

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 23 March 2011

- Present: Mr J Leighfield (Chair), Professor A Caesar, Mrs V Cooke (until item 91/10-11{part}), Mr P Dunne, Sir George Cox, Mrs P Egan (until item 91/10-11{part}), Professor S Hand, Mr J Higgins (until item 91/10-11{part}), Professor T Jones, Professor J Labbe, Professor K Lamberts (until item 91/10-11{part}), Professor A Muthoo, Mr A Rivett, Professor M Smith, Mr S Stanley, Mr D Stevens, Mr M Temple (from item 79/10-11), Professor N Thrift, Mr B Woods-Scawen.
- Apologies: Mr K Bedell-Pearce, Dame Fiona Caldicott, Dr R Chung, Mrs T Elliott, Mrs V Heywood, Professor R Higgott, Mr G Howells, Mr G Lyons, Professor M Taylor, Professor P Winstanley.
- In Attendance: Registrar, Finance Director, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Acting Head of Governance Support Services, Assistant Registrar (Deputy Registrar's Office).

78/10-11 Membership of the University Council

CONSIDERED:

Recommendations from the Nominations Committee for the appointment of lay members of the University Council (C.49/10-11).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, in accordance with Statute 14 and Ordinance 4, Mr Martin Temple CBE be appointed to lay membership of the Council for the period to 31 July 2013 (passed nem con).
- (b) That, in accordance with Statute 14 and Ordinance 4, and subject to the approval of the Cabinet Office being granted, Sir David Normington KCB be appointed to lay membership of the Council for the period from 1 September 2011 to 31 July 2014 (passed nem con).

NOTE: Paper C.49/10-11 was restricted to members and attendees of Council only.

79/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 February 2011 be approved.

80/10-11 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.48/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That further recommendations on future strategic topics and presentations for meetings of the Council were welcome, noting that work was being undertaken to reprioritise those items already on the list.

81/10-11 Conflicts of Interest

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

- (a) That the CUC Guide for Members of Higher Education Governing Bodies in the UK states that Council members should declare any interests relating to agenda items as soon as is practicable and should withdraw from the relevant part of the meeting.
- (b) That Council members were encouraged wherever possible to inform the Registrar prior to the meeting of any potential conflicts of interest, and were also invited to do so now if necessary.
- (c) That, prior to today's meeting, the Treasurer had notified the Registrar, the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor of his membership of the BIS Departmental Board, in light of the discussions relating to fees.
- (d) That following consideration, and noting that the BIS Departmental Board had no responsibility for policy, the Registrar, the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor were satisfied that there was no conflict of interest for the Treasurer.
- (e) That this item would be included on the agenda of the Council and its Committees as a standing item in future.

82/10-11 Recent University Successes

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University had recently been informed that it would have two members of staff on the ESRC Council.
- (b) That the Deputy Vice-Chancellor had led on a recent successful bid to the EPSRC for a multi-partner UK Magnetic Resonance Centre for Doctoral Training, to be led by Warwick.
- (c) That Professor Phil Mawby of the School of Engineering had recently led a successful application to the TSB/EPRSC Low Carbon Vehicle Integrated Delivery Programme, worth £3.6m.
- (d) That Professor Dariusz Ceglarek of WMG had recently been awarded a £4m grant through the EU FP7 scheme.
- (e) That it had recently been announced that WMG would be part of the Government's first Technology and Innovation Centre.

83/10-11 Warwick Prize for Writing

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the winner of the second Warwick Prize for Writing, Peter Forbes, had been announced on the evening of 22 March 2011 at a ceremony held in London.

84/10-11 Gift Oversight Committee

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had established a Gift Oversight Committee in 2007 which had responsibility for overseeing any gifts to the University that required consideration in relation to the University's regulatory framework or for ethical reasons.

85/10-11 UK Immigration Policy

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That there had been the following developments in UK immigration policy since the last meeting of the Council:

- (a) That a new Tier 1 category, Exceptional Talent, had been introduced with an initial cap of 1,000 places nationally, noting that this was likely to be highly competitive.
- (b) That the cap of 20,700 Tier 2 visas to be awarded in 2011/12 would not apply to those employees already holding visas and working in the EU, nor to applicants from EU member states, noting that it was likely that visa applicants holding degrees would be prioritised which would favour universities.
- (c) That the Tier 4 changes, whilst still not ideal, were substantially better than had been anticipated, and included:
 - (i) An English Language requirement of B2 level, although this may be waived for 'exceptional' students, on the request of academic registrars;
 - (ii) That students graduating from a UK university with a recognised degree, PGCE, or PGDE would be able to switch into Tier 2 under certain conditions.

(by the Students' Union President)

- (d) That it would be important to effectively communicate the new changes to international students, given that the original proposals had far more significant implications for study arrangements.

