

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 24 April 2017

- Present: Professor Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President (Chair)), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor C Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)), Professor D Leadley (Academic Member of the Senate), Mr L Pilot (President of the Students' Union), Ms R Sandby-Thomas (Registrar), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of Science), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement)), Professor L Young (Academic Vice-President).
- Apologies: Professor C Ennew (Provost), Professor M Nudds (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)).
- In Attendance: Professor N Driffield (Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Regional Engagement), for item 301/16-17), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Mrs P Glover (Secretary to Council), Ms J Horsburgh (Strategy Director (Secretary)), Ms G McGrattan (Director, People Group), Mrs E Morrison (Project Officer (Strategic Programme Delivery) (Assistant Secretary)).

287/16-17 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2017 be approved subject to the following amendments (deletions ~~struck through~~, additions underlined) to minute 282/16-17 *QS Rankings by Subject.

288/16-17 Conflicts of Interest

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That, should any members or attendees of the Steering Committee have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education Code of Governance (2014).

NOTE: No declarations were made.

289/16-17 UK General Election

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That MPs had voted in favour of the government motion to call a general election for 8 June 2017.
- (b) That the major political parties were still to publish their manifestos, noting that their position in relation to higher education was unclear at this stage.

290/16-17 Higher Education Research Bill

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Lords had passed the higher education and research bill and that the draft legislation would return to the Commons for MPs to vote on the provisional changes.

291/16-17 EU Student Funding

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the government confirmed on 21 April that non-British EU students starting courses in 2018-19 would continue to have access to student funding support for the duration of their courses.

292/16-17 EU Workers Rights

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That it had been reported in the press that the European Commission had suggested, in an informal negotiating paper, that EU nationals working in the UK should be guaranteed the right to stay, which would extend over the lifetime of all those who were currently in the UK.

293/16-17 Decline in EU student applications

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the decline in the number of European Union students applying for a place at a British university had continued, according to the latest figures published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, noting that the figures showed that 6% fewer EU students had made an application by 24 March 2017 compared with the same date last year.

294/16-17 Royal Society Innovation Award

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That Professor Julie Macpherson, from the Department of Chemistry, who was working on water quality monitoring with carbon materials, had been awarded a Royal Society Innovation Award, and would receive £250,000 from the award.
- (b) That the research was being undertaken by Professor Macpherson and her team in conjunction with Professor Mark Newton, from the Department of Physics and Director of the UK's centre for doctoral training centre in Diamond Science and Technology, and the industrial company Element Six.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to Professor Macpherson, Professor Newton and their team.

295/16-17 Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That Cyber Security research across the University had been recognised as an “Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research” (ACE-CSR) by the UK’s National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).
- (b) That the Warwick Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research brought together researchers from a number of departments in particular WMG, Politics and International Studies (PAIS), Computer Science, Warwick Business School, and several others.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to those involved in the Warwick Academic Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security Research.

296/16-17 £4.25 Million funding for research at WMG

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That on 11 April, Business Secretary Greg Clark and Transport Minister John Hayes announced a range of research funding which had included a total of £4.25 million for a high energy battery research project, and an autonomous vehicle research project at WMG.
- (b) That the first project was being led by BMW Group, to design and develop power dense batteries in the UK, and that the second project was CAPRI - an AECOM-led consortium that had secured funding from Innovate UK and the Centre for Connected & Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV) to deliver an on-road mobility service pilot using connected and autonomous vehicles.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to those involved in the two research projects.

297/16-17 Meeting of the Assembly

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That a meeting of the University Assembly would take place on 12 May 2017 from 10.30am to 11.30am in the Oculus, to consider a motion on Reforming the University of Warwick’s Employment Statute (Statute 24).
- (b) That it had been agreed, that exceptionally on this occasion, the meeting would be open to academic members of staff, as opposed to the full membership of the assembly, noting that the proposed reform would impact primarily on the academic community.
- (c) That the Vice-Chancellor would also speak about the proposal at the upcoming all staff meeting.

298/16-17 All Staff Meeting

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the next all staff meeting was to be held on 10 May 2017 from 2pm to 3pm in the Oculus.

299/16-17 Top UK University in 'Golden Age' ranking

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That Warwick has been ranked the top UK university in the Times Higher Education “Golden Age” ranking, for universities established between 1945 and 1966.
- (b) That this new ranking was launched in conjunction with the Young University Rankings, which listed the best universities under 50 years old, and that the ranking was produced using the same methodology as the World University Rankings.

