

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 February 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, Mr P Dunne, Mrs P Egan, Mrs T Elliott, Mrs V Heywood, , Professor R Higgott, Mr G Howells, Professor J Labbe, Professor K Lamberts, Professor R Lindley, Mr G Lyons, Mr A Perkins, Mr A Rivett, Mr N Sanders, Professor M Smith, Professor Sir John Temple, Professor N Thrift, Professor M Whitby, Mr B Woods-Scawen, Professor V Zammit

Apologies: Dr R Chung, Mr J Higgins, Mr K Muthalagappan

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).

NOTE: The Pro-Chancellor welcomed Professor Jacqueline Labbe to her first meeting of the Council.

54/09-10 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 November 2009 be approved.

55/09-10 HEFCE Single Conversation

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That all documents approved by the Council at its meeting held on 27 November 2009 for submission to the HEFCE as part of the Single Conversation, including the University's financial plan and accounts, the Corporate Planning Statement, the Annual Monitoring Statement and reports from the University's internal and external auditors and the Audit Committee, had been submitted by the deadline of 1 December 2009.

56/09-10 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.26/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That the list as set out in paper C.26/09-10 had been updated in the light of recent suggestions from members of the Council and that further recommendations on potential future items were welcome, noting that the University was undertaking an exercise to refresh its strategy and that this was likely to be the focus for meetings over the coming months.

57/09-10 Professor Lord Bhattacharyya Donation

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya of WMG had pledged to make a personal donation of £1,000,000 over five years to the University, to be used to support the stimulation and facilitation of research of the highest quality, noting that this donation was thought to be one of the largest ever personal donations to a UK University by a serving member of academic staff.

RESOLVED:

That the Council record its thanks to Professor Lord Bhattacharyya for his generous donation.

58/09-10 Appointment to the Post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That he intended to seek to appoint a Deputy Vice-Chancellor to fill the existing vacancy.
- (b) That he had sought the approval of the Steering Committee for a variation to Ordinance 2 on the Appointment of a Deputy Vice-Chancellor to allow him to Chair the Search Committee rather than a Pro-Vice-Chancellor.
- (c) That the Search Committee would consist of three members of the Senate and Trudi Elliot on behalf of the Council.
- (d) That, once the Search Committee had met with candidates, he would consult with the Senate at its meeting on 17 March 2010 before writing to the Council to seek approval for the recommendation of the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the variation to Ordinance 2 on the Appointment of a Deputy Vice-Chancellor to allow the Vice-Chancellor to Chair the Search Committee rather than a Pro-Vice-Chancellor be approved.

59/09-10 Appointment to the Post of Dean of the Warwick Medical School

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Peter Winstanley of the University of Liverpool had been appointed as Dean of the Warwick Medical School and would join the University in May 2010.

60/09-10 Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education (minute 29/09-10 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That, as reported to the Council at its November meeting, WMG had recently been awarded the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education, awarded every two years in recognition of world-class achievement that demonstrates evidence of originality, innovation and benefit to the wider community.

- (b) That he, the Pro-Chancellor and Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya had attended a ceremony and reception at Buckingham Palace on Friday, 19 February 2100 where they were presented the award by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

61/09-10 International Gateway for Gifted Youth

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the International Gateway for Gifted Youth would be hosting a two-week IGGY U event in Gabarone, Botswana in August 2010, to be held in partnership with the Botswana Ministry of Education and Skills Development.

62/09-10 University Visits

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had recently hosted two high profile visits:

- (a) The Prime Minister and numerous members of the Cabinet, who had visited the University on Saturday, 20 February 2010 for a high profile Labour Party Pre-Election Event.
- (b) David Willetts MP, Shadow Minister for Universities and Skills, who had delivered a lecture on Wednesday, 17 February 2010 on his book "The Pinch: How the baby boomers took their children's future - and why they should give it back".

