

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 October 2015

Present: Sir George Cox (Chair), Mr K Bedell-Pearce (Treasurer), Dr N Bentley (Lay Member), Ms V Cooke (Vice-Chair), Professor S Croft (Provost), Dr J Ferrie (Lay Member), Mr G Howells (Lay Member), Professor C Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor C W Hughes (Academic Member of the Senate), Dr Deborah Keith (Lay Member), Mr I Leigh (President, Students' Union), Ms J MacNaughton (Lay Member), Sir David Normington (Lay Member), Mr O Rice (Democracy and Development Officer, Students' Union), Mr A Rivett (Non-Academic Member of Staff), Mr M Temple (Lay Member), Professor Sir Nigel Thrift (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor P Winstanley (Academic Member of the Senate).

Apologies: Dame Fiona Caldicott (Lay Member), Professor T Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering and Medicine)), Professor A Muthoo (Academic Member of the Senate), Ms M Philbin (Lay Member).

In Attendance: Mrs E Birch (Assistant Registrar (Governance)), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Mrs P Glover (Director of Governance and Assurance Services), Ms J Horsburgh (Deputy Registrar (Assistant Secretary)), Mr K Sloan (Registrar and Chief Operating Officer (Secretary)).

NOTES:

- (i) The Chair of Council welcomed Dr N Bentley and Dr D Keith, lay members of the Council, to their first meeting.
- (ii) The Chair of Council welcomed Mr I Leigh and Mr O Rice, as the two student members of the Council for the 2015-16 academic year.

1/15-16 Minutes

CONSIDERED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 July 2015.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 July 2015 be approved.

2/15-16 \*School of Life Sciences and Warwick Medical School Update (minute 29/14-15 refers)

RECEIVED:

An oral update from the Provost on the School of Life Sciences and the Warwick Medical School.

(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)

3/15-16 Conflicts of Interest

REPORTED:

That, should any members or attendees of the Council have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with The Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education Code of Governance (2014).

NOTE: No declarations were made.

4/15-16 Membership of the University Council 2015-16

RECEIVED:

A statement of the membership of the Council for the 2015/16 academic year (C.01/15-16), together with an oral report from the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer.

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (a) That Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)) and Professor Tim Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering and Medicine)) would continue to serve as the two Pro-Vice-Chancellor's on the Council for the 2015-16 academic year.
- (b) That the Senate was in the process of electing a fourth representative to the Council.
- (c) That Professor Pam Thomas had stood down with effect from 31 July 2015, noting that as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Thomas could not hold the dual role of Senate representative on the Council.
- (d) That with respect to the two lay vacancies on the Council, the priority was to further enhance diversity, noting that meetings with a number of nominees were to be held before the end of the year to ensure vacancies were filled.

RESOLVED:

That, on behalf of the Council, Professor Pam Thomas be thanked for her contribution to the work of the Council.

5/15-16 \*Chair's Business: Report from the Joint Council and Senate Meeting

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Joint Council and Senate meeting held on 14 October 2015.

REPORTED: (by the Chair of Council)

- (a) That the intention of the Chancellor, Sir Richard Lambert, to step down at the end of the current academic year 2015-16 had been reported.
- (b) That Sir Richard Lambert was stepping down following long and excellent service, noting how fortunate the University had been to have such a highly respected individual as its Chancellor.

- (c) That it would be very challenging to find a successor of the right stature.
- (d) That a Joint Committee of the Council and the Senate would be formed to identify a potential successor to Sir Richard Lambert.
- (e) That the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer had notified the Council and the Senate of his intention to step down from his role on 31 July 2016, given his plan to move to Australia.
- (f) That whilst the decision was completely understandable, it was regrettable for the University.

(by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (g) That the appointment of a Chancellor was subject to the approval of the Council and the Senate in a joint meeting.
- (h) That it would be important to take into account the views of the University community.

6/15-16 \*Chair's Business: Report from the Nominations Committee

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the meeting of the Nominations Committee held on 14 October 2015.

