

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 October 2009

Present: Mr J Leighfield (Chair), Mr K Bedell-Pearce, Mr A Bradley, Professor L Bridges, Professor S Bright, Professor A Caesar, Sir George Cox, Mr P Dunne, Mr J Higgins, Professor R Higgott, Professor K Lamberts, Professor R Lindley (through 17/08-09(part)), Mr G Lyons, Mr K Muthalagappan, Mr A Perkins, Mr A Rivett, Mr N Sanders, Professor M Smith, Professor Sir John Temple, Professor N Thrift, Professor M Whitby (through 17/08-09(part)), Mr B Woods-Scawen.

Apologies: Mrs V Cooke, Dr R Chung, Mrs P Egan, Mrs T Elliott, Mrs V Heywood, Mr G Howells, Professor V Zammit.

In Attendance: Interim Chair of the School of Life Sciences, Registrar, Finance Director, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Head of Governance Support Services, Assistant Registrar (Deputy Registrar's Office).

The Pro-Chancellor welcomed new members to the first meeting of the Council for the academic year 2009/10.

1/09-10 Appointment of Pro-Chancellor and Treasurer (minute 82/08-09 refers)

(Note: The Pro-Chancellor, Treasurer and Sir George Cox left the room for item 2/09-10. The Vice-Chancellor took the Chair for this item.)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That, as reported to the Council in its meeting on 18 March 2009, he and Mr David Holmes had canvassed the views of members of the Council as to the individual best placed to replace the current Pro-Chancellor at the end of his term of service on 31 July 2011, and who would shadow the current serving Pro-Chancellor until this date during 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Sir George Cox be appointed as Pro-Chancellor for four years from 1 August 2010 through 31 July 2014 and Chair of the Council from 1 August 2011 through to 31 July 2014, noting that during 2010/11 he would shadow the current serving Pro-Chancellor.
- (b) That Mr Brian Woods-Scawen's period of office as Honorary Treasurer be extended through to 31 July 2014.

2/09-10 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 July 2009 be approved.

- 3/09-10 University Financial Plan 2009 – 2013 (minute 124/08-09 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)
- That the Financial Plan Sub-Committee was continuing to meet and that the Financial Plan would be considered by the Financial and General Purposes Committee prior to being considered by the Council at its meeting on 27 November 2009.
- 4/09-10 Membership of the University Council
- RECEIVED:
- A statement of the membership of the Council for the 2009/2010 academic year (C.1/09-10).
- REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)
- That, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee and as communicated to members of the Council since the meeting held on 8 July 2009, Mr Glen Howells had been appointed to lay membership of the Council for the period through to 31 July 2012.
- 5/09-10 Future Strategic Topics and Presentations for Meetings of the Council
- RECEIVED:
- A list of future strategic topics and presentations for meetings of the Council (C.2/09-10).
- RESOLVED:
- That 'Effective Use of University Land' be added to the list of Future Strategic Discussion Items.
- 6/09-10 Gala Opening of the Butterworth Hall
- REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)
- That the Gala Concert to mark the re-opening of the Butterworth Hall held on the evening of 7 October 2009 that had been attended by numerous members of the Council had been a great success.
- RESOLVED:
- That the formal thanks of the Council be conveyed to Lady Butterworth for her ongoing efforts in leading the fundraising campaign.
- 7/09-10 Areas of responsibility of Pro-Vice-Chancellors (minute 117/08-09(c) refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- (a) That following the appointment of Professor Ann Caesar to the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor, there had been some revisions to the lead roles and responsibilities of the four Pro-Vice-Chancellors:

- (i) Professor Ann Caesar would assume the academic lead on the student experience.
 - (ii) Professor Michael Whitby would assume the academic lead for academic resourcing issues.
 - (iii) Professor Richard Higgott would retain the academic lead on Research matters (Arts and Social Science).
 - (iv) Professor Mark Smith would retain the academic lead on Research matters (Science and Medicine).
- (b) That all four Pro-Vice-Chancellors would take an active role in the areas of international affairs and fundraising.

8/09-10 Professor Stuart Palmer

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That Professor Palmer has stepped down from the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor for the 2009/10 academic year to assume the role of Interim Chair of the School of Life Sciences due to the strategic importance of developments in this area, and that he would continue to be invited to attend Council meetings as an attendee.
- (b) That the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor would remain vacant for the 2009/10 academic year.

9/09-10 Monash University Strategic Alliance

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had recently signed a Strategic Alliance Agreement with Monash University which would formalise the partnership which had been developed over the past year and would be supported by, amongst other things, a joint funding initiative to help academics to develop research and teaching projects which harnessed the combined strengths of both universities.

10/09-10 Times Higher Education Awards

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had been shortlisted for the 'University of the Year' award and that the winner would be announced on 15 October 2009.

11/09-10 University Rankings

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had been ranked at 6 overall in the recent Sunday Times UK University Guide and 58 in the Times Higher Education QS World University Rankings 2009.

12/09-10 Membership of Council Committees

RESOLVED:

That the membership of Council Committees for the 2009/2010 academic year as set out in C.3/09-10 be approved, noting that the Nominations Committee would pursue any further vacancies and that memberships would be published on the University's website.

