

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 March 2009

Present: Mr J Leighfield (Chair), Professor S Bassnett, Professor L Bridges, Professor S Bright, Mrs V Cooke, Sir George Cox, Professor J Davey, Mr P Dunne, Mrs P Egan, Mr A Glyde, Mrs V Heywood, Mr J Higgins, Professor R Higgott, Professor K Lamberts, Professor R Lindley, Mr G Lyons, Mr K Muthalagappan, Professor S B Palmer, Mr A Rivett, Mr N Sanders, Professor M Smith, Professor Sir John Temple, Professor N Thrift, Mr B Woods-Scawen, Professor V Zammit.

Apologies: Professor Y Carter, Dr R Chung, Mrs T Elliott, Mr M Greenlees, Mr D Holmes, Mr K Singh, Mr S Thomson, Professor M Whitby

In Attendance: Registrar, Finance Director, Deputy Registrar, Director of Estates, Academic Registrar, Head of Governance Support Services, Assistant Registrar (Deputy Registrar's Office).

70/08-09 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2008 be approved.

71/08-09 Pulse Survey (Minute 53(b)/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the results of the 2009 Pulse survey were currently being analysed, and that early indications were that the University was at or above the median in most areas of the survey, noting that the response rate in 2009 was 61% compared to 50% in 2008.

72/08-09 Corporate Planning Statement (Minute 60/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the University's Corporate Planning Statement, as approved by Council at its meeting of 11 December 2008, had been accepted by the HEFCE without any amendments.

73/08-09 Effectiveness Review of Non-Departmental Decision Making and Governance

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

- (a) That, following the 2007/08 Effectiveness Review of Council, the Senate had commissioned a review of the wider non-departmental committee governance arrangements.
- (b) That a consultative group, convened by Professor Jonathan Seville, would steer the Review.

- (c) That the Review would begin with an open questionnaire to staff and students, followed by interviews with individuals from across the institution.
- (d) That the Review Group aimed to bring forward an initial analysis of its findings and any related recommendations for consideration by the Senate and the Council in the Summer Term.

74/08-09 Future Strategic Topics and Presentations for Meetings of the Council

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That the list of Future Strategic Topics and Presentations, as set out in paper C.39/08-09 had been updated in the light of recent suggestions from members of the Council, and that further recommendations on potential future items were welcome.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That 'Business Engagement and Impact' be added to the list of Future Strategic Discussion Items.
- (b) That the topics 'Developing the Campus' and 'University Physical Development and Architectural Distinction' be combined into a single, high priority topic.
- (c) That further consideration be given to the prioritisation of the 'Olympics 2012 – Opportunities for Warwick?' presentation item.
- (d) That the strategic topic of 'Warwick: Navigating the Recession' would be revisited regularly over the coming months.

75/08-09 Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had been awarded £3.6 million by the ESRC to create a new Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy, which would focus on how markets, institutions and public policies interact to create and sustain competitive advantage in a changing global economy.

76/08-09 Warwick Prize for Writing

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the winner of the inaugural Warwick Prize for Writing had been announced at a reception in the Warwick Arts Centre on 24 February 2009, and that the winning entry was 'The Shock Doctrine' by Naomi Klein.
- (b) That the theme of 'Colour' had been announced for the 2011 Warwick Prize for Writing.

77/08-09 Meetings and Incentives Travel Awards

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Warwick Conferences had won the following awards in the Meetings and Incentives Travel Awards for 2009:

- (a) Best Academic Venue (Gold Award) – Conference Park
- (b) Best UK Management Training Centre (Silver Award) – Scarman
- (c) Best Value for Money Conference Centre (Silver Award) - Scarman

78/08-09 Science City

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the first six of the HEFCE Funded Science City Research Fellows had been appointed, and that following agreement on Energy Efficiency proposals, that project was beginning to spend.

79/08-09 iTunes U

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the recent launch of Warwick's presence on iTunes U had been a major success, with the University currently top of institutions in terms of downloads, with over 78,000 at the time of the meeting.

80/08-09 International Gateway for Gifted Youth (IGGY)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That following the success of the IGGY U residential programme held in Singapore in December 2008, two further IGGY U programmes would be held in the summer of 2009, one at Warwick and one in Canada in partnership with the University of Alberta.

81/08-09 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008

RECEIVED:

A presentation from the Vice-Chancellor on the results of the recent Research Assessment Exercise.

REPORTED:

(by the Registrar)

- (a) That the changes in the allocation methodology, particularly that of funding 'pockets of excellence', had led to a marked reduction in funding to Russell Group institutions and that the protection of STEM subjects had impacted on funding allocations in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (b) That the overall results of the RAE2008, which placed Warwick at seventh in the UK of multi-disciplinary institutions, were broadly satisfactory.
- (c) That the Faculty of Arts had performed very well, but that the Faculties of Science and of Social Studies in particular needed to significantly improve performance in the next RAE (REF), which was anticipated to take place in 2013/2014.