63/09-10 Change in the Legal Status of the Students' Union

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining the proposed forthcoming change in the legal status of the Students' Union, including a summary of the process and key dates, and containing a proposed amendment to the current Students' Union Constitution (C.27/09-10, attached).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That the proposed amendment would also require approval by the Students' Union membership at referendum, and should the outcome of this referendum be in favour, the proposed new Memorandum and Articles of Association of the new Students' Union legal entity, recommended by the Union Trustees, would be considered by the Council at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendment to the Students' Union Constitution to add clause 12.5 be approved as set out in C.27/09-10, noting that the amendment was subject to the approval of the Students' Union membership at referendum on 12 March 2010.

64/09-10 Report from the Senate

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report on selected items considered at the meeting of the Senate held on 27 January 2010 (C.28/09-10) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the following items of business:

(a) Research Excellence Framework

REPORTED:

That the University was well-prepared for the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework, noting that the Conservative Party had indicated that, should they win the forthcoming General Election, they may delay the process by up to two years.

(b) Carbon Targets in the Higher Education Sector

REPORTED:

- (i) That the recent HEFCE consultation on the development of a carbon reduction target and strategy for the Higher Education sector had set out ambitious targets for all universities, noting that these targets had subsequently been revised downwards to make them more achievable.
- (ii) That the HEFCE was obliged to link future funding allocations with performance against carbon targets, and that the Building Committee would continue to monitor performance in this area.

(c) Health Innovation and Education Cluster

REPORTED:

- (i) That the University's proposal to establish a West Midlands South Health Innovation and Education Cluster had been successful, and that this would have a significant and positive impact on Warwick's reputation.
- (ii) That the Council would be advised of further developments in this regard in due course.

- (d) Appointment of Representatives of the Senate on the Council
- (e) The Harris Report
- (f) Home/EU Full-Time Undergraduate Student Intake Targets 2010/11
- (g) Research Centres
- (h) Honours Degree Classification Conventions
- (i) Revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Board of Graduate Studies
- (j) Extension to Existing Collaboration with Loughborough College

65/09-10 HEFCE Consultations

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A consultation from the HEFCE for revisions to the HEFCE Financial Memorandum together with the draft Russell Group Registrar's Group and Committee of University Chairs' responses (C.29/09-10).

- (b) A consultation on HEFCE's information requirements as a result of their new statutory role as principal regulator for higher education institutions as charities together with additional information from the HEFCE (C.30/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the majority of the proposed revisions to the Financial Memorandum were, in the view of the University, most unwelcome and could be interpreted as an attempt to reduce the autonomy of the Higher Education sector.
- (b) That the revisions were believed to be in part a reaction to recent events at London Metropolitan University.
- (c) That it was asserted within the revised Financial Memorandum that the HEFCE was acting in the interests of students which represented a significant repositioning of its role.
- (d) That, if implemented:
 - (i) Significant changes to the University's constitution would be required, particularly in that the Council, instead of the University Senate, would be responsible for academic standards.
 - (ii) There would be a significant impact on the nature and implications of external audits carried out on the University.

(by the Deputy Registrar)

- (e) That the consultation on HEFCE's information requirements as a result of their new statutory role as principal regulator for higher education institutions as charities would have significant implications for the University in its current form.
- (f) That, although the proposals could be viewed as being a pragmatic response to HEFCE's new statutory role, the University would be unable to comply fully with some of the requirements set out in the proposals such as its serious incident reporting policy.
- (g) That some of the definitions within the consultation, such as 'vulnerable beneficiary' were too loose to be applicable to an organisation of the University's nature.
- (h) That another potential implication was a significant increase in the burden placed on University Internal Audit service and the Audit Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Council supported the University in making a robust response to the HEFCE consultations, similar in nature to the draft responses to the Financial Memorandum consultation from the Russell Group Registrar's Group and the Committee of University Chairs, as contained in C.29/09-10.

