

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Board of the Faculty of Social Studies

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies held on 24th May, 2006.

Present: Professor M Luntley (Chair), Professor C Aubrey, Professor L Bridges, Dr P Ferdinand, Professor R Fine, Dr S Gardner, Professor A Harris, Professor M Harrison, Professor R Higgott, Dr C Hoerl, Professor K Legge, Dr P Mizen, Professor A Reeve, Professor J Scholte, Mr G Siles-Brugge, Ms D Stevens, Professor M Terry, Dr M Thomson, Professor M Waterson, Professor R Wilson, Dr C Wright, Dr M Zehfuss.

Apologies: Mr L Askins, Professor R Burridge, Professor P Elias, Professor P Huddleston, Dr C Hughes, Professor G Hundt, Professor S Kumar, Professor G Lindsay, Professor P Marginson, Professor J McGee, Dr I Morley, Professor R Naylor, Professor A Neal, Professor A Paliwala, Dr P Poellner, Professor H Thomas.

In Attendance: Dr R Hardy, Mr N Hull.

33/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 8th February, 2005, be approved.

34/05-06 Faculty Advisory Board Membership (minute BFSS.16/05-06 refers)

REPORTED:

- (a) That subsequent to the last meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies Mr Simon Finch had accepted the invitation to join the Faculty Advisory Board and Baroness Prosser had declined the invitation. Mr Finch's term of office will commence in September, 2006.
- (b) That at the last meeting of the Faculty Advisory Board Professor M Blaxter and Ms J Lewis indicated that, at the end of their current term of office, they wished to leave the Board.

CONSIDERED:

- (c) Inviting those external members of the Faculty Advisory Board whose term of office comes to an end this September to serve for a further term. For reference a copy of paper BFSS.11/05-06 [revised] setting out the current membership of the Faculty Advisory Board was provided.
- (d) Other appropriate persons who may be approached for membership of the Faculty Advisory Board from 2006/07, noting that a maximum of 20 external members may be appointed by the Strategy Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (e) That Heads of Departments indicate to the Secretariat appropriate individuals who may be approached for membership of the Faculty Advisory Board.

RECOMMENDED (to Strategy Committee):

- (f) That the Strategy Committee undertake a review of the continuing viability of the Faculty Advisory Board, it being noted that:
 - (i) concern was raised that the failure of the Faculty Advisory Board may have a negative impact upon the perception of the University amongst the external members;
 - (ii) in place of the Faculty Advisory Board the Faculty should develop thematic and focussed bodies which include appropriate external membership as a means of advising the development of Faculty policy. Examples might include the development of a Faculty International Strategy or inter- and multidisciplinary research between the faculties of the Arts and Social Studies.
- (g) That, should the Faculty Advisory Board continue, those external members of the Faculty Advisory Board whose term of office comes to an end this September be invited to serve for a further term unless the University has already received notification of their intent to decline a further term of office.

35/05-06

Chairs' Business: AUT Action Short of a Strike

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on the University's statements regarding the ongoing industrial action and the temporary Regulation approved by the Senate, at its meeting of 17th May, 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Registrar provide the Faculty with guidelines regarding the operation of the forthcoming First Year Board of Examiners and First Year Re-sit Board of Examiners, it being noted that:

- (a) Permitting a student, who might otherwise have been recommended to withdraw, to continue into year two of his/her degree may not be the most appropriate action;
- (b) A timetable for informing students of their need to re-sit one or more examinations in September be circulated;
- (c) For those students sitting examinations this Summer as a final attempt, guidelines for informing such students of the outcome of their examinations be drawn circulated.

36/05-06

Strategic Item for Discussion: International Strategy

CONSIDERED:

A paper and oral presentation from Professor A Harris, Deputy Chair of the Faculty, regarding the existing international strategies within the departments of the Faculty and how these might be developed further, as set out in paper BFSS.23/05-06.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Board express its thanks to Professor Harris for her research and presentation;
- (b) That the Board welcomed the developed of a Faculty-wide International Strategy provided that it was not prescriptive and that such a Strategy fitted with the developing University-wide Strategy;
- (c) That the Director of the International Office should clarify the role of that Office in terms of the development of an International Strategy for research and where the boundaries between the International Office and Research Support Services lie in this regard;
- (d) That the Director of the International Office consider enhancing the University's reputation and activities in Europe, paying particular attention to the European Union Framework 7 initiatives;
- (e) That the Director of the International Office consider the development of thematic or regional strategies rather than those based solely in one country, it being noted that the Board considered a network of individuals with a common interest may develop organically regardless of location;
- (f) That the Faculty Research Committee in future include a discussion of international issues as a standing item on each of its agenda;
- (g) That the Faculty consider further, through its Research Committee in the first instance, the establishment of a multi-disciplinary Centre for European Studies, or a "Europe Forum", it being noted that the Board had no appetite for the establishment of an International Strategy sub-committee.

