

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19 May 2010

- Present: Mr J Leighfield (Chair), Mr K Bedell-Pearce, Mr A Bradley, Professor L Bridges, Professor A Caesar, Mrs V Cooke, Sir George Cox, Professor J Davey, Mrs P Egan, Mr J Higgins, Professor R Higgott, Professor J Labbe, Professor K Lamberts, Professor R Lindley, Mr G Lyons, Mr A Perkins, Mr A Rivett, Mr N Sanders, Professor N Thrift, Professor M Whitby, Mr B Woods-Scawen.
- Apologies: Dr R Chung, Mr P Dunne, Mrs T Elliott, Mrs V Heywood, Mr G Howells, Mr K Muthalagappan, Professor M Smith, Professor Sir John Temple, Professor V Zammit
- In Attendance: Registrar, Finance Director, Interim Chair of the School of Life Sciences, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Head of Governance Support Services, Assistant Registrar (Deputy Registrar's Office).

85/09-10 Vice-Chancellor's Period of Office

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That the Remuneration Committee considered the period of office of the Vice-Chancellor, together with the consultation held with a number of internal and external stakeholders, and determined that the period of office of the Vice-Chancellor should be extended to July 2015.

RESOLVED:

That the Council welcome the extension of the period of office of the Vice-Chancellor to 31 July 2015.

86/09-10 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 February 2010 be approved.

87/09-10 Appointment of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (minute 58/09-10 refers)

REPORTED:

- (a) That the Committee on the Appointment of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor had completed its recruitment process and recommended that Professor Mark Smith be appointed as Deputy Vice-Chancellor for a period of five years, to commence from 1 May 2010.
- (b) That, in accordance with Statute 8 and Ordinance 2, the Council had approved the recommendation following consultation since its last meeting.

88/09-10 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.43/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That the list as set out in paper C.43/09-10 had been updated in the light of recent suggestions from members of the Council and that further recommendations on potential future items were welcome.

89/09-10 Appointment of University Chaplains

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That, on behalf of the Council, he had recently approved the appointment of the Reverend Dr Alastair Kirk as the new University Anglican Chaplain and Imran Suleman as the new University Muslim Chaplain.

90/09-10 Research Grants

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had recently been successful in securing three European Research Council Advanced Investigator grants.

91/09-10 Financial Environment

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University was prepared for the possibility of cuts of 18-25% in core HEFCE funding, and was also prepared for the likely impact of cuts in other funding sources such as the NHS, Research Councils and Regional Development Agencies.
- (b) That this pressure on funding underlined the need to refocus the University Strategy, noting that the strategic direction outlined for the University in Vision 2015 would be strengthened.
- (c) That the University sought to exercise tight financial control whilst maintaining appropriate levels of investment, noting that as many efficiencies had already been made, it was felt that the University was positioned well for the future.

92/09-10 Potential Media Interest in Warwick

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the Council should note that it was possible that there may be some negative media interest in Warwick in the coming days as a result of two separate stories:

- (a) The forthcoming outcome of the MMR vaccine-related fitness to practise case, which involved an academic member of staff who was now employed at Warwick Medical School.

- (b) The resignation of Lord Triesmann from the Football Association as a result of a story given to the press by a Warwick graduate.

93/09-10 Membership of the University Council

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

- (a) That there were five vacancies for lay membership of the University Council as of August 2010 and that nominations had been invited from all members of the University Council.
- (b) That the University had a list of approximately ten individuals with whom potential lay membership of the University Council would be discussed further.
- (c) That the Nominations Committee were considering how best to ensure a greater representation of women amongst those who were put forward as potential lay members of the University Council.

94/09-10 Report from the Senate

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report on selected items considered at the meeting of the Senate held on 17 March 2010 (C.44/09-10) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the following items of business:

(a) The Harris Report

REPORTED:

- (i) That the Senate had considered further the Harris Report and its recommendations and had resolved that Model B, the 'Strong Centre – Strong Department' model be supported in principle.
- (ii) That the Implementation Group, chaired by Professor Mark Harrison and supported by the Academic Registrar, would formulate a proposed implementation plan and schedule, to be considered by the Senate and the Council in July.