66/09-10 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 15 December 2009 (C.31/09-10 {Parts 1 and 2}) on the following items of business, together with a presentation from the University Treasurer on the University's Financial Performance and an oral report from the University Treasurer on the extraordinary meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 18 February 2010:

(a) Financial Performance

REPORTED: (by the Treasurer)

- (i) That the current forecast surplus for 2009/10 was £203k, noting that student fee income was circa £5m above budget and research income was circa £6m below budget.
- (ii) That the current forecast year-end cash balance was on budget.
- (iii) That gross borrowings were 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) Transfer of Warwick Ventures to a new University Subsidiary

REPORTED: (by the Treasurer)

- (i) That FGPC had approved a proposal to transfer Warwick Ventures into a stand-alone subsidiary company.
- (ii) That it was estimated that a budget of £5.3m over the next 4/5 years would be required to support the proposal and would be incorporated in the financial plan, noting no assumptions would be included for realisation at this stage.
- (iii) That further work would be undertaken to develop the necessary governance and control structures to enable the success of the new company.

RESOLVED:

That the Council support the decision to pursue the creation of Warwick Ventures as a standalone subsidiary company.

- (c) Strategic Pensions Review Update
- (d) Life Sciences Update
- (e) Loan Finance Update
- (f) Science Park Acquisition
- (g) Treasury Management Report
- (h) Annual Purchasing Report

67/09-10 Report from Building Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolution set out below a report from the meeting of the Building Committee held on 3 December 2009 (C.32/09-10) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Building Committee, Professor Sir John Temple, and the Director of Estates on the following items of business:

(a) Estates Maintenance Benchmarks

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Building Committee)

That the Building Committee had resolved to set the benchmark for the percentage of University buildings to be deemed to be in 'good' condition at 85%, noting that the issue would be considered further at the next meeting of the Building Committee.

(b) Library Road and Public Transport Access to Campus

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Building Committee)

- (i) That the Building Committee had considered the optimal location for a bus terminus on main campus, noting that there were significant issues with the option of Library Road due to the proximity of sensitive academic equipment.
- (ii) That the Building Committee would continue to consider further options for the location of a bus terminus at future meetings.

(c) Estates Strategy

CONSIDERED:

The executive summary of the Estates Strategy outlining the key changes to the document (paper BC.5/09-10 of C.32/09-10), noting that the full document was available on request from the Director of Estates.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

That although it was a requirement to submit the document to the HEFCE, further work continued to be undertaken by the Director of Estates to update and rewrite the strategy in the light of the changing financial environment.

RESOLVED:

That the changes to the Estates Strategy as outlined in paper BC.5/09-10 of C.32/09-10 be approved, and that the full Estates Strategy be submitted to the HEFCE.

- (d) Environmental Policy
- (e) Building Plans
- (f) Estates Management Statistics
- (g) HEFCE Carbon Targets
- (h) Energy Report 2008/09
- (i) Maintenance Report 2009/10
- (j) Capital Projects Report 2009/10

68/09-10 Report from the Audit Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 3 February 2010 (C.33/09-10) together with an oral report from Mr Keith Bedell-Pearce on behalf of the Chair of the Committee, on the following items of business:

(a) Internal Audit Reports

REPORTED:

That the Audit Committee would, along with Internal Audit, be closely monitoring the implementation and impact of changes made to Research Governance at Warwick Medical School as a result of a report from Internal Audit.

(b) Consultations from the HEFCE: Financial Memorandum and HEFCE as Charity Regulator for HEIs

REPORTED:

That the Audit Committee supported the University making a robust response to the HEFCE consultations, noting the letter from the Chair of the Committee circulated to members of the Council.

(c) HESES Audit

(d) Value for Money Annual Report

69/09-10 Report from the University Health and Safety Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the University Health and Safety Committee held on 10 November 2009 (C.34/09-10) together with an oral report from the Registrar, on the following items of business:

(a) Update regarding WHRI incident (minute 120/08-09 refers)

REPORTED:

That the Health and Safety Executive had taken a statement from the University regarding an incident with a bulb harvester at Warwick HRI.