300/16-17 *University's Access Agreement 2018/19

CONSIDERED:

A report on the high level updates to the University's Access Agreement 2018/19 (SC.113/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University's access agreement expenditure profile for 2018/19 onwards, as set out in SC.113/16-17 {restricted}, be approved.
- (b) That the proposed developments to the University's access agreement for 2018/19, as set out in SC.113/16-17 {restricted}, be approved for submission to OFFA.
- (c) That the Committee noted that with TEF2 outcomes pending, this could have an impact on access agreement income and expenditure levels and the University may be required to resubmit its 2018/19 access agreement with this detail.

301/16-17 *Draft Response to the Government's Industrial Strategy

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the government's Industrial Strategy (SC.114/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That University's response to the government's Industrial Strategy be noted.

302/16-17 *Prevent Update

RECEIVED:

An oral update from the Director, People Group.

RESOLVED:

That an update on the progress made regarding training for the Prevent duty would be considered by the Committee in late June or early July.

303/16-17 Replacement of the Senior Officials' Robes

RECEIVED:

A proposal for the replacement of ceremonial robes for senior officials (SC.115/16-17).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the current robes were old and reaching the end of their useful life, noting that the appointment of a new Chancellor had emphasised the need to replace them.
- (b) That the new designs developed by Ede and Ravenscroft reflected the requirements previously set by the Committee, noting that the new robes would be less hierarchical and instead use colour to differentiate between roles, and that they would be less embellished.
- (c) That a prototype of the new Chancellor's robe was being produced for the Chancellor's installation event on the 3 May 2017.
- (d) That Ede and Ravenscroft had not indicated that the hire charges would increase, noting that they were producing the robes free of charge but that there would be an ongoing maintenance charge.

(by the Group Finance Director)

- (e) That it was important to emphasise to the community that the new robes would not cost the University any more than the existing robes and that the hire terms for the robes required clarification.

(by the Secretary to Council)

- (f) That the branding on the robes was not very clear and that consideration should be given to the robustness of the material to ensure longevity of the robes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Registrar would confirm with Procurement that the robe hire charge was static.
- (b) That the replacement of the Senior Officials' robes be noted.

304/16-17 *Report from the Fees Working Group

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Fees Working Group on the key items of business from the meetings in February and April 2017 (SC.116/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the fee schedule recommendations from the Fees Working Group, as set out in SC.116/16-17 {restricted} Annex A, required further financial scrutiny and would be approved by Chair's Action once this had been completed.
- (b) That the recommendations of the Fees Working Group regarding the 2020/21 standard overseas fee levels for undergraduate courses be approved.
- (c) That the recommendations of the Fees Working Group regarding the 2018/19 standard fee levels for postgraduate taught courses be approved.
- (d) That the recommendations of the Fees Working Group regarding the 2020/21 standard overseas fee levels for postgraduate research courses be approved.
- (e) That the revised fee level of £4,195 for Home/EU postgraduate research students in 2017/18 be approved.
- (f) That the proposed University approach to tuition fee deposits, as set out in SC.116/16-17 {restricted} Annex B, be approved.
- (g) That the amended deposit charges and terms for applicants to study on the Warwick Business School's full-time Masters programmes, to apply for the 2018/19 recruitment cycle, or DLMBA, for the January 2018 intake, as set out in SC.116/16-17 {restricted}, be approved.
- (h) That the recommendation to set a "one-off" fee in 2016/17 for the residual cohort of the SSAT MA in Educational Leadership and Management by Professional Route of \$9,450 AUD be approved.
- (i) That the key points of discussion from the meetings of the Fees Working Group held on 9 February 2017 and 4 April 2017 be noted.

305/16-17 Installation of the New Chancellor

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Chancellor's Installation event for Baroness Catherine Ashton was to take place on 3 May 2017, and that this was an important occasion for the University and cause for celebration.

306/16-17 West Midlands Mayoral Elections

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That the elections for the new West Midlands Mayor were to take place on 4 May 2017.
- (b) That as a general election had been called for 8 June 2017 it was important to encourage students to register to vote and to use their vote, noting that voter registration would be undertaken automatically for new students from 2017/18.

As at 4 May 2017