- (d) That there was no clear correlation between performance in the RAE and the resulting financial settlement.
- (e) That the University was committed to world-leading research throughout the institution, and that it was the aim that in the next RAE all departments should be in the top 5 in the UK and should submit 95% of staff in all but exceptional cases.

82/08-09 Membership of the University Council

(Note: John Higgins left the room for item 82(b)/08-09, and the Pro-Chancellor and the Treasurer left the room for item 82(c)/08-09 and 82(d)/08-09. Sir George Cox took the Chair for these items.)

CONSIDERED:

- (a) An oral report from the Pro-Chancellor on the meeting of the Nominations Committee that had taken place immediately prior to the meeting of the Council.
- (b) A recommendation from the Nominations Committee that Mr John Higgins, Chair of the Audit Committee, be appointed as a lay member of the University Council for the period from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2012.
- (c) A recommendation from the Nominations Committee that the term of office of Mr Brian Woods-Scawen, University Treasurer, be extended for a further year to 31 July 2011.
- (d) A recommendation from the Nominations Committee that the term of office of Mr John Leighfield, Pro-Chancellor and Chair of the Council, be extended for a further and final year to 31 July 2011.

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That he and Mr David Holmes would be consulting with members of the Council with regard to the nomination of a suitable successor for the Pro-Chancellor, and that it was hoped that a proposal for the appointment would be brought forward to Council in good time with a view to the appointee shadowing the Pro-Chancellor in his final year of office.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, in accordance with Statute 16 and Ordinance 4, Mr John Higgins be appointed to lay membership of the Council for the period from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2012 (passed nem con).
- (b) That, in accordance with Statute 6, Mr Brian Woods-Scawen be appointed as Treasurer for a further year until to 31 July 2011 (passed nem con).
- (c) That, in accordance with Statute 4, Mr John Leighfield be appointed as Pro-Chancellor for a further and final year until to 31 July 2011 (passed nem con).
- (d) That the Council formally thank the Pro-Chancellor and the Treasurer for their continued contribution to the University.

83/08-09 Recurrent Funding 2009/10

RECEIVED:

A copy of the letter from the HEFCE on the recurrent grant allocation to the University for the academic year 2009/10 and a report outlining the implications for the University (C.40/08-09).

REPORTED:

(by the Registrar)

- (a) That the Teaching grant was up by £0.9m compared to the current financial plan.
- (b) That the Research grant was down by £0.3m compared to the current financial plan, even though it had been anticipated that the plan was prudent.
- (c) That the figures represented a single-year settlement and that the HEFCE retained the scope to amend the figures quoted, particularly in light of the current economic situation.
- (d) That the University would receive £219k in transitional funding for 2009/10 only.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (e) That the unit of resource in terms of the Teaching grant provided to the sector as a whole had declined for the first time in a long time.
- (f) That in the previous academic year many universities, including Warwick, had overshot significantly in terms of student numbers, a large number of which were eligible for bursaries, and that a similar overshoot would not be accepted by the Government in future.

84/08-09 Report from the Senate

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report on selected items considered at the meeting of the Senate held on 11 March 2009 (C.41/08-09) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the following items of business:

- (a) Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Institutional Audit Draft Report

REPORTED:

- (i) That the draft report from the QAA had been received and that the outcome was very positive, with six commendations and only two recommendations.
- (ii) That the final report was expected to be published online in April 2009 together with a statement in response from the University.

(b) DIUS Funding Letter to HEFCE

REPORTED:

That the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills had written to the HEFCE detailing the priorities for the sector in 2009/10, confirming that funding for the higher education sector had been reduced by £19m for 2009/10, and that further reductions were still possible.

(c) Student Admissions for 2009/10

REPORTED:

That applications to Warwick were performing strongly in undergraduate, postgraduate taught and postgraduate research areas, with the latter reporting increases in applications of an average of 30%, and that the challenge was now to convert these applications into enrolments.

(d) Provisional Report on HEFCE Grant Adjustments 2008/09

(e) RAE 2008 Outcome

(f) HEFCE Economic Challenge Investment Fund

(g) Development and Alumni Fundraising

(h) Winter Degree Ceremonies 2009

(i) New Courses of Study

(j) Research Centres

85/08-09 Report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 3 March 2009 (C.42/08-09 {Parts 1 and 2}) together with an oral report and presentation from the University Treasurer on the following items of business:

(a) Financial Performance Report

REPORTED: (by the Treasurer)

That the current financial position of the University at the end of Quarter 2 was broadly in line with expectations, whilst noting that:

- (i) The deficit was currently projected at £3.7m against the £2.6m in the approved Financial Plan, though it was hoped that the situation would be improved.
- (ii) Commercial surplus was circa £1m down on budget.
- (iii) Cash flow was better than plan.