(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the extension of the term of appointment of Mr G Howells as a lay member of the Council and Chair of the University Estate Committee, for a further year to 31 July 2017, be approved.
- (b) That Ms V Cooke be appointed as Vice-Chair of Council, and hence Pro-Chancellor, for a second three year term to 31 July 2019.

7/15-16 Chair's Business: Report from the Audit Committee Induction

RECEIVED:

An oral report on the induction session for members of the Audit Committee held on 14 October 2015.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chair and Chair of the Audit Committee)

- (a) That an effectiveness review of the Audit Committee was being undertaken, noting that members of the Council would be invited to provide their reflections.
- (b) That the Committee had agreed to undertake a wider strategic review.
- (c) That following the exercise that had been undertaken in February 2014, a further horizon scanning exercise was proposed to take place around a future meeting of the Council in the 2015-16 academic year.

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor and President, together with a summary list of topics to be addressed by the Vice-Chancellor and President (C.02/15-16).

(a) Degree Congregations

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (i) That approximately 4,500 students had graduated at the 12 summer degree ceremonies held in July 2015.
- (ii) That he wished to express his thanks to everyone who had contributed to the success of the ceremonies, including members of the Council who had been able to join the University for the occasion.

(b) Arrivals Weekend and Open Day

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (i) That the Arrivals Weekend and Open Day events had been very well organised, noting his thanks to all those who had been involved.
- (ii) That there had been 15,000 registrations for the open day held on 26 September 2015, which demonstrated the scale of the event.

(c) Recent Rankings Success

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (i) That Warwick's unparalleled accomplishment over the last ten years had been reflected in all of the university league tables published since last term, noting that this was particularly good news in the University's 50th anniversary year.
- (ii) That in September 2015, the QS annual World University Rankings named Warwick as one of the world's top 50 universities, rising 13 places to be ranked 48th overall.
- (iii) That in April 2015, QS also ranked 10 subjects at Warwick to be in the world's top 50 and a total of 15 to be in the top 100.
- (iv) That in August 2015, the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities ranked Warwick 92nd in the world, a rise of 96 places on the previous year's ranking, noting that this ranking also declared Warwick to be 13th in the world for Mathematics and 34th for Economics and Business.
- (v) That this table had a particular focus on science, making Warwick's achievement in being ranked in the top 100 even more noteworthy, given the breadth of the University's subject disciplines.
- (vi) That in September 2015, Warwick rose to 6th place overall in the Times and Sunday Times league table of UK universities and was declared Campus University of the Year.

- (vii) That Warwick had leapt 23 places to be ranked 80th in the world in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015-16.
- (viii) That all Warwick staff, students and alumni could be extremely proud of these excellent achievements.

(by the Chair of Council)

- (ix) That it was particularly remarkable that Warwick had shown great advance in all of the rankings.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council's congratulations to the University community on these fine achievements be recorded.

(d) Philanthropic Funding

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (i) That when the University had started planning for its 50th anniversary a number of years ago, it had set itself an ambitious target to raise £50 million in philanthropic support by 2015 to help the University address local and global challenges by investing in the University's people, research and infrastructure.
- (ii) That he was delighted to announce that this target had been surpassed, with the generosity of over 12,000 donors enabling £73 million to be raised.
- (iii) That the Benefactors sculpture, in recognition of the generosity of benefactors to the University over the past five decades, would be unveiled on 16 October 2015.
- (iv) That last week he had visited Singapore for the 'Friends of the University of Warwick in Singapore' Scholarship Fundraising Dinner, noting that \$320,000 had been raised to date to provide scholarships for financially disadvantaged young Singaporeans to travel to the University of Warwick for their studies.

(e) Royal Visit

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (i) That on 6 October 2015, the University had continued its 50th anniversary celebrations with a visit from Her Royal Highness Princess Anne.
- (ii) That it had been a truly fitting occasion to reflect on the University's history and commemorate the University's most successful year.
- (iii) That he was delighted that many of the members of the Council had been able to join the celebrations.

