report</p> <p>JC provided an oral report on Research matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98 awards secured totalling £9.16m, including ESRC new investigator grant. • New Investigator Grant for Ludovica Gazze (Economics) secured. This is the second NiG for the FSS in the last 6 months and both for Economics (previous winner – Arun Advani). • Two Leverhulme Research Fellowships awarded - Adam Slavny (Law) and Christine Schwobel-Patel (Law). The Faculty was limited to six submissions due to the institutional cap (which has since been lifted). • The Faculty has been successful in securing numerous Horizon Europe awards, (Ajmal Hussein, Sociology; Akwugo Emejulu, Sociology; George Christou, PaIS; and Tom Sorrell, PaIS) – totalling £1.01m. <p>The Chair thanked JC for his reporting.</p>
054	<p>Education Report</p> <p>The Deputy Chair (Education) provided an oral report on Education matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De-colonising sub group, funding had been secured to write up a guide to share best practice with the Faculty. Thanks given to Jeremy Smith for supporting the bid. • Back to future lecture event, there had been productive discussions on blended delivery. Feedback had been provided to the University and the Grand Challenge. • Internal Teaching and Learning Review (ITLR), two meetings had taken place and progress had been made on design. New deadline for submissions in mid November. This would provide further time at the start of term. • Education stream of the Grand Challenge, one meeting had taken place and another one had been scheduled. Focused on mode of delivery, formats, modality. In early July the focus would move to non-space elements. Programme Directors could schedule 1:1 discussions with NWS. • Thanks given to Mahfia and the secretariat team for supporting the sub-group. <p>The Chair thanked Naomi and the Education Committee for their work, providing innovative and useful resources and engagement with the Grand Challenge. The Chair welcomed comments from Board members.</p> <p>Board members requested further information on how ITLR would be addressing additional activities and workload, including EDI. NWS would raise this at the project board. Members were concerned of the extra workload of the curriculum review and the potential overlap with the ITLR. NWS understood that the curriculum review would be a 'light touch'.</p> <p>The Chair noted that these reviews were imposed from outside of the institution and are of institutional importance. There were plans for the process to be streamlined. The Chair requested all HoDs to start planning for expected workload.</p>

055

Taking the Social Sciences Grand Challenge Forward; update and next steps

The Chair welcomed Daniel Walder and Sue Emms from BDP and Alasdair MacIntosh (Estates Department).

AM gave a brief overview of the timescales. The project was currently in Stage 0 of the process – the requirements for physical space, where space might sit (new build, re-purpose) how it interacts with masterplan and sustainability. This stage would end in August. Approval is required to move into Stage 1 & 2 at beginning of next year and for all of 2023.

BDP colleagues presented an overview:

- BDP specialise in Higher Education. Architect business, however, provides a collaborative approach with engineers, landscape designers, lighting, etc. BDP design commercial space, so could bring knowledge across to education spaces. Previously worked with 99 universities, with lots of work on Business Schools and Social Sciences buildings
- Aware that HE teaching is shifting and a requirement that buildings are flexible for future needs to include teaching spaces and importance around collaborative space.
- Stage 0 provides key strategic objectives. A fixed brief would be developed at stage 2. There would be an opportunity for requirements to evolve and change, even after stage 2.
- Once there was a good understanding of activities and how the Faculty would be organised, a report brief would be provided.
- Vision and objectives of the BDP brief included: Understanding importance of departments and interdisciplinary working, contributing to wider master plan, carbon target and efficiency (effective as possible with the space).

BDP colleagues stressed that it was very much in the early stages and looked forward to developing a dialogue with Faculty colleagues.

The Chair welcomed comments and discussion from members:

- Members commented that it was important to consider the interdisciplinary working of the Faculty and to think about micro practices of individual depts. BDP reported that there were already lots of discussions about interdisciplinary working. They have found a lack in shared departmental space and co-working between depts, in informal spaces. Key drivers of the masterplan would be to collaborate– push departments to upper levels and first level as a shared space for everyone.
- Members requested further information on consultation with wider staff in the Faculty. BDP colleagues outlined that Town Hall style events would take place (end of week commencing 13th June) for wider staff cohort. Follow on meetings would be arranged, as required. They are looking to embed student engagement as well.
- Members would like to see interdisciplinary spaces with all of the University community and provide a space for community engagement. For example, direct delivery of mental health services on campus to see patients (providing research impact and community engagement). BDP colleagues were positive there would be opportunities do this through masterplan objectives. Discussions to be taken forward outside of the meeting.
- Members raised the importance of attracting and retaining staff, MRes and PhD students, reflecting on other universities poorly designed spaces. Members felt it was important to consider how to attract students back to physical spaces after two years online, through full student engagement. BDP would be looking at good practice, but would ensure bad practice is also reviewed. They were currently exploring the differing requirements of different cohorts within and across departments. It was important to create a sense of belonging for students for collaboration, not just to come to campus for teaching. PGR student representation would be required at the end of Stage 0.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members reported that some departments felt peripheral to Social Sciences currently. BDP colleagues reassured members that the process would review the organisation of departments before buildings were considered. Members felt that there was not enough focus on student engagement and requested further information on engagement with local community and possibly future students of the University. BDP colleagues confirmed that the current stage is establishing vision and project objectives. Further engagement with groups would take place in Stage 2, once the vision is established. A key part of stage 0 is the strategic vision, so it would be important to ensure correct individuals and groups were included. Members suggested utilising Warwick Institute of Engagement for external groups. Members felt student engagement is of particular importance and requested if ideas on ways to do this at this early stage, e.g. surveys, polls, etc. could be considered. <p>The Chair thanked BDP colleagues and the Board members for the very useful discussion. There would be an opportunity to continue conversations over lunch.</p>
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Other

056	<p>Any other business</p> <p>There was no AOB to be considered.</p> <p>Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences meetings, 2022/23:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday, 23 November 2022, 2pm-4pm. Wednesday, 22 February 2023, 10am-12noon. Wednesday 24 May 2023, 10am-12noon. <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>
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<i>Items below this line were received and/or approved, without discussion</i>
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Senate Committee Minutes and Reports

057	Board of Graduate Studies Minutes	http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/bgs/minutes/
058	Partnerships Committee Minutes	https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/partnerships
059	Academic Quality and Standards Committee	http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/agsc/minutes
060	University Education Committee Minutes	https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/ec/minutes/
061	Student Learning Experience and Engagement Committee Minutes	https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/sleec/minutes/

Closed by 12PM

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE
051	<p>DECISION:</p> <p>The Research Centre would be invited to revise and re-submit. Re-submission would be circulated for comments once received.</p>	

052	ACTIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board members to contribute their impact stories on the circulated acceleration bid.• The Chair to report comments to Research Committee.	Chair/Members
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