

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 December 2005

Present: Mr J Leighfield (Chair), Professor S Bassnett, Professor Y Carter, Sir George Cox, Mr C Foy, Miss V Gooding, Mr M Greenlees, Professor R Lindley, Mr L Parks, Mr N Sanders, Professor M Smith, Ms K Stark, Professor Sir John Temple, Professor D VandeLinde, Mr T E H Walker, Professor M Whitby, Mr B Woods-Scawen.

Apologies: Mr M Angle, Professor L Bridges, Professor A Caesar, Professor A Harris, Mr J Higgins, Ms S J Hobson, Professor J Jones, Professor A McFarlane, Mr T Monnington, Professor S B Palmer, Mrs S Stubbs, Miss R Thorne, Mr P Varney, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Director of Personnel.

In Attendance: Acting Director of Finance, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Development and Alumni, Registrar, University Secretary, Ms N Snodgrass.

22/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 September 2005 be approved.
- (b) That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 October 2005 be approved.

23/05-06 Amendments to University Regulations

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That he had taken action on behalf of the Council to approve further amendments to University Regulation 5 (Regulations Governing the Granting of Study Leave, Leave of Absence and Leave to Accept a Research Award), approved by the Council at its meeting on 28 September, to remove a number of remaining references to the Committee for Study Leave and Leave of Absence.

24/05-06 Art Collection Committee

RESOLVED:

That Professor P Smith of the Department of History of Art be appointed to the membership of the Art Collection Committee to fill the vacant position in the academic membership of the Committee.

25/05-06 Warwick in Asia

RECEIVED:

Oral reports from Professor Lindley, Professor Whitby and Professor Bassnett on the progress of discussions conducted by the Singapore Academic Planning Group on the development of an alternative plan for academic development in Singapore.

REPORTED: (by Professor Lindley)

That proposals for an alternative plan for academic development in Singapore would be brought forward for consideration by the Senate and the Council at their meetings to be held on 8 and 15 March 2006 respectively.

26/05-06 Emeritus Professor

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That he had taken action on behalf of the Council to approve the conferral of the title of Emeritus Professor on Professor James Hinton of the Department of History with effect from 1 September 2005.

27/05-06 Meetings of the Council 2006/07

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That the first meeting of the Council in the academic year 2006/07, originally scheduled to be held on Wednesday 4 October 2006, would now be held on Thursday 5 October 2006.

Note: The meeting of the Honorary Degrees Committee has also been rescheduled for Thursday 5 October 2006.

28/05-06 EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the following bids submitted by the University in Round 2 of the EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards had been successful:

- (a) Mathematics and Computer Science Interface (Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science and the Warwick Business School)
- (b) Plasma Physics (Department of Physics and the UKAEA Culham Science Laboratory).

29/05-06 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University's two Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs), the CAPITAL Centre and the Reinvention Centre for Undergraduate Education, had received £350k and £140k respectively in additional capital funding and that proposals for the use of this funding had been submitted to the HEFCE.

30/05-06 UUK and Russell Group

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the planned restructuring of Universities UK and the Russell Group and the proposed appointment of a Director-General for the Russell Group.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Malcolm Grant, President and Provost of University College London, had been appointed as the new Chair of the Russell Group and would take up his post following the end of Professor Michael Sterling's term of office in 2006.

31/05-06 Fundraising Feasibility Study

RECEIVED:

Oral reports from the Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Development and Alumni on the progress of the feasibility study undertaken by Grenzebach Glier Associates to evaluate the University's potential to conduct a major fundraising campaign, noting that the interim findings from the study had been positive.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the full feasibility study Report from Grenzebach Glier Associates was expected to be available from January 2006 and would be brought forward for consideration by the Council at its meeting to be held on 15 March 2006.

32/05-06 Report from the Senate

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Senate held on 30 November 2005 (C.22/05-06) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the following items of business discussed at the meeting of the Senate:

- (a) The establishment of the Education Innovation Fund
- (b) The University's improved performance in the University League Tables recently published by the *Sunday Times*, the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and the Shanghai Jiao Tong University

- (c) The significant fundraising progress made by the Development and Alumni Relations Office
- (d) The DfES consultation on improvements to the higher education applications process, including the possibility of the introduction of a post-qualifications applications system
- (e) The consultation launched by the HEFCE on its vision and plans for promoting better regulation for higher education institutions through a less bureaucratic and more streamlined accountability process.