- (iv) That the Princess Royal had met with a number of staff, students and alumni, including academics with research distinctions, founders of the Warwick International Higher Education Academy, Staff Contribution Awards winners, Sabbatical Officers and representatives of support and professional services.
- (v) That as part of the visit, the Princess Royal had unveiled the foundation stone for the new Teaching and Learning Building, noting that she had indicated that she would be keen to visit the University again once the building had been completed.
- (vi) That he wished to express his thanks to all those who had facilitated the success of the visit, noting that he had just come from a thank you event for the Estates staff, who had worked tirelessly to ensure that the estate looked exceptional wherever the Princess Royal visited.

(by the Chair of Council)

- (vii) That the event had gone extremely well, noting that the Princess Royal's Head of Security had commented that Warwick was one of the best organised institutions they had dealt with.

(f) Government Funding

REPORTED: (by the Chair of Council)

- (i) That the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) would be required to make cuts of up to 40%, noting that whilst it was not clear, it appeared that research funding would be reasonably protected from these cuts.
- (ii) That BIS needed to halve its 48 non-departmental public bodies, which might result in a cut in research councils, it being noted that the Nurse review of research councils might suggest how this could be achieved.

(g) Festival of the Imagination 16 – 17 October 2015

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (i) That the Festival of the Imagination would take place on campus on Friday 16 October and Saturday 17 October 2015.
- (ii) That members of the Council were encouraged to attend.

9/15-16 Registrar and Chief Operating Officer's Business: Academic Governance Review

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (a) That a review of Academic Governance would be conducted during the 2015-16 academic year.
- (b) That a paper setting out the intended scope and modus operandi of the review would be brought forward to the meeting of the Senate on 27 January 2016, with a view to outcomes being reported to the Senate by the end of the current academic year.

RESOLVED:

That an update on the review of Academic Governance be provided to members of the Council at the February 2016 meeting.

10/15-16 Registrar and Chief Operating Officer's Business: Keeping Campus Moving

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (a) That the extensive works around the plaza and piazza had now been completed, with the new bus terminus fully open, it being noted that he wished to commend Mr G Howells on his work through the University Estate Committee.
- (b) That he wished to acknowledge the phenomenal achievement of the Estates staff, noting that he had never seen the campus looking so good for the start of an academic year.

RESOLVED:

That a formal note of thanks from the Council be circulated to the Estates Office.

11/15-16 Registrar and Chief Operating Officer's Business: Prevent Duties under The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (a) That the University was required to comply with the 'Prevent Duties under The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015', noting that it was a statutory duty.
- (b) That the Deputy Registrar had convened a cross-functional working group to ensure that the University complied with the Duty.
- (c) That a briefing on the 'Prevent Duties under The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015' had been provided to members of the Council as part of the Council members' induction session held on 14 October 2015, it being noted that a briefing note would be made available on request to any members of the Council who had not been able to attend the session.

12/15-16 \*Registrar and Chief Operating Officer's Business: Health and Safety Update

RECEIVED:

An oral update on Health and Safety from the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer.

(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)

13/15-16 Registrar and Chief Operating Officer's Business: Benefactors Place

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (a) That a communication programme was required to educate users on the use of the space around Benefactors Place and the Plaza.
- (b) That a road traffic accident had taken place earlier this week, noting that the pedestrian had taken full responsibility and no further action was being taken against the driver.

- (c) That a significant awareness campaign would commence next week, to be undertaken jointly with the Students' Union.

14/15-16 Code of Corporate Governance, Statement of Primary Responsibilities and Delegated Authorities

(a) Code of Practice on Corporate Governance

CONSIDERED:

The University's Code of Practice on Corporate Governance (C.03/15-16).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (i) That the University's Code of Practice on Corporate Governance mapped out the responsibilities of the Council, Council committees and other key bodies.
- (ii) That the only substantive changes being proposed were those to the University Estate Committee (UEC) and the Equality and Diversity Committee (E&D).
- (iii) That changes to the UEC were proposed to strengthen the membership, including increasing the flexibility to appoint independent members with relevant expertise, noting that these changes had been discussed with Mr G Howells and the Provost, who were in agreement with the proposals.
- (iv) That it was proposed to alter one of the E&D Committee's terms of reference to better reflect the Equality Act 2010 and to specifically refer to the nine protected characteristics as defined in the Act.
- (v) That work had been undertaken to ensure consistency of wording regarding student representatives across the Council Committees.
- (vi) That changes to the oversight of Health and Safety matters were currently being considered by the University Health and Safety Executive Committee (UHSEC) before being brought to a future meeting of the Council, noting that he was grateful for the work of Dr J Ferrie on the UHSEC.