(b) IT Strategy

REPORTED: (by the Treasurer)

That it was the view of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that significant improvements had been made in performance of the University's IT services since the appointment of the new Director, and that it was the view of the Committee that IT requirements needed to continue to be reviewed to ensure that strategic goals could be achieved.

- (c) HEFCE Recurrent Funding 2009/10
- (d) Five Year Planning 2009
- (e) Estates Issues
- (f) Life Sciences Initiative
- (g) Report from the Working Party on Student Rents
- (h) Physics and Chemistry Building: Business Plan
- (i) Warwick Business School (Phase 3b): Business Plan
- (j) Report from the Steering Committee
- (k) Strategic Pensions Management

86/08-09 Report from the Building Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Building Committee held on 5 March 2009 (C.43/08-09) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Building Committee on the following items of business:

- (a) New Chemistry / Physics Building and Radcliffe Car Park

REPORTED:

That the Building Committee awaited approval from the Finance and General Purposes Committee for funding for the new Chemistry / Physics building and the new Radcliffe car park.

- (b) University Development Plan

REPORTED:

That the University's Development Plan had received approval from the relevant planning authorities, subject to approval of a Section 106 agreement.

- (c) Arts Centre Landscaping
- (d) Capital Planning and Accommodation Review Group
- (e) Energy
- (f) Progress of major projects

87/08-09 Report from the Audit Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 4 February 2009 (C.44/08-09) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Audit Committee on the following items of business:

- (a) Audit Committee Objectives

REPORTED:

That it was the view of the Audit Committee that they wished to add value to the University above and beyond their statutory duties, for example by acting as gatekeepers for relevant external requests for information.

- (b) Risk Management and Contract Liabilities

REPORTED:

That the Committee wished to stress the importance of ensuring that the appropriate systems were in place to balance risk and reward.

- (c) Internal Audit Reports
- (d) Value for Money Annual Report
- (e) Audit Committee Membership

88/08-09 Report from the Health and Safety Executive Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Health and Safety Executive Committee held on 16 February 2009 (C.45/08-09) together with an oral report from the Registrar on the following items of business:

(a) Strategic Action Plan

REPORTED:

That the Health and Safety Executive Committee would monitor the progress of the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for 2009/10, as approved by the Committee.

(b) Letter from the Environment Agency

REPORTED:

That the University had accommodated a request from the Environment Agency to pilot a new audit process in Warwick HRI, and that nothing of significance had arisen from the audit.

- (c) Health and Safety Executive Visit
- (d) University Health and Safety Committee
- (e) Annual Review and Report
- (f) Management of Stress and Work-related Stressors
- (g) UCEA Annual Report on Health and Safety

89/08-09 Risk Status Summary Report

RECEIVED:

A summary report outlining the current risk status for a selection of key risks of the University (C.46/08-09).

90/08-09 Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That, following the approval by the Council at its meeting in December 2008 of new arrangements for the appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the Committee for the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors had been established and would include as members:
 - (i) Senate Representatives as approved by the Steering Committee on behalf of the Senate at its meeting held on 9 February 2009:

Professor Peter Mack (English and Comparative Literary Studies)
 Professor Jonathan Seville (Engineering)
 Professor Christina Hughes (Sociology)

- (ii) A lay member of Council as approved by the Pro-Chancellor on behalf of the Council:

Ms Trudi Elliott

- (b) That there would be at least one vacancy for the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor from 2009/10 for an initial period of five years in accordance with the new arrangements approved by the Senate and the Council in the summer of 2008, due to Professor Bassnett standing down.
- (c) That the Committee for the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors would meet shortly to agree the arrangements for recruiting the new Pro-Vice-Chancellor, noting that the position would be advertised to all Professors in the University, and that the Committee's recommendation for appointment would be brought forward to the July meeting of the Council via the Senate.

91/08-09 Review of Devolved Departments

CONSIDERED:

A report outlining the proposed Terms of Reference for the Review of Devolved Departments (C.47/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That the Review of Devolved Departments would take place alongside the Review of Non-Departmental Governance, and that the Steering Committee had approved the following individuals to serve on the Devolved Departments Review Group:

Professor Michael Whitby (Chair)
Professor Sir John Temple
Professor Colin Sparrow
Professor Anthony McFarlane
Professor Christina Hughes

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference for the Review of Devolved Departments be approved as set out in C.47/08-09.

92/08-09 Strategic Topic for Discussion: Warwick: Navigating the Recession

CONSIDERED:

A paper, and accompanying oral report, from the Vice-Chancellor outlining the University's current economic position bearing in mind the strategic plan, a number of possible scenarios, and key issues and principles to be considered (C.48/08-09), together with a range of contributions from members of the Council.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University must ensure that any action taken by the institution in response to the economic downturn be done so in the context of remaining a University that delivers world class research and teaching in all areas and an exceptional student experience.

