

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 24 October 2016

- Present: Professor S Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President (Chair)), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor C Ennew (Provost), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), 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 P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)).
- Apologies: Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President), Professor L Young (Academic Vice-President).
- In Attendance: Ms S Bennett (Director, Student Careers and Skills) (for item 80/16-17), Dr G Carden (Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics (Acting Secretary)), Ms C Cochrane (Director of Research and Impact Services) (for item 81/16-17), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Ms J Hughes (Head of Operations and Information) (for item 80/16-17), Mr I Rowley (Director of Development, Communications and External Affairs), Ms C Wightman (Administrative Officer (Governance) (Assistant Secretary)).

69/16-17 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2016 be approved.

70/16-17 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.

71/16-17 Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That this was the last meeting which Professor Christina Hughes, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), was due to attend, it being noted that she had sent her apologies, prior to her taking up her new role at Sheffield Hallam University with effect from 1 November 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Committee be recorded in respect of the work that Professor Christina Hughes had undertaken in her capacity as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Faculty Chair, Head of Department and in all other roles that she had carried out during her time with the University.

72/16-17 Universities UK (UUK) Report

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That the Universities UK (UUK) report on sexual violence in UK universities had been published on Friday 21 October and that the taskforce had also published guidance for universities, which replaced the Zellick guidelines, about managing such situations.
- (b) That the Provost was due to attend a workshop in relation to the issue of sexual violence in universities and that there was an opportunity for the University to undertake some effective engagement around this issue.

73/16-17 *Council Discussion on Home/EU Undergraduate Fees

74/16-17 *Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2 Submission

75/16-17 Fees for International Students

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Universities and Science Minister had announced that the home fee status would be retained for the duration of courses starting in 2017/18 for EU students.

76/16-17 The Oculus Building

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Oculus, the University's new flagship teaching and learning building, had opened and offered excellent teaching spaces as well as tiered lecture theatres, study areas and a café.

RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Committee be extended to Professor Young, Mr J Breckon, the Estates department and all colleagues who have contributed to the project..

77/16-17 Long Service Awards

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That an evening hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, the Provost and the Registrar, had taken place on 11 October 2016 to celebrate colleagues from across the University who had worked at the University over the past 20, 30 and 40 years.

78/16-17 Nobel Prize for Warwick Economics Graduate

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the 2016 Nobel Prize in Economics had been awarded to Professor Oliver Hart, a graduate and honorary graduate of the University, who received the award for his work on Contract Theory, and that it was furthermore noted that the award would contribute to a minor extent to the University's alumni score in the Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Ranking of World Universities.

79/16-17 Warwick Researcher Receives Suffrage Science Award

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

As part of the launch of a new initiative under the Suffrage Science Scheme to celebrate women, Professor Jane Hutton from the Department of Statistics, received a Suffrage Science in maths and computing award.

RESOLVED:

That congratulations be extended to Professor Hutton.

80/16-17 *The Times and The Sunday Times University League Table: Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) results for 2014/15 graduates

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Director, Student Careers and Skills, and the Head of Operations and Information, Student Careers and Skills, updating the Steering Committee on the University's performance in the latest Times and Sunday Times University League Table, in terms of graduate employment and salaries (SC.29/16-17 {restricted}).

81/16-17 *HEFCE requirement for a 5 year Knowledge Exchange Strategy

CONSIDERED:

A draft report from the Director of Research and Impact Services on the University's HEFCE 5 year Knowledge Exchange (KE) Strategy, for review and approval, prior to submission to HEFCE on the 31 October 2016 (SC.30/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement) provide the Director of Research and Impact Services with a brief narrative outlining further material for inclusion in the KE Strategy, noting the imminent submission deadline to HEFCE.
- (b) That the HEFCE 5 year Knowledge Exchange Strategy be approved for submission, subject to the required additions and amendments as discussed by the Committee.

82/16-17 *Report from the Fees Working Group

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Academic Registrar informing the Committee of the main items of business from the Fees Working Group held on 30 September 2016 and seeking the Committee's approval of the recommendations for fee levels as set out in the paper (SC.31/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations for fee levels as set out in the paper be approved.

83/16-17 University Open Days

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That following the University open day on Saturday 22 October 2016 the University could now usefully think about the process for assessing the success of this type of event and consider learning points from other institutions with a view to ensuring that the University maximised its opportunities to be distinctive.

(by the Provost)

- (b) That the open day on 22 October 2016 had been an enjoyable day which was well-attended and demonstrated a great deal of variety across departments in terms of the volume and type of activity undertaken.
- (c) That the new Oculus building represented an excellent resource for use on open days and there was an opportunity to further utilise space around the Piazza area.
- (d) That the student volunteers involved with the open day had done a commendable job and the organisers of the event were keen to explore opportunities for innovation around open days.
- (e) That there did not appear to be a correlation between departments which struggled to achieve student intake targets and those that were poorly attended on open days.
- (f) That consideration should be given to open day welcome presentations being delivered by either the Vice-Chancellor or Provost or by a Pro-Vice-Chancellor (as they had been previously).

(by the Group Finance Director)

- (g) That her personal experience of attending the open day on 22 October 2016 with a prospective student had been a varied one; the Department of Engineering provided a positive experience whereas the Students' Union building would have benefitted from a livelier atmosphere and better signage.
- (h) That there were marked differences in the standards and quality of the accommodation available to view on the open days but that it was important to present a range in order to properly manage visitor expectations.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (i) That the October open day was generally a quieter event than the summer open days.
- (j) That feedback from academic departments had indicated a feeling that there may be too many open days which put considerable pressure on departments and that there was a need to continue to consider the impact on colleagues of the current volume of open days.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research))

- (k) That the University should strive to maintain institutional learning through continuity of engagement by senior academic colleagues in University open days.

As at 3 November 2016