86/10-11 Report from the Senate

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report on selected items considered at the meeting of the Senate held on 16 March 2011 (C.50/10-11) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the following items of business:

(a) Revised Appointment Process for Faculty Chairs from 2011/12

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That, following the recommendation of the Harris report to review the role of Faculty Chairs, the Senate was informed that the new appointment process for Faculty Chairs would be implemented during the summer term for recruitment to the role of the Chairs of the Faculties of Science and Arts.

(b) Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (i) That following the approval of the recommendation to appoint Professor Margot Finn as Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the last meeting of the Council, she would commence in her role from 1 April 2011 with a focus on outreach, access, and supporting development and fundraising.
- (ii) That, the Committee on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors would meet early in the Summer Term 2011 with a view to making recommendations to the Council for the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor commencing 1 September 2011.
- (iii) That the Committee would be constituted as specified in Ordinance 3 and would consist of:
 - (A) The Vice-Chancellor
 - (B) Three representatives from the Senate: Professor Mike Shipman, Professor Christina Hughes and Professor Sean Hand.
 - (C) A lay member of the Council: Viki Cooke.

(c) Tuition Fees and Access Agreement

(d) HEFCE Funding for Universities and Colleges in 2010/11 and 2011/12

(e) Immigration Issues

(f) Pay Negotiations

(g) Research Excellence Framework

87/10-11 Report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED, with the resolutions set out below, a report from the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 18 March 2011 (C.51/10-11) together with an oral report from the Treasurer on the following items of business:

(a) Financial Plan 2010 Resubmission

REPORTED: (by the Treasurer)

That the HEFCE required resubmission of the University's 2010 financial plan to take into account the announced HEFCE grant cuts and planned tuition fees.

RESOLVED:

That, on the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the University 2010 Financial Plan 2010 be approved and resubmitted to the HEFCE.

(b) Financial Plan 2011

RESOLVED:

That, on the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the parameters for the 2011 financial planning process be approved as set out in paper FGPC.35b/10-11 of paper C.51/10-11.

(c) Financial Performance for Quarter 2

REPORTED: (by the Treasurer)

- (i) That the forecast overall income for 2010/11 was £422m against a budget of £423m.
- (ii) That the forecast overall surplus for 2010/11 had been revised upwards to £9.3m against a budget of £8.6m.
- (iii) That due to the profile agreed with RBS for the drawdown of the new loan facility, the total loans held at 31 July 2011 would be approximately £13m lower than previously planned.
- (iv) That University cash balances remained strong.

- (d) Tuition Fee Setting
- (e) New Student Residences Proposal
- (f) Combined Heat and Power Plant (Energy Centre) Proposal
- (g) Estates Issues Report
- (h) Science Park Acquisition Update
- (i) Westwood Freehold Update

88/10-11 Report from the Building Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED, with the resolutions set out below, a report from the Building Committee (C.52/10-11) together with an oral report from the Director of Estates on the following items of business:

(a) Capital Investment Framework 2

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

- (i) That the University had recently been informed by the HEFCE that its submission under the Capital Investment Framework 2 (CIF2) had been successful, subject to conditions including the formal approval of the Carbon Management Implementation Plan by the Council.
- (ii) That the Plan would continue to be developed over the coming years.

(by the Finance Director)

- (iii) That the HEFCE had recently announced the allocations to be made under CIF2, which were significantly reduced compared to the previous allocations.
- (iv) That the funding would be allocated according to the newly prescribed capital expenditure aims of reducing carbon emissions and improving space utilisation.

RESOLVED:

That, on the recommendation of the Building Committee, the University's draft Carbon Management Implementation Plan be approved for submission to HEFCE.

- (b) Building Names

RESOLVED:

That, on the recommendation of the Building Committee, the proposal to formally name the 'TM2' Medical School building the 'Mechanochemical Cell Biology' building be approved.

- (c) Life Sciences
- (d) Coventry House
- (e) University Master Plan
- (f) Humanities Building
- (g) Estates Management Statistics

89/10-11 Report from the University Health and Safety Executive Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED, with the resolution set out below, a report from the meeting of the University Health and Safety Executive Committee held on 7 March 2011 (C.53/10-11) together with an oral report from the Chair of the University Health and Safety Executive Committee on the following items of business:

- (a) Annual Health and Safety Review, Report and Action Plan

RESOLVED:

That, on the recommendation of the University Health and Safety Executive Committee, the Annual Health and Safety Review and Report for 2010 and Action Plan for 2011 be approved.

- (b) Fire Safety and Asbestos Management Appointments
- (c) National Perspectives
 - (i) All-Party Parliamentary Group on Occupational Health and Safety
 - (ii) HSE Consultation
 - (iii) Corporate Manslaughter Legislation
 - (iv) HSE Guidance on Nanosafety
- (d) Higher Education Sector Perspective
- (e) University Genetic Modification and Biosafety Committee
- (f) Incident Investigation

90/10-11 HEFCE Recurrent Grant Allocation 2011/12

RECEIVED:

A copy of the letter from the HEFCE on the recurrent grant allocation to the University for the academic year 2011/12 and a report outlining the implications for the University (C.54/10-11).

