

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2 October 2008

Present: Mr J Leighfield (Chair), Professor L Bridges, Professor S Bright, Mrs V Cooke, Sir George Cox, Professor J Davey, Mrs P Egan, Mrs T Elliott, Mr A Glyde, Mrs V Heywood, Professor K Lamberts, Professor R Lindley, Mr G Lyons, Professor S B Palmer, Mr A Rivett, Mr N Sanders, Professor M Smith, Professor Sir John Temple, Mr S Thomson, Professor N Thrift, Professor M Whitby.

Apologies: Professor S Bassnett, Professor Y Carter, Dr R Chung, Mr P Dunne, Mr M Greenlees, Mr J Higgins, Professor R Higgott, Mr D Holmes, Mr K Muthalagappan, Mr B Woods-Scawen, Professor V Zammit

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

The Pro-Chancellor welcomed new members to the first meeting of the Council for the academic year 2008/09.

1/08-09 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 July 2008 be approved, subject to the following amendment: (deletions ~~struck through~~, additions underlined)

109/07-08 Finance and General Purposes Committee

(b) HRI Kirton

REPORTED:

(by the Director of WHRI)

(ii) That the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs ~~was broadly supportive of~~ agreed that the potential decision ~~of the University~~ to close the Kirton site was a matter for the University to decide, and ~~however, they too~~ were keen to ensure the appropriate processes to consult key staff and stakeholders were undertaken.

2/08-09 Communication to Council Members

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That Council members had been sent an email from the Registrar on 8 September 2008, which had informed them of the following:

(a) That the Installation of the Chancellor would take place on 10 December 2008 at the Warwick Arts Centre and that Council members were invited to attend.

(b) The outcome of the University's appeal relating to Equivalent or Lower Qualifications, and other issues concerning HEFCE Recurrent Funding for 2008/09.

(c) The upcoming QAA Institutional Audit.

3/08-09 HRI Kirton (Minute 109/07-08(b) refers)

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That he and the Vice-Chancellor had, on behalf of the Council, confirmed the cessation of activities on the site of HRI Kirton.

4/08-09 Financial Plan 2008-2012 (Minute 105/07-08 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

(a) That the Vice-Chancellor had established two groups within the University to feed into the Financial Planning process, and that the groups were looking at:

- (i) cost savings.
- (ii) income generation.

(b) That the revised parameters of the Financial Plan would be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee prior to being submitted for final approval at the meeting of the Council in November.

5/08-09 Student Residences (Minute 109/07-08(c) refers)

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

That Page & Park Architects had won a competition organised with the Royal Institute of British Architects to design new student residences on campus.

RESOLVED:

That Penny Egan be thanked for her contribution as Chair of the panel that selected the winner.

6/08-09 Membership of the University Council

RECEIVED:

A statement of the membership of the Council for the 2008/2009 academic year (C.1/08-09).

CONSIDERED:

(a) An oral report from the Pro-Chancellor on the progress of meetings with prospective members of the Council and the Pro-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor.

(b) A recommendation from the Nominations Committee that Mr Karamjit Singh, Chairman of the Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Partnership Trust, be appointed as a lay member of the University Council for the period to 31 July 2011 (C.2/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That updated biographical details of Council members were available on the governance section of the University website, and would appear in the Council brochure for 2008/09 that would be circulated at the next meeting of Council in November.

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Statute 16 and Ordinance 4, Mr Karamjit Singh be appointed to lay membership of the Council for the period to 31 July 2011 (passed nem con).

7/08-09 CBI Warwick Commission Conference

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Council members were invited to attend the CBI and Warwick Commission conference entitled 'The Future of Multilateralism and the Global Trade Landscape' to be held at the CBI in London on 30 October 2008, where Professor Richard Higgott (Director of the Warwick Commission) and Richard Lambert (Director-General of the CBI and University of Warwick Chancellor) would be speaking.

NOTE: Invitations and response forms were laid on the table and are available from the Council website.

8/08-09 Widening Participation

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That Warwick was one of nine universities working collaboratively in their access and widening participation programmes whereby students identified as able by one university's access programme would be able to apply to the other institutions.
- (b) That the other universities involved were Birmingham, Bristol, King's College London, Exeter, Southampton, Leicester and Leeds.

9/08-09 Research

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University had been awarded five out of forty-five Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council fellowships over the summer, which was above the expected share.
- (b) That three more Science City projects had been awarded funding jointly with Birmingham University with a value of approximately £30 million.
- (c) That for 2007/08 research awards had exceeded £100 million, a significant increase on the £78 million in 2006/07.
- (d) That the latest research success rates published for the Research Councils put Warwick at 38%, the highest of any comprehensive large scale institution, which further demonstrated the success of the University across the full range of research council funding areas.

10/08-09 University Committee Structures, Membership of Council Committees and Related Matters

CONSIDERED:

- (a) Proposed minor revisions to the constitution of Council Committees (C.3/08-09).
- (b) The membership of Council Committees for the 2008/2009 academic year (C.4/08-09).

REPORTED:

(by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That there were no significant changes proposed at this stage to the committee structure, however, proposals would be brought forward to the Council prior to the end of the academic year following further consideration of the outcome of the recent Effectiveness Review of Council.
- (b) That he had replaced the University Secretary on the Art Collection Committee.
- (c) That the Lord Rootes Memorial Fund was a committee of the Foundation Trustees and not of the Council and therefore had been removed from the Council Committee list.

