

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2008**

Present: Mr J Leighfield (Chair), Professor S Bassnett, Professor L Bridges, Professor S Bright, Sir George Cox, Professor J Davey, Mr P Dunne, Mrs T Elliott, Mr A Glyde, Professor R Higgott, Mr D Holmes, Professor K Lamberts, Professor R Lindley, Mr K Muthalagappan, Professor S B Palmer, Mr A Rivett, Mr N Sanders, Professor M Smith, Professor Sir John Temple, Professor H Thomas (for item 61/08-09), Mr S Thomson, Professor N Thrift, Professor M Whitby, Mr B Woods-Scawen, Professor V Zammit.

Apologies: Professor Y Carter, Dr R Chung, Mrs V Cooke, Mrs P Egan, Mr M Greenlees Mrs V Heywood, Mr J Higgins, Mr G Lyons, Mr K Singh.

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

49/08-09 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 November 2008 be approved.

50/08-09 Future Strategic Topics and Presentations

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That recommendations from members of the Council on potential future strategic topics and presentation items were welcome, noting that the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Chancellor would discuss how best to prioritise the topics.

RESOLVED:

That the issue of intellectual property be added to the list of Future Strategic Topics and Presentations as set out in paper C.38/08-09.

51/08-09 Award of the Emeritus Status

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That he had taken action on behalf of the Council to approve the award of the status of Emeritus Professor to Professor Audrey Mullender of the School of Health and Social Studies with effect from 1 April 2009 as recommended by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the Senate.

52/08-09 Winter Degree Congregation

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the Winter Degree Congregation, the first congregations to be presided over by the new Chancellor, Richard Lambert, would take place on Wednesday, 21 and Thursday, 22 January 2009 and that the Degree Congregation Dinner would take place on the evening of Wednesday, 21 January to which all members of the Council were invited to attend.

53/08-09 Report from the Senate

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolution set out below a report on selected items considered at the meeting of the Senate held on 3 December 2008 (C.27/08-09) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the following items of business:

(a) Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Institutional Audit

REPORTED:

That the interim report from the QAA commended the University in six different areas, a very positive result, and that the full draft report would be issued to the University in January and published later in the Spring 2009.

(b) Pulse Staff Survey

REPORTED:

That the next Pulse Staff Survey would take place in January 2009 and that information arising from the survey would be reported to the Council later in the year.

(c) Change in Name of the Faculty of Social Studies

RESOLVED:

That, on the recommendation of the Senate, the Council approved the change in the name of the Faculty of Social Studies to the Faculty of Social Sciences with effect from 1 October 2009, noting that consequential revisions to relevant governing instruments would be brought forward to the next meeting of the Council in March 2009.

- (d) Publication of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008 Results
- (e) Warwick Research Archive Project and Bibliometrics
- (f) DIUS Proposals for Changes to Financial Support for New Full-Time Higher Education Students
- (g) Sunday Times and Times Higher Education League Tables
- (h) Professorial Fellowships for Teaching Only Staff
- (i) Capital Developments
- (j) New Courses of Study
- (k) Research Centres

54/08-09 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 2 December 2008 (C.28/08-09) together with an oral report from the University Treasurer on the following items of business:

(a) Financial Performance Report

REPORTED:

(by the University Treasurer)

- (i) That the forecast deficit for the year 2008/09 had been revised upwards from £2.6m to £4.3m.
- (ii) That this revision reflected a decrease in projected income with little corresponding decrease in costs at this stage, and that the immediate challenge for the University was to address this.
- (iii) That the Finance and General Purposes Committee remained optimistic that the final performance for the year 2008/09 would be largely in line with plan.
- (iv) That further scenario-planning work relating to the financial plan for 2009/10 and beyond would be undertaken with the results being brought forward to a future meeting of the Council.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (v) That the University must be innovative in its approach to exploiting new opportunities to maintain progress towards the University's strategic goals.
- (vi) That the University would be considering its response to potential significant declines in public funding over the next two years.

(b) Warwick HRI

REPORTED: (by the University Treasurer)

That negative financial issues persisted at Warwick HRI, and that further information would be presented for the consideration of the Council at a future meeting in relation to the ongoing review of the Life Sciences at the University.

(c) Performance Bond Arising from the Funding of the Digilab

REPORTED: (by the University Treasurer)

That the University had issued a performance bond secured out of existing resources when funding for the Digilab had been approved, and that the University bankers had recently offered a facility agreement that encapsulated the existing Digilab Bond and to provide a facility for a new bond securing the Science City project.

