

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 December 2006

Present: Mr J Leighfield (Chair), Professor S Bassnett, Professor L Bridges, Professor A Caesar, Professor Y Carter, Mr B Duggan, Mr M Dunn, Mr D Holmes, Professor J D S Jones, Professor R Lindley, Professor S B Palmer, Mr A Rivett, Mr N Sanders, Professor M Smith, Professor Sir John Temple, Professor N Thrift, Mr P Varney, Professor M Whitby, Mr B Woods-Scawen.

Apologies: Mr M Angle, Sir George Cox, Mr P Dunne, Professor R Freedman, Miss V Gooding, Mr M Greenlees, Mr J Higgins, Ms S J Hobson, Miss R Thorne, Academic Registrar.

In Attendance: Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Deputy Registrar, Registrar, University Secretary, Ms Y Salter Wright.

34/06-07 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2006 be approved.
- (b) That the statement of internal controls provided by the Treasurer and appended to the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November be approved as an appropriate means of providing the Council with the assurance that proper internal control mechanisms were in place such that the Council might sign off and approve the management representation letter to the University's External Auditors.

35/06-07 Membership of the University Council

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Pro-Chancellor on the progress being made in identifying further new lay members of the Council.

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A recommendation from the Nominations Committee that Mr Gerard Lyons, Head of Treasury Research at Standard Chartered Bank, be appointed as a lay member of the University Council for the period until 31 July 2009.
- (b) Recommendations from the Pro-Chancellor, acting on behalf of the Nominations Committee, for the appointment of members of Council Committees.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Mr Gerard Lyons, Head of Treasury Research at Standard Chartered Bank, be appointed as a lay member of the University Council for the period until 31 July 2009.

- (b) That Mr Patricke Dunne be appointed to membership of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- (c) That Mr David Holmes be appointed to membership of the Nominations Committee, the Honorary Degrees Committee and the Audit Committee subject to confirmation from the HEFCE that Mr Holmes' part-time engagement with KPMG did not represent a barrier to his serving on the Audit Committee.
- (d) That Professor Michael Waterson and Professor Colin Sparrow be appointed to the two vacant places in academic membership of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
- (e) That, notwithstanding the provisions of University Ordinance 4 on the Procedure for the Appointment of Lay Members of the Council, any recommendations from the Nominations Committee for appointment to current vacancies in lay membership of the Council arising from approaches made by the Pro-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor to potentially suitable individuals identified by the Nominations Committee be submitted for the approval of the Council in writing in advance of the meeting of the Council to be held on 21 March 2007.

36/06-07 Strategic Debate at Council Meetings

CONSIDERED:

Potential topics for strategic and informed debate at future meetings of the University Council arising from discussion at the Council and Strategy Committee Awayday held on 24 November 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Chancellor bring forward for consideration at the next meeting a forward programme of potential strategic topics for discussion at meetings of the Council with a view to incorporating these into the future timetable of Council business.

37/06-07 Investment in Research

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That good progress was being made in seeking appointments to over 40 new academic posts, new Postgraduate Studentships and the establishment of a University Institute for Advanced Study which form part of the significant new investment in initiatives to support research excellence approved by the Council at its last meeting.

38/06-07 Universities Superannuation Scheme

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the recent decisions reached by the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) which restricted provision for enhanced early retirement for members and increased the retirement age for all new subscribers to USS and which could be expected to have a significant impact on the HE sector.

39/06-07 Academic Statistics 2006/07

RECEIVED:

The University's Academic Statistics document for the academic year 2006/07 together with an oral report from the Director of Academic and Student Affairs summarising a number of trends relating to the student, staff and research data presented in the document.

40/06-07 Report from the Senate

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report on selected items considered at the meeting of the Senate held on 6 December 2006 (C.21/06-07) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the following items of business discussed at the meeting of the Senate:

- (a) Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions;
 - (b) The University's performance in the University League Tables recently published by *Newsweek International*, the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and the Shanghai Jiao Tong University;
 - (c) Teaching Quality Issues and the steps being taken to improve the University's feedback mechanisms to students;
 - (d) The operation of the Warwick Undergraduate Aid Programme in its first year;
 - (e) Research issues, including the outcome of the recent DfES review of the RAE, the progress of the University's preparations for RAE 2008 and its recent performance in attracting research grant and contract income.
- (a) Constitution of the School of Engineering

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Senate on its proposals and recommendation on the structure management and constitution of the School of Engineering.

RESOLVED:

That the following recommendations of the Senate relating to the structure, management and constitution of the School of Engineering be approved:

- (i) That the current arrangements for the structure and management of the School of Engineering be extended until such a time as a new Dean of the School takes up his or her post or until 31 July 2008.

- (ii) That the new Dean of the School of Engineering, when appointed, be requested to consider the structure of and management arrangements in the School, in full consultation with the University, and to bring forward recommendations for consideration by the Senate and the Council in due course.

(b) Emeritus Professors and Readers

RESOLVED:

- (i) That, in recognition of distinguished service to the University, the title of Emeritus Professor be conferred on Professor C Hajarnavis of the Department of Mathematics with effect from his retirement on 30 September 2006.
- (ii) That, in recognition of distinguished service to the University, the title of Emeritus Reader be conferred on Dr H Hearnshaw of the Warwick Medical School with effect from her retirement on 30 November 2006.

41/06-07

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 5 December 2006 (C.22/06-07 {Parts 1 and 2}) together with an oral report from the Treasurer.