(b) Yesu Persaud Centre for Caribbean Studies

REPORTED:

That the Senate had approved the renaming of the Centre for Caribbean Studies to the 'Yesu Persaud Centre for Caribbean Studies' in recognition of a donation of £550,000 over fourteen years by Yesu Persaud, an Honorary Graduate of the University.

(c) Proposal for an Institute of Advanced Teaching and Learning

REPORTED:

That the Senate had approved in principle the establishment of an Institute of Advanced Teaching and Learning, to build on the work undertaken by the two Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and the King's Warwick project.

95/09-10 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 16 March 2010 (C.45/09-10 {Parts 1 and 2}) on the following items of business, together with an oral report and presentation from the University Treasurer on the University's Financial Performance.

(a) Financial Performance

REPORTED: (by the Treasurer)

- (i) That the current forecast surplus for 2009/10 was £5.1m (£4.8m above the Q1 forecast) noting that this was after the £9m estimated restructuring costs relating to the establishment of the School of Life Sciences.
- (ii) That the current forecast year-end cash balances were close to budget at £35m.
- (iii) That gross borrowings continued to be forecast to fall, noting that the funding of continuing investment in capital projects would come from cash balances, leading to a forecast increase in net borrowings over the course of the year.

(b) Life Sciences Update

REPORTED: (by the Treasurer)

That the process of establishing the School of Life Sciences continued and that the School would be operational by 1 October 2010, noting that the process, whilst a challenging one, was being conducted in an open and transparent manner.

(c) Proposal to Acquire a Controlling Interest in the Science Park

REPORTED: (by the Treasurer)

- (i) That the University intended to acquire the Science Park, adjacent to the main University campus, noting that authority had been delegated to the Chair of Council, the Treasurer, the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and the Finance Director to negotiate the terms of the transaction.
- (ii) That the recent election had seen a change in the political control of Coventry City Council, noting that although this didn't change the attractiveness of the proposition to the University, it may require some reconsideration of the final deal.

(d) Proposal for an International Institute for Product and Service Innovation (IIPSI)

REPORTED: (by the Treasurer)

That approval had been given to part-fund the IIPSI building for Warwick Manufacturing Group, subject to satisfactory plans being approved by the Building Committee.

96/09-10 Report from Building Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Building Committee held on 11 March 2010 (C.46/09-10) together with an oral report from the Registrar on the following items of business:

(a) Carbon Emissions

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the University was establishing a working group to consider strategies for carbon management and other areas of sustainability.

(b) Building Condition Benchmark

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the Building Committee had resolved to set the benchmark for the percentage of University buildings in 'good' condition at 85%, noting that the figure for the University currently stood at 86%.

(c) Energy Charging

(d) Energy Conservation Programme

(e) International Institute for Product and Service Innovation

(f) Mechanochemical Cell Biology Building

(g) Major Maintenance

97/09-10 Report from the Audit Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 28 April 2010 (C.47/09-10) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Audit Committee, Mr John Higgins, on the following items of business:

(a) Internal Controls Presentation: Risk Management at Departmental Level

REPORTED: (by Mr J Higgins)

That the Head of Mathematics, Professor Colin Sparrow, had attended the meeting of the Audit Committee to discuss how risk management was considered within an academic department, noting that the Committee had been reassured by how the Mathematics Institute deployed the risk management process.

(b) External Audit Strategy

REPORTED: (by Mr J Higgins)

That the Audit Committee had considered the draft external audit strategy and planning memorandum for the 2009/10 audit and noted the importance of the external auditors maintaining a balance between a positive and constructive relationship with the University management and the independence and assurance required.

(c) Internal Audit Reports

REPORTED: (by Mr J Higgins)

That it was the view of the Audit Committee that the management response following the Internal Audit of Research Governance had been excellent, noting the significant potential institutional reputational risk in this area.