33/05-06 Academic Statistics 2005/06

CONSIDERED:

The University's Academic Statistics document for the academic year 2005/06 together with an oral report from the Director of Academic and Student Affairs summarising a number of trends relating to the student, staff and research data presented in the document.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar's Office continue to monitor the factors underlying the decline in undergraduate overseas student numbers with a view to refining the University's existing predictive mechanisms and risk management strategies for its student recruitment activities.

34/05-06 Report from the Strategy Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolutions set out below a report from the meeting of the Strategy Committee held on 17 November 2005 (C.23/05-06) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That members of the Council forward any comments on the proposed set of institutional key performance indicators (tabled at the meeting) to the University Secretary.
- (b) That the proposed set of institutional key performance indicators (KPIs) be developed further over the coming term in the light of discussion at the meeting and any forthcoming feedback from Council members and a full report on the final set of KPIs brought forward for consideration by the Council at its meeting to be held on 15 March 2006.

35/05-06 Report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolutions set out below a report from the meetings of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 10 October 2005, 1 November 2005 and 2 December 2005 (C.24/05-06 {Parts 1 and 2}) together with an oral report and presentation from the University Treasurer.

(a) University Consolidated Accounts 2004/05

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the University's Consolidated Accounts for the year ending 31 July 2005 be approved, printed and circulated as set out in the Report from the Finance and General Purposes Committee (C.24/04-05 {Part 1}) and that the management representation letter be signed by the Vice-Chancellor and the University Treasurer.
- (ii) That the University's treasury management policy be raised as an item for discussion at a future meeting of the Council.
- (iii) That the Council record its thanks to the Acting Director of Finance and her team for their work in preparing the University's Consolidated Accounts for the year ending 31 July 2005.

(b) Report from the Budget Steering Group

RESOLVED:

That the release of £55k in the financial year 2005/06 to part-fund three permanent IT Services posts in order to improve information security management at the University, with the ongoing costs of these posts to be built into future planning rounds, be approved.

(c) Islamic Prayer Hall

RESOLVED:

That the release of up to £320k in the financial year 2005/06 for the refurbishment of vacant space in the former Senate House building for use as an Islamic Prayer Hall be approved.

(d) Indoor Tennis Centre

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council note the declaration of Ms V Gooding, made at the meeting, of her membership of the Lawn Tennis Association and the fact that this might represent a potential conflict of interest in respect of this particular item.
- (ii) That the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee that the University commit the sum of £900k towards the construction of an indoor tennis centre on the Westwood campus be approved.

(e) Education Innovation Fund

RESOLVED:

That the release of approximately £300k in the financial year 2005/06 for the establishment of the £1m Education Innovation Fund for teaching and learning be approved, with the balance of approximately £700k to be built into the 2006/07 financial planning round.

(f) Warwick in Asia

RESOLVED:

That the release of £150k in the financial year 2005/06 as a further budget allocation for the Warwick in Asia project be approved.

(g) On-Campus Accommodation

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Campus and the Community})

That the proposed weighted average increase of 8.8% in on-campus rents for the academic year 2005/06 was inclusive of contents insurance for all residents and that this insurance would be rolled out to off-campus accommodation in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the weighted average increase of 8.8% in on-campus rents for the academic year 2005/06 be approved.

36/05-06

Report from the Audit Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 23 November 2005 (C.25/05-06) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Audit Committee on anticipated changes to the Committee and Internal Audit functions over the coming year.

Annual Report from the Chair of the Committee

CONSIDERED:

The Annual Report of the Chair of the Audit Committee summarising the Committee's work for the year, including its scrutiny of the external auditor's management letter, a range of reports prepared by Internal Audit and the Committee's conclusion that the University's audit arrangements for the 2004/05 financial year were satisfactory.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report of the Chair of the Audit Committee be received and noted.

37/05-06 Building Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolution set out below a report from the meeting of the Building Committee held on 22 November 2005 (C.26/05-06) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Building Committee.