37/05-06

Elections to the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies (and its sub-committees) and to University committees for the 2006/07 Academic Year

CONSIDERED:

- (a) Nominations to the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies and its sub-committees for the academic year 2006/07 (paper BFSS.24/05-06), it being noting that Professor M Luntley will be on study leave in 2007/08.
- (b) Nominations to University committees (BFSS.25/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (c) That the nominations to the Board of the Faculty, and its sub-committees, as set out in paper BFSS.24/05-06, be approved, it being noted that:

- (i) The Head of the Law School be requested to provide the Secretary to the Board with his nominations to the Board as soon as possible;
 - (ii) That Heads of Departments provide the Secretary to the Board with nominations for the remaining positions as soon as possible.
- (d) That the nominations from the Faculty to serve on University committees received to date, as set out in paper BFSS.25/05-06, be approved, it being noted that:
- (i) The three vacant positions on the Senate be filled by:
 - (A) Professor R Higgott (Politics and International Studies);
 - (B) A professorial representative from the Warwick Business School, it being further noted that Professor M Terry would seek an appropriate nomination from within the School and notify the Secretary to the Board as soon as possible;
 - (C) Another member of academic staff from within the Faculty, it further being noted that the Secretary to the Board would circulate a request to the Heads of those Departments within the Faculty currently without representation on the Senate.
 - (ii) That the Secretary to the Board continue to pursue nominations for the other vacant positions.

38/05-06 Report from the Faculty Research Committee

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the Faculty Research Committee meeting held on 10th May, 2006, paper BFSS.26/05-06, it being noted that the Chair of the Committee was organising a "New Frontiers" away day for newly appointed researchers in the faculties of Arts and Social Studies with the aim of increasing collaborative bids to research funding bodies.

39/05-06 Report from the Faculty Undergraduate Studies Committee

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the Faculty Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 3rd May, 2006, paper BFSS.27/05-06.

40/05-06 Report from the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee

RECEIVED:

The *unconfirmed* minutes of the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 9th May, 2006, paper BFSS.28/05-06.

41/05-06 Report from the Faculty IT Committee

REPORTED:

That the meeting of the Faculty IT Committee had been postponed until 14th June, 2006.

42/05-06 Report from the Faculty Advisory Board

(a) RECEIVED:

The minutes of the Faculty Advisory Board meeting held on 28th February, 2006, paper BFSS.30/05-06.

(b) REPORTED:

That the meeting of the Faculty Advisory Board scheduled for 15th May, 2006 had been cancelled.

43/05-06 Establishment of a new Research Centre

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Department of Sociology (BFSS.31/05-06) setting out a proposal for a new Research Centre; the Centre for Rights, Equality and Diversity, noting that the proposal had been amended in light of the recommendations made by the Faculty Research Committee.

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposal from the Department of Sociology to establish a new Research Centre entitled the Centre for Rights, Equality and Diversity, be approved subject to the Chair of the Management Committee being a person other than the Director of the Centre.

44/05-06 Quinquennial Review of the Centre for English Language Teacher Education

REPORTED:

(a) That the Steering Committee, at its meeting of 27th February, 2006, reported:

(i) That revisions to the cost drivers for the charging of bursaries to departments would be undertaken with a view to mitigating the impact of increases in central service charges from 2006/07 on departments such as CELTE whose student cohorts will largely be ineligible for bursaries under the Warwick Undergraduate Aid Programme.

(ii) That the Finance Office would be reviewing the issues identified in the Report from the Review Panel in regard to remuneration to CELTE for its provision of in-session courses to students throughout the University.

(b) That the Steering Committee, at its meeting of 3rd March, 2006, resolved:

- (i) That the Acting Director of Finance co-ordinate the referral of the Report on the Quinquennial Review of the Centre for English Language Teacher Education to the Academic Activities Sub-Committee of the Academic Resourcing Committee.
- (ii) That the full report be referred to the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies.

CONSIDERED:

- (c) The Quinquennial Review Report of the Centre for English Language Teacher Education (CELTE) (paper SC.202/05-06);
- (d) A paper setting out CELTE's response to its Quinquennial Review Report and a commentary from the Finance Office on the financial aspects of the Report (SC.231/05-06).

RECOMMENDED (to the Academic Resourcing Committee):

- (e) That a wider review of central service charge drivers be undertaken bearing in mind the impact of the new variable tuition fee income.

45/05-06 Quinquennial Review of the Department of Economics

REPORTED:

That the Quinquennial Review of the Department of Economics took place on the 21st and 22nd March, 2006, and that the Review report would be considered by the Steering Committee later this term.

46/05-06 Ordinance 9: Board of the Institute of Education

CONSIDERED:

A proposal from the Warwick Institute of Education to revise Ordinance 9 relating to the Board of the Institute of Education, papers BFSS.30/05-06 and BFSS.32/05-06.

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposal from the Warwick Institute of Education to amend Ordinance 9 relating to the Board of the Institute of Education be approved as set out in papers BFSS.30/05-06 and BFSS.32/05-06.

47/05-06 Annual Course Reviews

REPORTED:

- (a) That following the recommendations of the Undergraduate and Graduate Studies Committees of the Faculty of Social Studies the Academic Quality and Standards Committee has resolved that the Teaching Quality team scope out possible major changes to the Annual Course Review process involving automation of some or all of the process, including the possibility of a database along the lines of the Course Specifications database, or the pre-

population of some parts of the report form from central sources, to encourage evaluation and enhancement work rather than focusing departments' efforts on data production;

CONSIDERED:

Summary reports of the 2004/05 Annual Course Reviews for:

- (b) undergraduate courses in the Faculty (paper UFSS.39/05-06 [revised]);
- (c) taught postgraduate courses in the Faculty (paper GFSS.322/05-06;
- (d) research programmes in the Faculty (paper GFSS.321/05-06, noting that the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty resolved that the issue regarding office and/or work space for postgraduate research students should be referred to the Board of Graduate Studies.

RESOLVED:

- (e) That the summary reports of the 2004/05 Annual Course Reviews for undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research courses be approved, it being noted that the Board endorsed the resolution of the Graduate Studies Committee regarding the office/work space for postgraduate research students.