91/10-11 Fees and the Access Agreement 2012/13

CONSIDERED:

- (a) An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor providing the Council with the national context on fees and access, noting:
 - (i) That the revised deadline for the submission of the University's proposed Access Agreement to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) was 19 April 2011.
 - (ii) That it appeared that OFFA had moved away from proposals to penalise or fine universities for missing access targets and would instead respond through dialogue with institutions in the first year of operation of the new Access Agreement.
 - (iii) That Council had responsibility under Statute for the approval of tuition fees, having considered the recommendations of the Senate.
 - (iv) That it was proposed that Council delegate to the Steering Committee the approval of the final Access Agreement, pending further work on the finer details.
 - (v) That there appeared to be a strong internal consensus that Warwick should charge at the top end of the fee level with regards to funding excellence, market positioning and reputation with both the Senate and the Finance and General Purposes Committee recommending this, noting that this had also been the view expressed at the last meeting of the Council.
 - (vi) That as a general principle it was not proposed to charge different fees for different courses, whilst noting that:
 - (A) for certain activities (particularly those which made a large contribution to widening access benchmarks, such as 2+2 and Foundation degrees) a lower fee may be appropriate.
 - (B) That different fee levels for the 4th year of some integrated masters programmes and intercalated years may be appropriate.
 - (vii) That institutions charging at the higher end of the fee scale, but who had lower participation of students from under-represented groups, would be required to re-invest a significant proportion of additional income into widening participation activities.
 - (viii) That Warwick was in the lowest quartile in this regard, although performed well in comparison with the majority of its Russell Group peers.

- (b) A paper outlining the proposals in relation to fees and the access agreement 2012/13 (C.55/10-11), and an accompanying presentation from the Deputy Registrar.

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That further analysis and consideration was being given to the proposed level of expenditure for access in light of OFFA guidance
- (b) That the fees proposed in the Access Agreement would pertain to the cohort beginning their studies in the 2012/13 academic year, and that the University would be able to amend levels for future cohorts if it was deemed appropriate to do so.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (c) That student expectations about the quality of their experience would increase as a result of fee increases.
- (d) That Warwick's analysis of demand suggested that there would be sufficient resilience in recruitment, even with a fee at the higher end.

(by Professor Muthoo)

- (e) That it was his view that instead of setting certain fee levels at less than £9,000 per annum, it may be beneficial to set all fee levels at £9,000 and implement appropriate bursary schemes to reduce the cost where applicable.
- (f) That it was his view that the market would support fee levels of £9,000 per annum in the long term.
- (g) That clear communication to potential students that the payment was not required upfront would be very important.

(by the Students' Union President)

- (h) That it was the position of the Students' Union to formally oppose a standard fee level of £9,000 per annum.
- (i) That it was his view that the fee for intercalated years should be very carefully considered in order to assure value for money for students.
- (j) That he was in favour of differentiated offers to applicants to assist with widening participation.

(by Mr P Dunne)

- (k) That clear communication of the focus of investment of additional income to support the future excellence of the University would be vital.
- (l) That it was his view that the University should concentrate its communication on what its widening participation activities achieved, rather than how much was spent on it.

(by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (m) That there may be unintended behavioural consequences of the new fees regime, for example less cooperation between institutions on widening participation activity.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposals relating to tuition fees, access arrangements and outreach work as set out in C.55/10-11 be approved.
- (b) That further consideration be given to the proportion of additional fee income to be spent on access, pending further modelling of the University's relative position on access targets.
- (c) That authority be delegated to the Steering Committee for approval of the final level of tuition fees and the financial support arrangements for specific courses and areas, within the parameters as set out in C.55/10-11.

(following a vote by show of hands: 12 in favour and 2 against)

92/10-11 Student Members of the Council

REPORTED:

That Mr Leo Bøe, the current Students' Union Welfare Officer, had been elected President of Warwick Students' Union for the academic year 2011/12 and that Mr Jonathan Higgs, a student from Warwick Business School, had been elected as the second student member of the Council for the academic year 2011/12.

93/10-11 Warwick Arts Centre Annual Report 2009/10

RECEIVED:

The Warwick Arts Centre Annual Report and Accounts for the 2009/10 financial year (C.58/10-11).

94/10-11 University Regulations

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to Regulation 2.1 for the Timetable of Committee Elections (C.59/10-11).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendments to Regulation 2.1 for the Timetable of Committee Elections, as recommended by the Senate and set out in C.59/10-11, be approved.

95/10-11 Deferral of Agenda Items

RESOLVED:

That agenda item 11 (Effectiveness Review of the Council) and agenda item 12 (Awards and Distinctions) be deferred for consideration at the July 2011 meeting of the Council.

NO/KG/GB/Council/2010-11minutes/23Mar11mins.doc