RESOLVED:

That the University's Code of Practice on Corporate Governance be approved as set out in paper C.03/15-16.

(b) Statement of Primary Responsibilities

CONSIDERED:

The University's Statement of Primary Responsibilities (C.04/15-16)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (i) That the University's Statement of Primary Responsibilities was drafted in accordance with the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education Code of Governance (2014).

- (ii) That in particular he wished to draw members of the Council's attention to responsibilities 3, 7, 10, 15 and 16, as set out in the paper.
- (iii) That responsibility 3, in relation to the delegated authority of the Vice-Chancellor and President, set out the primary statement of relationship between the Council and the University.
- (iv) That responsibility 7 was fulfilled in a number of ways, including through the periodic Council Effectiveness Review (CER), noting however that this needed to be an agile process and that members of the Council should take advantage of the many informal opportunities to provide feedback to improve the effectiveness of the Council and the University's systems of governance.
- (v) That, as set out under responsibility 10, it was the Council's responsibility to appoint the Secretary to the Council and to ensure an appropriate separation in the lines of responsibility if that person also had managerial responsibilities, noting that in his dual roles as Secretary to the Council and Registrar and Chief Operating Officer, he had two separate lines of accountability, one to the Council and the other to the Vice-Chancellor and President, respectively.
- (vi) That in relation to responsibility 15, it was timely to undertake a periodic review of the University's health and safety management procedures.
- (vii) That responsibility 16 referenced the statutory business undertaken by the University, noting that in relation to the Council's responsibility for the approval of changes to University Statutes, it was anticipated that proposals would be brought forward later in 2016 regarding Statute reform and modernisation.

RESOLVED:

That the University's Statement of Primary Responsibilities be approved and adopted, as set out in paper C.04/15-16.

15/15-16 Report from the Senate

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor and President on selected items considered at the meeting of the Senate held on 12 October 2015.

- (a) HEFCE Quality Assurance Consultation and Teaching Excellence Framework

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (i) That the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) was not anticipated to be as elaborate as the Research Excellence Framework (REF), at least initially.
- (ii) That the proposals indicated governing bodies would have a stronger role in assuring the quality of the educational experience.

(iii) That in anticipation of the top performing 25% of the sector being able to index their fees, early modelling of Warwick's likely position had shown that the University performed better on some measures than others.

(b) University Strategy

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the Senate had received an update from the Deputy Registrar on the good progress of the University Strategy, noting that an update would be brought to the November 2015 meeting of the Council.

(c) University Access Agreement

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That whilst the University had been successful in achieving most of its targets, more challenging targets for the period to 2020 had been set in light of feedback from the Office for Fair Access.

(d) \*Student Admissions Update

RECEIVED:

An oral update from the Vice-Chancellor and President on student admissions.

(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)

(e) Results of Student Surveys

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the results from the Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research Experience Surveys had been very positive.

(f) Amendments to University Ordinances

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

(i) That the Senate approved the proposed amendments to Ordinance 7 on Constitution of the Boards of the Faculties.

(ii) That the Senate approved the proposed amendments to Ordinance 13 on Degrees and Diplomas.

(g) Senate Report: November Council

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

(i) That a written report from the meeting of the Senate held on 12 October 2015 would be brought for consideration to the November 2015 meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the oral report from the Vice-Chancellor and President on selected items considered at the meeting of the Senate held on 12 October 2015 be noted.