- (d) HEFCE Assessment of Institutional Risk
- (e) Insurance Claim Related to the Sports Centre
- (f) HEFCE Consultations on the Financial Memorandum and the role of Principle Regulator on behalf of the Charity Commission

98/09-10 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 1 March 2010 (C.48/09-10) together with an oral report from the Registrar, on the following items of business:

(a) Annual Health and Safety Report for 2009

RESOLVED:

That, on the recommendation of the University Health and Safety Executive Committee, the Annual Health and Safety Report for 2009 be approved as set out in paper C.45/09-10.

- (b) Report from the University Health and Safety Committee
- (c) UCEA Annual Report
- (d) Achieving an Effective Health and Safety Culture
- (e) Update on the Introduction of GP 'Fit Notes'
- (f) Update on Occupational Health
- (g) Fire Safety Policy

99/09-10 Report from the Equality and Diversity Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolution set out below a report from the meetings of the Equality and Diversity Committee held on 2 November 2009 and 9 February 2010 (C.49/09-10) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience), on the following items of business:

(a) Revisions to Terms of Reference

RESOLVED:

That the revised terms of reference for the Equality and Diversity Committee be approved as set out in C.49/09-10, as follows:

(...)

(ii) To ensure the effective communication and dissemination of the University's equality and diversity related policies and action plans. To review, develop and monitor the implementation of the University's equality and diversity Policies and to ensure that all such policy comply with the law and are effectively disseminated to University staff, and other members of the University.

(...)

- (b) Equality Challenge Unit report entitled Governing Bodies – Equality and Diversity

REPORTED:

That the Equality Challenge Unit report entitled Governing Bodies – Equality and Diversity had been circulated electronically to members of the Council on the Council Members' webpage.

- (c) Athena SWAN

REPORTED:

That the University had become a member of the Athena SWAN Charter, which recognised and celebrated good employment practice for women working in science, engineering and technology in higher education research and would be submitting its application for a Bronze award in May 2010.

- (d) Staff Statistics
- (e) Recruitment Monitoring Data
- (f) Promotion and Probation Monitoring Report 2008/09
- (g) Student Attainment 2009

100/09-10 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 30 April 2010 (C.50/09-10) together with an oral report from the Pro-Chancellor.

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

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.

RESOLVED:

That the list of those eleven persons recommended by the Committee as set out in paper C.50/09-10 be approved unanimously in its entirety and those named be invited to receive an honorary degree from the University.

101/09-10 HEFCE Recurrent Funding 2010/11

RECEIVED:

A copy of the letter from the HEFCE on the recurrent grant allocation to the University for the academic year 2010/11 and a report outlining the implications for the University (C.51/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the HEFCE recurrent grant for 2010/11 showed a real-terms erosion in the unit of resource for teaching.
- (b) That student numbers remained capped and that the student intake would continue to require careful management by the University in order to minimise risk in this area.

- (c) That the figures contained in the grant allocation letter were not fixed and were subject to potential further reduction in the forthcoming Emergency Budget and as a result of ongoing reviews of funding of the sector.

102/09-10 University Risk Status Summary

CONSIDERED:

A report outlining the current risk status for a selection of key risks for the University (C.52/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the following risks had been downgraded due to the positive impact of management measures that had been implemented:

- (i) Risk F6 - Inability to meet AWM agreed outputs.
- (ii) Risk T7 - Not achieving an optimal level of student recruitment.

(by the Registrar)

- (b) That the combination of pressures in areas such as pay, job security and pensions meant that the University would keep under careful consideration risk S3 – not sustaining a climate of good employee relations.

RESOLVED:

That the risk status summary report be approved as set out in paper C.52/09-10.

