

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 10 August 2015

- Present: Professor S Croft (Provost (Chair)), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor T Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering and Medicine)), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education)), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of Science), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences)), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (People and Public Engagement)), Professor P Winstanley (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor L Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources)).
- Apologies: Professor Sir Nigel Thrift (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)), Professor M Freely (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor M Taylor (Dean of the Warwick Business School), Mr I Leigh (President of the Students' Union).
- In Attendance: Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Dr E Hough (Assistant Registrar, Governance (Assistant Secretary)), Ms K Ireland (Head of Secondary Teacher Education, CPE, for item 404/14-15), Ms G McGrattan (Director of Human Resources), Mr I Rowley (Director of Development, Communication and External Affairs), Mrs Y Salter-Wright (Director of Delivery Assurance, for items 405/14-15), Mr K Sloan (Registrar and Chief Operating Officer (Secretary)).

396/14-15 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 27 July 2015 be approved.
- (b) That the congratulations of the Steering Committee (minute 377/14-15 refers), be extended in person to Professor Swain, on his election as a Fellow of the British Academy, noting that he had not been present at the meeting on 27 July 2015.

397/14-15 Postgraduate Summer Fete

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That on Thursday, 23 July 2015, over 350 postgraduates took the opportunity to take a break from their work at the first Postgraduate Summer Fête.

RESOLVED:

That congratulations and thanks be extended to all those involved in this highly successful event.

398/14-15 Building our Postgraduate Community

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That in the coming months, the Community Engagement Team in the Library would be building a programme of activities to enhance the postgraduate experience and build a sense of the Warwick community through cultural and wellbeing events, skills workshops, and celebratory activities.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education))

That these events, like the Summer Fete, were intended to respond to requests from postgraduates students, for more social activities and opportunities during the throughout the year, including the vacation periods.

399/14-15 Midlands' Universities Group Appoints New Director

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That Dr Helen Turner had been appointed the first Director of the M6 Group and the British Geological Survey (BGS), overseeing the development of this partnership, which aimed to harness the combined research power of the M6 Group and bring significant economic benefits to help make the Midlands the Engine for Growth.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering and Medicine))

That Dr Turner brought significant experience to the role, having spent the last seven years as Director of the Midlands Energy Consortium, noting that she would visit the University in September 2015.

400/14-15 JLR Learning Academy

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That in a House of Lord's debate on the most recent government budget, Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya, Chairman of WMG, had supported the proposal for a statutory apprenticeship levy, noting however that he had cautioned that industry must be involved with its design.

401/14-15 University Open Days

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That the next University Open Days would take place on Saturday 26 September and Saturday 24 October 2015.

402/14-15 *Headline results for the National Student Survey (NSS) 2015

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining headline results for the National Student Survey (NSS) 2015 (SC.183/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to the School of Life Sciences and the Centre for Lifelong Learning on the significant improvements in their scores.

403/14-15 *Postgraduate Research Experience Survey 2015: Results and Actions

CONSIDERED:

A paper presenting the results and preliminary actions for the 2015 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) (SC.184/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the results and preliminary actions for the 2015 PRES be noted.

404/14-15 *Department for Education (DfE) Bid for A-Level Grants Programme

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining a proposal from the Centre for Professional Education (CPE) to bid to the Department for Education's (DfE) A-Level Grants Programme (SC.185/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal for a bid to the DfE A-Level Grants Programme not be approved, noting the low financial gain, alongside the risks associated with long-term student retention and the length of the contract.
- (b) That the CPE consider discussing these concerns with the Department for Education, with a view to potentially exploring alternative business models.

405/14-15 *Student Discipline Framework: Regulation 27 On Campus residences – Schedule of Tariffs

CONSIDERED:

A paper detailing the proposed schedule of tariffs for common breaches, in line with the new Regulation 27 on On-Campus Residential Accommodation (SC.186/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the schedule of tariffs, as set out in Regulation 27 for on-campus residential accommodation be approved on behalf of the Senate, and will be applicable from the start of the 2015/2016 academic year, noting points (d) and (f) above should be taken into account when implementing the revised Regulation 27.

406/14-15 *Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) – Review of Tier 2

CONSIDERED:

A paper setting out responses to questions posed by the Migration Advisory Committee's call for evidence on the review of Tier 2 visas, for submission initially to the Russell Group (SC.187/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the University's responses to the Migration Advisory Committee's call for evidence be approved, including any subsequent addition of case study information.

407/14-15 *Code of Practice for Higher Education Data Collections

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing information about the introduction of a new Code of Practice for Higher Education Collections by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) (SC.188/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the key principles of the new Code of Practice for Higher Education Collections be noted.
- (b) That the paper (SC.188/14-15 {restricted}) be forwarded for consideration by the Audit Committee.

408/14-15 *HEFCE Letter: 2013-14 Data on Teaching Qualifications

CONSIDERED:

A letter from the HEFCE setting out the 2013-14 data on teaching qualifications (SC.189/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the information contained in the HEFCE letter on teaching qualifications be noted.
- (b) That the data included in the staff HESA return be checked for accuracy.