(a) Re-financing and Restructuring of the University's Borrowing Requirements

CONSIDERED:

A presentation delivered by the Treasurer on a project to be undertaken by the Finance Office to shape the best options available to the University to restructure and refinance its existing borrowings and to fund additional capital spend.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Finance Office proceed to develop a full proposal for re-financing and restructuring of the University's borrowing requirements for initial consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee in the Spring Term and with a view to a firm proposal being brought forward to the Council for consideration and approval at its meeting in the Spring Term.
- (ii) That in assessing the merits of potential proposals the following key principles be adopted:
 - (A) The majority of all future University borrowings continue to be restricted to funding income producing assets.
 - (B) Only a modest level of future borrowings would be generated to fund non-income producing assets and in any one year no more than 10% of total University borrowings would be raised for this purpose.

(C) The funding of the University's assets must be simple to administer, balanced in terms of risk profile, cost effective and flexible.

(D) The investment of surplus cash into investments or equity would be restricted to the value of the endowment income received by the University and, in addition, any cash that can be identified as representing a long term surplus of cash.

(b) University Financial Plan: Investment on HR Resources.

RESOLVED:

That, on the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, an additional £125k be invested in HR Resources for the academic year 2007/08 to support the University's additional staff recruitment programme.

42/06-07 Report from the Building Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolution set out below a report from the meeting of the Building Committee held on 23 November 2006 together with an oral report from the Chair of the Building Committee.

Naming of the new Building on the Westwood Campus

RESOLVED:

That, on the recommendation of the Building Committee, the new building on the Westwood Campus be named the 'Westwood Teaching Centre'.

43/06-07 Honorary Degrees Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolution set out below a report from the meeting of the Honorary Degrees Committee held on 6 December 2006 (C.24/06-07) together with an oral report from the Pro-Chancellor.

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

(a) That the names of those on whom it was proposed to confer honorary degrees should remain strictly confidential to members of the Council until replies had been received to all the invitations and the official list had been published by the University.

(b) That, following further consultation, additional recommendations for the award of honorary degrees might be brought forward by the Committee for approval by postal ballot in advance of the Spring Term meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That honorary degrees be conferred on the thirteen persons recommended by the Committee, including the proposed conferral of one honorary degree in an overseas location (passed nem con).

44/06-07

Equality and Diversity Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolutions set out below a report from the meeting of the Equal Opportunities Committee held on 30 October 2006 (C.25/06-07) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Equal Opportunities Committee.

(a) University Disability Equality Scheme

CONSIDERED:

The draft University Disability Equality Scheme and Action Plan (EDC3/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University Disability Equality Scheme and Action Plan be approved as set out in paper EDC3/06-07(revised).

(b) Equality and Diversity Action Plan

CONSIDERED:

The draft University Equality and Diversity Action Plan for the period 2006/07-2008/09 (paper EDC5/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University Equality and Diversity Action Plan for the period 2006/07-2008/09 be approved as set out in paper EDC5/06-07(revised).

(c) Workforce Profile: Analysis of Existing Staff

RECEIVED:

The Workforce Profile for current University staff for the academic year 2005/06 (EDC.6/06-07).

(d) Staff Recruitment Monitoring Report

RECEIVED:

The University Staff Recruitment Monitoring Report for the academic year 2005/06 (EDC.7/06-07).

45/06-07

Awards and Distinctions

RECEIVED:

A paper setting out the awards and distinctions that have been conferred on members of the University since the meeting of the Council held on 5 October 2006 (C.26/06-07).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That a new University award had been established to honour significant donors to the University, to be named The Benefactors' Medal, and that the first joint recipients of the medal were Ted and Myrtle Pridgeon.

46/06-07

Safety Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolutions set out below a report from the meeting of the University Safety Committee held on 10 November 2006 (C.27/06-07).

(a) Management and Governance of Health and Safety in the University

CONSIDERED:

A proposal from the University Safety Officer recommending changes to the management and governance of Health and Safety matters in the University (USC.3/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed changes to the management and governance of Health and Safety in the University, including the establishment of a new committee structure to provide for a University Health and Safety Committee and a University Health and Safety Executive Committee be approved as set out in paper USC.3/06-07.

(b) Revision of the University Safety Policy 'Safety in the University' (SITU)

CONSIDERED:

Revision of SITU Part 4 – Ionising Radiation (paper USC.9/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That the revisions to SITU Part 4 be approved as set out in paper USC .9/06-07.

47/06-07

Art Collection Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Art Collection Committee held on 29 November 2006 (C.28/06-07).

Annual Report on the University Works of Art Collection

RECEIVED:

The Annual Report on the University Works of Art Collection (ACC.2/06-07)

48/06-07 Amendments to University Regulations

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to University Regulations (C.29/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That proposed changes to University Regulations 9,10,11,13,14,23,27, and 31 be approved as set out in paper C.29/06-07.

49/06-07 Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors

REPORTED:

- (a) That the current periods of office of Professor Bassnett, Professor Lindley and Professor Whitby as Pro-Vice-Chancellors would expire on 31 July 2007.
- (b) That Professors Bassnett and Lindley were eligible for re-appointment for a second two year term of office and Professor Whitby was eligible for re-appointment for a third two-year term of office.
- (c) That, in accordance with the procedures for the appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors prescribed in Ordinance 3, the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors will bring forward during the Spring Term recommendations for appointment for consideration by the Vice-Chancellor who would recommend appointments to the vacant Pro-Vice-Chancellorships to the Council, through the Senate.