103/09-10 Change in the Legal Status of the Students' Union (minute 63/09-10 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association of the new Students' Union legal entity, together with consequential proposals for changes in the University's governing instruments (C.53/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the Memorandum and Articles of Association would replace the existing Students' Union Constitution with effect from the change in legal status of the Union, noting that the date for incorporation remained to be confirmed.
- (b) That the protection of representation and equality remained unchanged and that the Council would be asked to approve any significant revisions to the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association of the new Students' Union legal entity be approved, with effect from the date of incorporation, noting that this date was to be confirmed.
- (b) That the Council would consider the Bye-Laws of the Memorandum and Articles of Association at a future meeting.

- (c) That the consequential proposed amendments to University Ordinance 23 and Statutes 14, 16 and 21 be approved for the first time as set out in C.53/09-10, with effect from the date of incorporation.

104/09-10 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 25 February 2010 (C.54/09-10).

105/09-10 Forthcoming Council Dates

RECEIVED:

A paper setting out the proposed dates of the rolling programme of Council meetings up to and including the summer term 2012/13, noting that the dates remain provisional (C.55/09-10).

106/09-10 Influencing National Policy

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University was confident that it was taking advantage of every avenue it had, including through members of the Council, to effectively influence policy at a national level.

107/09-10 Strategic Topic for Discussion: USS Pensions Issues

CONSIDERED:

A presentation from the Director of HR and Commercial Services, the Director of HR and the University's Actuary about the current issues facing the USS Pension Scheme, and the Warwick's position in regard to this.

REPORTED:

(by the Director of HR and Commercial Services)

- (a) That the latest estimate was that the USS Pension Scheme was currently between £4-6bn in deficit, noting that the next valuation of the scheme was due in March 2011.
- (b) That the USS Pension Scheme was very complex in terms of the diverse range of relationships between the stakeholders involved.
- (c) That a Joint Review Group (JRG), a sub-group of the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC), had been established to agree changes to the scheme in order to address the deficit.
- (d) That the JRG had failed to reach agreement, and that two sets of differing proposals had therefore been put to the JNC, one from employers and one from the UCU.
- (e) That UCU was balloting its members on whether or not they supported UCU's position and whether or not they should accept the employer proposals.

- (f) That there was little that the University could do to influence any part of the negotiations, but that a proactive and structured programme of communication to employees was being undertaken alongside dialogue with the local branch of UCU.

(by the Registrar)

- (g) That the University, at this stage, needed to wait for the outcome of the JNC's consideration, and there was little it could do further to resolve this more quickly.

108/09-10 Student Members of the Council

REPORTED:

That Mr Daniel Stevens, a student from the Department of Philosophy, had been elected President of the Union of Students for the academic year 2010/11 and that Mr Stuart Stanley, a student from the Department of Computer Science, had been elected as the second student member of the Council for the academic year 2010/11.

109/09-10 Amendments to University Ordinances

CONSIDERED:

For the first time, proposed amendments to University Ordinance 7 on the Constitution of the Boards of Faculties and University Ordinance 10 governing Departments (C.56/09-10).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendments to University Ordinance 7 on the Constitution of the Boards of Faculties and University Ordinance 10 governing Departments be approved for the first time as set out in paper C.56/09-10.

110/09-10 Amendments to University Regulations

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to the following University Regulations as recommended by the Senate (C.57/09-10):

- (a) Regulation 8 governing First Degrees
- (b) Regulations 9, 15, 22 and 30 to reflect employment legislation regarding references to terms of employment
- (c) Regulation 28 governing Intellectual Property Rights
- (d) Regulation 31 governing Use of Computing Facilities
- (e) Regulation 37 governing Taught Postgraduate Degrees

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendments to University Regulations be approved as set out in paper C.57/09-10.

111/09-10 Arts Centre Annual Report and Accounts 2008/09

RECEIVED:

The Warwick Arts Centre Annual Report and Accounts for the 2008-09 financial year (C.58/09-10).

112/09-10 Warwick Sport Strategy

RECEIVED:

The Warwick Sport Vision 2015 Strategy document (C.59/09-10).