(b) UCEA publication on 'Health and Safety Guidance for the Placement of Higher Education Students'.

(c) UCEA response to Government on the use of 'fit notes' instead of 'sick notes'.

(d) Health and Safety Developments in the Department of Chemistry.

(e) Report from the University Health and Safety Committee.

(f) Review of Stress.

70/09-10 Report from the Remuneration Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the meeting of the Remuneration Committee held on 15 December 2009 (C.35/09-10), including the following items:

- (a) Terms of Reference and Membership.
- (b) Executive Remuneration and Long Term Incentive Plans.
- (c) Chair's Business.
- (d) The Operation of the Remuneration Committee and Guidance on Recruitment.

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Remuneration Committee be approved as set out in C.35/09-10.

71/09-10 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 16 December 2009 and by post in February 2010 (C.36/09-10) 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-five persons recommended by the Committee as set out in paper C.36/09-10 be approved unanimously in its entirety and those named be invited to receive an honorary degree from the University.

72/09-10 Strategic Topic for Discussion: *Refocusing Vision 2015*

CONSIDERED:

- (a) An oral report and accompanying presentation from the Vice-Chancellor on the principles and themes that the University must consider when refocusing the Vision 2015 strategy in the context of a changed financial environment.
- (b) A report on the discussion held at the Heads of Department Forum on refocusing the University's Vision 2015 strategy (C.37/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the driving principles underlying the strategy remained unchanged:
 - (i) Increasing excellence in research profile
 - (ii) Increasing excellence in teaching and learning
 - (iii) Significantly raising international visibility
 - (iv) Income generation

- (b) That, although the uncertainty concerning the external funding environment would remain until after the General Election, it was clear that the University would be operating in a constrained financial situation.
- (c) That the University was working with a brand consultant to provide an external perspective on the University's current positioning.
- (d) That there was an opportunity to amplify certain strands of the strategy whilst maintaining the pillars of absolute excellence and distinctiveness.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the issues discussed and ideas proposed at the meeting inform the consideration on how best to refocus Vision 2015.
- (b) That the Council be kept abreast of progress in reshaping the University Strategy.

73/09-10 Report from the Art Collection Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Art Collection Committee held on 28 October 2009 (C.38/09-10), including the following items of business:

- (a) Annual Report on the University Works of Art Collection
- (b) Accreditation

74/09-10 Report from the University Research Ethics Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meetings of the Research Ethics Committee held on 24 November 2009 on the following items of business (C.39/09-10):

- (a) Federal Wide Assurance.
- (b) UK Research Integrity Office Code of Practice on Research Governance.
- (c) New Processes for Ethical Approvals of Biomedical Research.
- (d) DNA Sample Collection by the Forensic Science Service.
- (e) Procedures for Ethical Approval of Research Studies.

75/09-10 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 27 November 2009 (C.40/09-10).

76/09-10 Deeds

REPORTED:

That, in accordance with Council minute 33/77-78, a copy of the deeds executed on behalf of the Council since the meeting of the Council on 18 March 2009 was available for consultation in the Deputy Registrar's Office and would be attached to the minutes in the official minute book (C.41/09-10).

77/09-10 Modern Records Centre 2008-09 Annual Report

RECEIVED:

A copy of the Modern Records Centre Annual Report for 2008-09 (C.42/09-10).

78/09-10 Conferral of Emeritus Status

REPORTED:

That the Pro-Chancellor had taken Chair's action on behalf of the Council to approve the following recommendations from the Senate for the conferral of the title of Emeritus Professor on the following colleagues with effect from their retirement (given in brackets below):

Emeritus Professor

Professor B Capp, History (30 September 2010)

Professor G Heuman, History (31 July 2010)

Professor L Roberts, Biological Sciences (2 July 2010)

Professor R Wilson, Computer Science (31 December 2009)