

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 February 2005

- Present: Mr J Leighfield (Chair), Mr M Angle, Professor A Caesar, Mr I Caulfield, Professor M Cooper, Professor R G Dyson, Mr C Foy, Councillor R Grant, Mr J Higgins, Professor R Lindley, Mr S Lucas, Professor A McFarlane, Mr T Monnington, Professor S B Palmer, Mr N Sanders, Sir John Temple, Professor D VandeLinde, Mr P Varney, Mr T E H Walker, Professor M Whitby, Mr B Woods-Scawen, Mr N Young.
- Apologies: Councillor D Arrowsmith, Professor Y Carter, Mr G Cox, Mr M Greenlees, Ms V Gooding, Professor A Harris, Professor J Jones, Ms R Thorne.
- In Attendance: Dr I Nussey, Academic Registrar, Deputy Finance Director, Director of Student and Academic Affairs, Finance Director, Registrar, University Secretary, Assistant Registrar (Registrar's Office), Ms C Leaver, Ms J Wynne-Jones, Ms N Snodgrass.

43/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 December 2004 be deferred until the meeting of the Council to be held on 16 March 2005.

44/04-05 Warwick in Asia

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The minutes of the meeting of the Senate held on 24 January 2004 setting out the outcome of its consideration of the first stage feasibility Report on the Warwick in Asia Project.
- (b) A Report on Warwick in Asia (C.35/04-05) together with a summary of the issues raised by members of Council on the Warwick in Asia Project in response to an invitation to raise issues relating to the Project circulated by the University Secretary in January 2005.
- (c) The recommendations of the Senate from its meeting held on 24 January 2005 that a full feasibility study on the establishment of a campus in Singapore be commissioned as proposed in paper C.35/04-05.

RESOLVED:

In the light of wide-ranging discussion at the meeting, extending over one hour and thirty minutes, and a show of hands with 20 in favour, 1 opposed and 1 abstention:

- (a) That a full feasibility study on the establishment of a second University campus in Singapore be commissioned, as set out in paper C.35/04-05, and expenditure of up to £400k be authorised to complete the study by the end of September 2005 on the understanding:
- (i) That the feasibility study would:
 - (A) develop detailed academic plans which aimed to clarify research aspirations and identify prospective funding streams.
 - (B) commission market research to test the market for academic staff and assumptions on student demand and fee levels.
 - (C) develop a clear statement of questions and conditions to be resolved by the full feasibility project, to be drawn up by the project management team.
 - (D) seek to identify UK sponsors to support the development of Warwick In Asia.
 - (E) demonstrate that institutional autonomy and academic freedom could be properly safeguarded and that concerns regarding human rights issues could be satisfactorily addressed.
 - (F) seek to gather information which could be transferable in respect to the evaluation of the opportunities for alternative University developments in Asia.
 - (G) evaluate the impact of the Warwick in Asia project on operations and activities on Warwick in Coventry.
 - (ii) That the feasibility study would provide clear evidence that a Warwick campus in Singapore could be expected to enhance the following three key strategic objectives of the University:
 - (A) becoming a world leader in teaching and research.
 - (B) raising the University's national and international profile
 - (C) differentiating the University from its current and future competitors.
 - (iii) That the following financial conditions would need to be met for a University campus in Singapore to be established:
 - (A) that any initial operational and building costs deficit can be met from a combination of projected income, loans or grants.
 - (B) that, in steady state, the business model for the Singapore campus will generate a small surplus.
 - (C) that any financial requirements for the development in Singapore do not adversely affect future developments on the Warwick campus.
 - (iv) That any additional demands on academic and administrative activities arising from the Project do not adversely affect the development of the University of Warwick in Coventry.

- (v) That material failure to satisfy the conditions set out in (ii), (iii) and (iv) above would result in the University withdrawing from further consideration of establishment of a campus in Singapore.
- (vi) That an enhanced level of resources would be required to conduct the full feasibility study, from within and without the University, and that steps were being taken to identify and review the necessary resources required to support the project in the context of ongoing commitments at Warwick in Coventry.
- (b) That the range of issues raised in discussion at the meeting be compiled into a single document to be circulated to members of the Council.
- (c) That a schedule of planning activities for the feasibility study be prepared together with a statement of questions and conditions to be addressed by the study, which incorporates issues raised at the meeting and any additional comments provided by members after the meeting, for consideration by the Council on 16 March 2005.
- (d) That a special meeting of the Council be convened in June to consider an interim report on the Warwick in Asia Project.
- (e) That informal briefings be scheduled on the Warwick in Asia Project, aimed particularly at lay members of Council, during the course of the Spring and Summer Terms.