- (b) That it was acknowledged that the savings required in 2009/10 and 2010/11 could not be achieved solely through administrative efficiencies but by reflection on and prioritising activities which most effectively supported strategic goals.
- (c) That the following principles that should underpin the University's planning and decision making in the forthcoming period be broadly supported and, in particular, consideration be given to both what could be achieved in 2009/10 as well as in 2010/11:
 - (i) The University remains committed to a multi-disciplinary academic strategy covering the four faculties of Arts, Social Studies, Science and Medicine focused only on the fulfilment of international excellence in all supported areas.
 - (ii) The University's shape and structure is not pre-determined or fixed.
 - (iii) Academic Departments must be sustainable.
 - (iv) Investing in capital (buildings and equipment) is vital but it must be affordable
 - (v) The risks relating to borrowing should be managed and borrowing should be linked directly to projects that deliver positive strategic financial returns.
 - (vi) The 2008/09 deficit must be reversed in 2009/10.
 - (vii) The operating costs of the University must be optimised to focus on delivery of the Strategy.
 - (viii) The University's surpluses must be increased to allow for investment.
 - (ix) The University remains committed, even in challenging circumstances, to its role as a positive employer and an excellent learning and development environment for students.
 - (x) The quality and maintenance of the campus remains a vital internal and external signal of a well-managed institution.
- (d) That the Council wished to support the University in navigating the continued uncertainty and the difficult decisions that would have to be taken in order to position the University in the best possible place to take advantage of future opportunities.

93/08-09 Student Members of the Council

REPORTED:

That Andrew Bradley, a student from Department of Politics and International Studies, had been elected President of the Union of Students for the academic year 2009/2010 and that Mr Andy Perkins, a student from the Department of Economics, had been elected as the second student member of the Council for the academic year 2009/2010.

94/08-09 Report from the Equality and Diversity Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolution set out below a report from the meeting of the Equality and Diversity Committee held on 2 February 2009 (C.49/08-09).

Dignity at Work and Study Policy

RESOLVED:

That the Council approve the Dignity at Work and Study policy as set out in C.49/08-09 and as approved by the Senate at its meeting held on 11 March 2009.

95/08-09 Report from the Research Ethics Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meetings of the Research Ethics Committee held on 18 November 2008 and 24 February 2009 on the following items of business (C.50/08-09):

- (a) RCUK Consultation on Research Governance
- (b) Ethical issues in research funding
- (c) Federal Wide Assurance
- (d) Annual Report of the Research Ethics Committee

96/08-09 Report from the Honorary Degrees Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Honorary Degrees Committee updating the Council on those persons approved at the December meeting of the Council to accept honorary degrees from the University at the Degree Congregations from July 2009 onwards (C.51/08-09).

97/08-09 Awards and Distinctions

RECEIVED:

A paper setting out the awards and distinctions that have been conferred on members of the University since the last meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2008 (C.52/08-09).

98/08-09 Amendments to University Ordinances

CONSIDERED:

- (a) For the second time, proposed amendments to University Ordinance 13 (C.53/08-09).
- (b) For the first time, proposed amendments to University Ordinance 7 (C.54/08-09).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed amendments to University Ordinance 13 governing Degrees and Diplomas be approved for the second time as set out in paper C.53/08-09.
- (b) That the proposed amendments to University Ordinance 7 on the Constitution of the Boards of Faculties be approved for the first time as set out in paper C.54/08-09.

99/08-09 Amendments to University Regulations

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to University Regulations (C.55/08-09).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendments to the following University Regulations be approved as set out in paper C.55/08-09:

- (a) Regulations 9.5 and 8.10 regarding Constitution and Appointment of Boards of Examiners for the Degrees of MB ChB
- (b) Regulation 2 for Committee Elections
- (c) Regulation 3 for Committee Elections – Student Members
- (d) Regulation 8 for First Degrees
- (e) Regulation 9 for the Constitution of Boards of Examiners
- (f) Regulation 13 for the Continuation of Registration
- (g) Regulation 18 governing the Postgraduate Certificate in Education
- (h) Regulation 30 for the Procedure for appointment of Heads of Joint Schools in the Faculties of Arts and Social Studies
- (i) Regulation 34 for the Determination of Fitness to Practise

100/08-09 Deeds

REPORTED:

That, in accordance with Council minute 33/77-78, a copy of the deeds executed on behalf of the Council since the meeting of the Council on 19 March 2008 was available for consultation in the Deputy Registrar's Office and would be attached to the minutes in the official minute book (C.56/08-09).

101/08-09 Date of Next Meeting of the University Council

REPORTED:

That the next meeting of the University Council was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 8 July 2009 at the University.