RESOLVED:

That ongoing development of the University's planning application for the University Development Plan be included as an item for discussion at the meeting of the Council to be held on 15 March 2006.

38/05-06 Honorary Degrees Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolution set out below a report from the meeting of the Honorary Degrees Committee held on 1 December 2005 (C.27/05-06) 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 honorary degrees be conferred on the fourteen persons recommended by the Committee and including the proposed conferral of two honorary degrees in overseas locations (passed nem con with 2 abstentions).

39/05-06 Equal Opportunities Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolutions set out below a report from the meeting of the Equal Opportunities Committee held on 31 October 2005 (C.28/05-06) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Equal Opportunities Committee.

(a) Race Equality Policy and Action Plan

RESOLVED:

That the University's revised Race Equality Policy Action Plan be approved and adopted as set out in paper EOC.2/05-06 (revised).

(b) Race Equality – Annual Report

RESOLVED:

That the University's annual progress report on Race Equality be approved as set out in paper EOC.3/05-06 (revised).

(c) Equality and Diversity

RESOLVED:

That the Equal Opportunities Committee be renamed the Equality and Diversity Committee to reflect the University's transition towards diversity.

(d) Equality Impact Assessment

RESOLVED:

That the Council record formally its gratitude to the Assistant Director of Personnel (Policy and Projects) and the Secretary of the Equality and Diversity Committee for their work in the implementation of Equality Impact Assessments across the University as part of the University's obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act.

40/05-06 Awards and Distinctions

RECEIVED:

A paper setting out the awards and distinctions that had been conferred on members of the University since the meeting of the Council held on 28 September 2005 (C.29/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That, further to the list of awards and distinctions set out in paper C.29/05-06:

- (a) The International Children's Games 2005, hosted, organised and sponsored by the University, had won the award for Best Sporting Occasion of the Year in the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sports Awards.
- (b) AdvanceSis Ltd, one of the University's spin-out companies specialising in the development of strained silicon, had been awarded the title of Best Spin-Out Company 2005 at the Lord Stafford Awards.
- (c) RaW, the University's student radio station, had been short listed in four categories of the Student Radio Awards in association with Radio 1 (Best Entertainment, Best Comedy and Drama, Best News and Best Sport).

41/05-06 Research Project on University Governance

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

That he had received a request from a doctoral student at the University of Bristol for the assistance of lay members of the Council in a research project on University governance.

RESOLVED:

That the willingness of lay members of the Council to participate in the proposed research project on University governance be recorded.

42/05-06 Report from the Safety Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED with the resolutions set out below a report from the meeting of the University Safety Committee held on 4 November 2005 (C.30/05-06).

Revision of the University Safety Policy

RESOLVED:

(a) That the proposed amendments to Part 9 of Safety in the University (SITU) on personal protective equipment be approved as set out in paper USC.09/05-06.

(b) That the proposed amendments to the accident reporting form in SITU Part 21 be approved as set out in paper USC.10/05-06.

43/05-06 Art Collection Committee

CONSIDERED and ADOPTED a report from the meeting of the Art Collection Committee held on 24 November 2005 (C.31/05-06).

44/05-06 Amendments to University Ordinances

CONSIDERED:

For the second time, proposed amendments to University Ordinances 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 24 (C.32/05-06).

RESOLVED:

For the second time, that proposed amendments to University Ordinances 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 24 be approved as set out in paper C.32/05-06.

45/05-06 Amendments to University Regulations

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to University Regulations (C.33/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That proposed changes to University Regulations 11(B), 14 and 16 be approved as set out in paper C.33/05-06.

46/05-06 Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Chancellor)

- (a) That the current period of office of Professor Jones as Pro-Vice-Chancellor would expire on 31 July 2005.
- (b) That Professor Jones was eligible for re-appointment for a third two-year term of office.
- (c) That, in accordance with the procedures for the appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors prescribed in Ordinance 3, the Vice-Chancellor's Advisory Committee on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors would bring forward during the Spring Term a recommendation for appointment for consideration by the Vice-Chancellor who would recommend appointment to the vacant Pro-Vice-Chancellorship to the Council, through the Senate.