13/09-10 Code of Corporate Governance, Statement of Primary Responsibilities and Delegated Authorities

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The University's Code of Practice on Corporate Governance (C.4/09-10).
- (b) The University's Statement of Primary Responsibilities (C.5/09-10).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University's Code of Practice on Corporate Governance as set out in paper C.4/09-10 be approved and adopted subject to a small number of further revisions.
- (b) That the University's Statement of Primary Responsibilities as set out in paper C.5/09-10 be approved and adopted.

14/09-10 Report from the Senate

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report of the recommendations and resolutions on selected items considered at the meeting of the Senate held on 7 October 2009 (C.6/09-10) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Registrar (item (a) only), the Academic Registrar (item (e) only) and the Registrar (item (e) only) on the following items of business:

- (a) Annual Report on Equality and Diversity and the Single Equality Action Plan

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That the work undertaken on the Single Equality Action Plan positioned the University well for the forthcoming introduction of the Single Equality Act.

RESOLVED:

That, on the recommendation of the Senate, the Annual Report on Equality and Diversity and the Single Equality Action Plan be approved by the Council.

- (b) Higher Education Funding Reviews

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the government had recently announced a forthcoming review of higher education funding agencies, inclusive of research councils, and their relationship with central government which, coupled with the independent review of HEFCE due to start in Autumn 2009, could instigate change in the higher education environment.

(c) HEFCE Review of Teaching Funding

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (i) That in July 2009, the HEFCE had launched a sector-wide consultation on proposals to withdraw from 2010-11 the following three targeted allocations from recurrent teaching funding:
 - (A) old and historic buildings
 - (B) accelerated and intensive provision of postgraduate taught subjects in price band D
 - (C) foundation degrees.
- (ii) That the University intended to respond strongly to the consultation because, if the proposed changes were implemented, there would be a significant impact on funding for Postgraduate Taught courses in the Arts and Social Science Faculties and for Foundation Degree provision at the University.

(d) National Student Survey Results 2009

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That there had been an overall rise in the University's performance in the 2009 National Student Survey, noting that the University's ambition remained to reach 90% and above in all categories, and that the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) would be working with departments in the coming year on strategies to achieve this.

(e) Admissions and Recruitment

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (i) That the current position with regard to Admissions and Recruitment for the current academic year was broadly healthy, noting that the final overall position would be known by 31 October 2009.
- (ii) That although there had been an overshoot on forecast numbers in overseas undergraduate, Home/EU undergraduate and PGT numbers, it was less severe than in the 2008/09 academic year.
- (iii) That the University remained outside of the HEFCE contract range and work continued as a priority to return to the University to the agreed contract range.

(by the Registrar)

- (iv) That remaining outside of the HEFCE contract range meant that there was the possibility that the University may be subject to penalties imposed by the HEFCE, although the nature and scale of any penalties (should they be imposed) were as yet unconfirmed.

- (f) The Future Funding and Direction of the Centre for Lifelong Learning
- (g) Update to the University's Access Agreement for 2010/11 Entry Students
- (h) International Programme in Leadership and Management in Higher Education
- (i) Constitutional Advisory Group

15/09-10 Report from the Remuneration Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Remuneration Committee (C.7/09-10), including the following items:

- (a) Terms of Reference and Membership
- (b) Senior Staff Salary Review, noting that all those considered by the Remuneration Committee had agreed to waive participation in the salary review process conducted by the Committee this year.

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Remuneration Committee be approved as set out in C.7/09-10.

16/09-10 Awards and Distinctions

RECEIVED:

A paper setting out the awards and distinctions that had been conferred on members of the University since the last meeting of the Council held on 8 July 2009 (C.8/08-09).

17/09-10 Strategic Topic for Discussion: *Progressing Towards Vision 2015*

RECEIVED:

An oral report and accompanying presentation from the Vice-Chancellor setting out key issues currently facing the University as it progressed its Vision 2015 strategy.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That excellent progress had been made towards the targets reflected in the Vision 2015 strategy in the two years since its launch;
- (b) That the underlying principles of income generation, increasing excellence in teaching and research, and raising the University's international profile remained central to the University as it moved into the next phase of strategy implementation;
- (c) That as well as progressing the original aims of Vision 2015, the University had been opportunistic where sensible and relevant;
- (d) That it was recognised that further work needed to be undertaken to increase the University's engagement with industry, noting that although significant links already existed, the University was well placed to exploit this area further;
- (e) That it was recognised that the University was operating in a very different financial environment to that under which the strategy was formulated and as such, careful reprioritisation of goals needed to be undertaken and consideration given to where resources should be focused to ensure maximum impact.

RESOLVED:

That the issues discussed by the Council would inform the topics for discussion at the Council Away Day to be held on 27 November 2009.

18/09-10 Register of Members' Interests

RECEIVED:

A copy of the Register of Interests of Members of the University Council for the academic year 2009/2010 as at 2 October 2009 (C.9/09-10), noting that the Register would continue to be amended with any further updates received and that the most up-to-date version would be published on the Council members webpage.

RESOLVED:

That those members who have not returned their completed and signed register of interest do so as promptly as possible.

19/09-10 Amendments to University Ordinances

CONSIDERED:

For the second time, proposed amendments to University Ordinance 7 on the Constitution of the Boards of Faculties and University Ordinance 13 governing Degrees and Diplomas (C.10/09-10).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendments to University Ordinance 7 on the Constitution of the Boards of Faculties and University Ordinance 13 governing Degrees and Diplomas be approved for the second time as set out in paper C.10/09-10.