(by the Pro-Chancellor)

- (d) That the Nominations Committee had recommended that, in addition to amendments listed on paper C.4/08-09, Gerard Lyons and Sir George Cox no longer serve on the Building Committee but be appointed to the Audit Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee respectively.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the following appointments to membership of Committees of the Council as recommended by the Nominations Committee be approved, in addition to those as identified in paper C.4/08-09:
 - (i) Audit Committee
Mr Gerard Lyons to replace Mr John Higgins, who was now the Chair of the Audit Committee.
 - (ii) Finance and General Purposes Committee
Sir George Cox.
- (b) That further vacancies in membership of Council Committees as set out in paper C.4/08-09 be considered by the Nominations Committee.

11/08-09 Code of Corporate Governance, Statement of Primary Responsibilities and Delegated Authorities

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The University's Code of Practice on Corporate Governance (C.5/08-09).
- (b) The University's Statement of Primary Responsibilities (C.6/08-09).

RESOLVED:

That the University's Code of Practice on Corporate Governance as set out in paper C.5/08-09 and the University's Statement of Primary Responsibilities as set out in paper C.6/08-09 be approved and adopted, noting that the Council would be invited to revisit both documents later in the year once the recommendations from the recent Effectiveness Review of Council had been implemented.

12/08-09 Report from the Senate

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Senate held on 1 October 2008 (C.7/08-09) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the following items of business discussed at the meeting of the Senate:

(a) QAA Institutional Audit

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (i) That the University's Audit visit would take place from 10 – 14 November and that there had been an extensive amount of preparation.
- (ii) That, further to some press coverage recently questioning the quality of provision at some UK Higher Education Institutions, he was confident that the University delivered high academic quality and standards and that it was expected that the QAA Institutional Audit would confirm this.

(b) Admissions 2008

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (i) That the full census for student numbers would be taken as at 31 October and a summary provided to the Council at its meeting in December.
- (ii) That the significant overshoot seen in the undergraduate intake was common across Russell Group institutions, noting that the impact of the reduction in choices on the UCAS form from six to five was considered as a potential cause.
- (iii) That overall the latest undergraduate enrolment figures indicated a good take up rate against the increased targets in the Five Year Plan.
- (iv) That the postgraduate intake was projected to be slightly under or close to target if the year-round recruitment was similar to last year, noting that the postgraduate population was difficult to project at this stage of the academic year.

- (c) Funding for Equivalent or Lower Qualifications
- (d) 2008 National Student Survey Results
- (e) National and International League Tables
- (f) International Gateway for Gifted Youth (IGGY)
- (g) Government Matched Funding Scheme
- (h) HEFCE Changes to Funding Priorities 2008-2011
- (i) Points Based Immigration
- (j) Office for Fair Access – Monitoring of the University's Access Agreement

13/08-09 Report from the Remuneration Committee

RECEIVED:

A report from the Remuneration Committee (C.8/08-09), including the following items:

- (a) Membership and Terms of Reference
- (b) Senior Staff Salary Review

14/08-09 Report from the University Health and Safety Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report of the resolutions from the meeting of the University Health and Safety Executive Committee held on 18 February 2008 (C.9/08-09) together with an oral report from the Registrar:

- (a) Leading Health and Safety at Work
- (b) Report from the new Director of Health and Safety
- (c) Summary of Recent Accidents and Incidents
- (d) Review of Work Related Stress
- (e) Enforcing Agencies

15/08-09 Academic Redundancy Process

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining proposals for amending the redundancy process for academic staff with indefinite contracts from the Human Resources Operations Director (C.10/08-09).

RESOLVED:

That the proposals recommended by the Senate for amending the redundancy process for academic staff with indefinite contracts be approved as set out in paper C.10/08-09, noting in particular:

- (a) The nomination of a pool of Redundancy Committee members to be called on an 'if required' basis.
- (b) The authorisation for the Pro-Chancellor, in his capacity as Chair of the Council, to consider and approve on behalf of the Council the identification of redundancy situations between meetings of the Council.
- (c) That the Terms of Reference for the Redundancy Committee be brought forward to the meetings of the Senate and the Council in December for consideration.

16/08-09 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 9 July 2008 (C.11/08-09).

17/08-09 Strategic Topic for Discussion: *The Coming Crisis of British Universities*

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor setting out key issues in the competitiveness of the UK HE sector internationally.

RESOLVED:

That the issues discussed by the Council would inform the agenda for the Council Away Day to be held on 21 November 2008.

18/08-09 Register of Members' Interests

RECEIVED:

A copy of the Register of Interests of Members of the University Council for the academic year 2008/2009 as at 25 September 2008 (C.12/08-09), noting that the Register would continue to be amended with any further updates received.

19/08-09 Amendments to University Statutes and Ordinances

CONSIDERED:

For the second time, proposed amendments to University Statutes and Ordinances, including those relating to the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors (C.13/08-09).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, by special resolution, the proposed amendments to University Statutes be approved, noting that they are subject to the approval of the Privy Council. (passed nem con)
- (b) That, for the second time, proposed amendments to University Ordinances be approved as set out in paper C.13/08-09:
 - (i) Ordinance 7 on the Constitution of the Boards of the Faculties.
 - (ii) Ordinance 3 on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors, noting that changes will be instituted upon approval from the Privy Council of amendments to Statute 8 on Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

20/08-09 Amendments to University Regulations

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to University Regulation 34 governing Fitness to Practise (C.14/08-09).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed amendments to University Regulation 34 governing Fitness to Practise be approved as set out in paper C.14/08-09, together with the minor revision recommended by the Senate to include a normal maximum time period of sixty days for which registration of a student could be suspended until additional evidence is available.

21/08-09 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.15/08-09).

KMS/YSW/council/2008-2009/minutes/2Oct08mins As at 16Oct08