RESOLVED:

That the Treasurer, Vice-Chancellor and Finance Director be authorised to approve the alternative bond on behalf the Council.

55/08-09 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 27 November 2008 (C.29/08-09) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Building Committee on the following items of business:

(a) Terms of Reference

RESOLVED:

That the revised Terms of Reference for the Building Committee be brought forward for consideration as part of the overall review of non-departmental governance that would take place in 2009.

- (b) Recent Capital Developments
- (c) Architects' Presentations
- (d) Energy Report
- (e) Progress of Major Projects

56/08-09 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 7 November 2008 (C.30/08-09) together with an oral report from the Deputy Registrar on the following item of business:

Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan

RESOLVED:

That the Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan be approved as set out in paper EDC.20/08-09 of the Report from the Quality and Diversity Committee (C.30/08-09).

57/08-09 Report from the Honorary Degrees Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolution set out below a report from the meeting of the Honorary Degrees Committee held on 11 December 2008 (C.31/08-09) 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 the Committee considered the diversity of the group of persons nominated for the award of an honorary degree and that those bringing forward nominations in future would be strongly encouraged to consider this particular criterion.

RESOLVED:

That the list of those twenty-eight persons recommended by the Committee as set out in paper C.31/08-09 be approved unanimously in its entirety and those named be invited to receive an honorary degree from the University.

58/08-09 Academic Statistics Yearbook 2008/09

CONSIDERED:

A copy of the University's Academic Statistics Yearbook document for the academic year 2008/2009 (C.32/08-09)

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That, following the Council's request to review the effectiveness of the University's Academic Statistics publication, the Yearbook had been designed to:
  - (i) better align the management information with the University strategy
  - (ii) present a clearer snapshot of the University and its activities, which included new sections on Estates and Space Management, Teaching, Learning and Resources, External Impact and Research.
- (b) That the full set of data produced to support the work of academic and administrative departments had been retained and would be published online in early 2009.
- (c) That a further review would take place over the current academic year to investigate what other sources of comparative benchmarking data might be included in future versions of the data.

RESOLVED:

That the University's new Academic Statistics Yearbook document for the academic year 2008/2009 be approved.

59/08-09 Key Performance Indicators

CONSIDERED:

A paper reporting on the University's Key Performance Indicators (C.33/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the KPIs were intended to give an indicative analysis of University performance and provided a mechanism for the Council to gauge the consistency of information provided to them.
- (b) That the KPIs would be embedded into the working of Committees in 2009/10 and would be increasingly used as a management tool.
- (c) That future reports to the Council would be more closely aligned with the University Risk Status Report.

- (d) That the comments received by members of the Council would be incorporated when making future enhancements to the KPIs.

RESOLVED:

That the University Key Performance Indicators be approved and the status of each noted as set out in C.33/08-09.

60/08-09 Corporate Planning Statement

CONSIDERED:

The provisional University Corporate Planning Statement (CPS) submitted to the HEFCE on 1 December 2008 and as approved by the Senate on 3 December 2008 (C.34/08-09).

REPORTED:

That the provisional CPS was submitted to the HEFCE as part of the 'Single Conversation' by the deadline of 1 December 2008, with a view to it being considered by the Senate and the Council, following which the final version would be submitted to the HEFCE.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University Corporate Planning Statement be approved as set out in paper C.34/08-09.
- (b) That an appraisal of the University's progress towards its strategic goals be undertaken at the November 2009 Away Day.

61/08-09 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 21 November 2008 (C.35/08-09).

62/08-09 Strategic Topic for Discussion: Future Strategy of the Warwick Business School

RECEIVED:

A presentation by the Dean of the Warwick Business School on the future strategy of the Warwick Business School.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the presentation by the Dean of the Warwick Business School and related comments by members of the Council be noted.
- (b) That the Council was clear that the future strategy for Warwick Business School must position it as a world class Business School, which in doing so would support the University's strategic goal to be a world class University.

63/08-09 Amendments to University Regulations

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to University Regulation 6 governing Admission to Courses of Study (C.36/08-09)

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendments to University Regulation 6 governing Admission to Courses of Study be approved as set out in paper C.36/08-09.

64/08-09 Amendments to University Ordinances

CONSIDERED:

For the first time, proposed amendments to University Ordinance 13 governing Degrees and Diplomas (C.37/08-09).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendments to University Ordinance 13 governing Degrees and Diplomas be approved for the first time as set out in paper C.37/08-09.

65/08-09 Strategic Discussion Topics for Meetings of the Council

RECEIVED:

A list of the rolling programme of potential strategic items for discussion at future meetings of the Council (C.38/08-09).