16/15-16 \*Report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC)

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED, with the resolution set out below, a report from the meeting of the FGPC held on 29 September 2015 (C.05/15-16 {restricted}), together with an oral report from the Treasurer and Group Finance Director on the following items of business:

- (a) Financial Performance – Quarter 4, 2014/15  
(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)
- (b) Public Contracts and Regulations 2015 and EU Procurement  
(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)
- (c) Memberships of Committees and Boards and Terms of Reference  
(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)
- (d) Wellesbourne Campus
- (e) Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP) London
- (f) Universities Superannuation Scheme Update
- (g) University Pension Scheme Investment Strategy Update
- (h) Reductions to HEFCE grants for 2014/15 and 2015/16
- (i) New Exhibition Facility at Scarman House

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation that the Provost be added to the group with delegated authority to act on the FGPC's and the Council's behalf in respect of any urgent item of business that cannot be considered at a meeting or by correspondence (as set out in FGPC's terms of reference), be approved.

17/15-16 \*California: Progress Report

CONSIDERED:

A report on progress to establish academic and student activities and a physical presence in California, together with an oral report from the Chair of Council and the Provost (C.06/15-16 {restricted}).

(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the principle of measuring and evaluating progress against agreed Phase-specific milestones and outcomes instead of timescales be approved.
- (b) That the report on progress to establish academic and student activities and a physical presence in California (C.06/15-16 {restricted}), be noted.

18/15-16 Membership of Council and Joint Senate and Council Committees

CONSIDERED:

The membership of Council and Joint Senate and Council Committees for the 2015/16 academic year (C.07/15-16).

RESOLVED:

That the membership of the Council and Joint Senate and Council Committees for the 2015/16 academic year be approved.

19/15-16 Charity Commission Guidance

(a) New Guidance for Trustees

REPORTED:

That on 10 July 2015, the Charity Commission published updated guidance for trustees, [‘The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do \(CC3\)’](#) to take account of the feedback from the CC3 consultation.

(b) Conflicts of Interest

REPORTED:

That members of the Council, as trustees of the University, were obliged to have due regard to the [‘Charity Commission’s policy guidance on conflicts of interest for charity trustees’](#).

20/15-16 Register of Members’ Interests

REPORTED:

That a copy of the Register of Interests of members of the University Council for the academic year 2015/16 would be made available publicly on request, noting that the latest version was made available on the Council members’ webpage and would be brought for consideration at the November 2015 meeting of the Council.

21/15-16 Warwick Students’ Union Annual Elections Report: 2014-15

RECEIVED:

A report outlining key statistics for the Students’ Union elections conducted during the 2014/15 academic year (C.08/15-16).

22/15-16 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 8 July 2015 (C.09/15-16).

23/15-16 Amendments to University Ordinances

CONSIDERED:

- (a) For the second time, proposed amendments to University Ordinance 7 on Constitution of the Boards of the Faculties, as approved by the Senate (C.10/15-16).
- (b) For the second time, proposed amendments to University Ordinance 13 on Degrees and Diplomas, as approved by the Senate (C.11/15-16).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed amendments to University Ordinance 7 on Constitution of the Boards of the Faculties, as approved by the Senate and set out in paper C.10/15-16, be approved for the second time.
- (b) That the proposed amendments to University Ordinance 13 on Degrees and Diplomas, as approved by the Senate and set out in paper C.11/15-16, be approved for the second time.

24/15-16 Approvals by the Chair

- (a) \*Wellesbourne Council Sub-Group  
(COMMERCIAL AND IN CONFIDENCE)
- (b) Amendments to Regulations 23, 27 and 36 (minute 164/14-15 refers)

REPORTED:

That Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Council to confirm amendments to Regulation 23 on Student Disciplinary Offences, Regulation 27 on Residential Accommodation Regulations, and Regulation 36 Governing Student Registration, Attendance and Progress, in relation to the Student Complaints Resolution Procedure and the Student Discipline Framework.

25/15-16 Dates of Future Meetings

REPORTED:

That the future meetings of the Committee for the 2015/16 academic year were as follows:

Wednesday, 25 November 2015, 09:15 - 14:00, Senate House Council Chamber  
Wednesday, 10 February 2016, 17:00 - 18:30, Senate House Council Chamber

Wednesday, 18 May 2016, 09:15 - 14:00, Senate House Council Chamber  
Wednesday, 13 July 2016, 09:15 - 14:00, Senate House Council Chamber