

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 6 February 2017

- Present: Professor Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President (Chair)), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor C Ennew (Provost), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor C Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)), Professor D Leadley (Academic Member of the Senate), Professor M Nudds (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), 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 A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)).
- In Attendance: Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Dr G Carden (Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics, for University Long-Term Strategy and Campus Masterplan item), Ms D Chambers (Director - Student Recruitment, Outreach and Admissions Service, for item SC.81/16-17), Mr D Gibbons (Senior Project Manager / Team Leader, Estates, for University Long-Term Strategy and Campus Masterplan Item), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Mrs P Glover (Secretary to Council), Ms J Horsburgh (Strategy Director (Secretary)), Ms G McGrattan (Director, People Group), Ms R Roke (Director of Strategic Programme Delivery, for University Long-Term Strategy and Campus Masterplan item), Mr I Rowley (Director of Development, Communications and External Affairs), Mrs C Wightman (Administrative Officer (Governance) (Assistant Secretary)).

192/16-17 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2017 be approved subject to the following amendments (deletions ~~struck through~~, additions underlined):

Minute 181/16-17 *Teaching Excellence Framework Draft Submission

RESOLVED:

- (c) That the recommendation that the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) ~~be remitted to~~ should approve, on behalf of the Steering Committee, any further version of the draft submission produced subsequent to the meeting of the Committee to incorporate any changes requested at the meeting and any final changes that may occur on editing or late facts, to enable submission by noon on 26 January 2017, be approved.

193/16-17 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.

194/16-17 *Health and Safety Update (minute 183/16-17 refers)

195/16-17 In Memoriam – Mr Ian Hughes

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the University was deeply saddened by the news that Mr Ian Hughes, Senior Teaching Fellow at WMG, had passed away on Monday 9 January 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the sincere condolences of the Steering Committee be extended to the Hughes family.

196/16-17 Professor Martin Hairer Awarded KBE

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Professor Martin Hairer FRS, Regius Professor of Mathematics, had been awarded the rank of Knight Commander, Order of the British Empire, noting that the award was given for a pre-eminent contribution within the recipient's fields of activity.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Steering Committee be extended to Professor Hairer.

197/16-17 Professor Andrew Coats Awarded Order of Australia

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Professor Andrew Coats, former Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance) had been awarded one of Australia's highest civilian honours, the Order of Australia, noting that Professor Coats had been made an Officer of the Order for distinguished service to medical research and tertiary education in the field of cardiology, as an academic and author, and as a mentor and role model for young scientists.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Steering Committee be extended to Professor Coats.

198/16-17 Professor Nigel Driffield appointed as Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Regional Engagement)

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Professor Nigel Driffield, Associate Dean (Regional Engagement) and Professor of International Business at Warwick Business School, had been appointed as Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Regional Engagement from 1 February 2017, noting that Professor Driffield would work closely with Professor Simon Swain, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement), to extend and deepen the University's relationships across the West Midlands region, to ensure connectivity with regional and central government initiatives such as the emerging Industrial Strategy.

199/16-17 Government Policy

(a) Brexit

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the European Union (notification of withdrawal) Bill had been published on 26 January and now faced further scrutiny in the Commons and the House of Lords before it could become law, noting that the Prime Minister had set a deadline of 31 March for invoking Article 50.

(b) Higher Education and Research Bill

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the latest version of the Bill had been published on 31 January, noting that the report stage, during which the government would consider peers' concerns, would commence on 6 March and furthermore noting that, should the Lords refuse to back the Bill, the government would be forced to reintroduce the legislation in the following parliamentary session in the autumn.

200/16-17 Warwick honoured at Innovation in International Education Awards

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the University had been honoured by the Institute of International Education at the 2017 Andrew Heiskell Awards for its development of the International Conference of Undergraduate Research, noting that the Awards showcased the most innovative and successful models for internationalising the campus, study abroad, and international partnership programmes in practice today, with a particular emphasis on initiatives that remove institutional barriers and broaden the base of participation in study abroad.

201/16-17 University Awards

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Staff Awards and the CCSG Awards had been combined in 2017 to create a single University Awards event, noting that the nominations window had opened on Monday 30 January 2017, with a range of ten categories and that seven roadshows would take place in February and March across campus, with the Awards evening taking place on 12 May 2017.

202/16-17 Times Higher Education (THE) 'Most International Universities in the World 2017: Top 150' rankings

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That the Times Higher Education (THE) 'Most International Universities in the World 2017: Top 150' rankings had been published on 1 February, noting that the league placed the University of Warwick at number 17.

(by the Academic Vice-President, Professor L Young)

- (b) That the University's position in such league tables could help to provide opportunities for further engagement with the University's work in both China and California (UWiC).

203/16-17 *Competitors at Undergraduate Level and Admissions Update

CONSIDERED:

A report (SC.81.16-17 {restricted}) by the Director of Student Recruitment, Outreach and Admissions Service, providing the Committee with more detailed information behind the UCAS competitor group tables together with an overview of the current admissions position.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee would welcome a further update at a future meeting, when a clearer picture of the recruitment position was available.
- (b) That the report and the update be noted.

204/16-17 *Institutional Teaching and Learning Review

RECEIVED:

An oral update from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) on the Institutional Teaching and Learning Review (ITLR).

RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Committee be extended to those that had contributed to the ITLR, for the time and effort that had gone into the Review.

205/16-17 Warwick Anti-Casualisation Petition letter

CONSIDERED:

An oral update in respect of the petition (SC.82a/16-17 {restricted}) received on 15 December 2016 from Warwick Anti-Casualisation, seeking 'fairer pay and conditions for hourly-paid teachers' at the University and setting out six demands.

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That she wished to reassure the Committee that the University was making progress in relation to the issues raised, noting that the figure referenced in a November 2016 article in the Guardian, stating that '68% of teaching staff at the University of Warwick' were on 'insecure contracts' was inaccurate, given the assumption made by the newspaper in its data collation.
- (b) That the demand for hourly-paid teachers to be paid at consistent and fair rates would be addressed by the STP project, under which role profiles were being agreed and would then be subject to a Hay job evaluation to ensure that individuals would be paid according to their role, rather than a task.
- (c) That the University was reviewing the position with regards to scholarships and teaching.
- (d) That it was the University's position that teaching related training was beneficial to both the individual and the University, noting that it would be seeking to ensure that individuals were remunerated for any mandatory training or qualifications completed.
- (e) That there was a commitment to implementing the STP system, with a view to sign off by the end of April 2017 for onward implementation, noting that this would then allow the University to satisfy many of the demands made in the petition of 15 December 2016.

(by the Director, People Group)

- (f) That the benchmark rating for sessional teachers' pay compared the University favourably with its competitors, noting that it wasn't automatically the case that an overall employment contract was the optimum solution.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (g) That one of the outcomes of the December 2016 student occupation of The Slate related to the University working with the University and College Union (UCU) regarding representation for these hourly-paid staff, noting that this would be the body for taking forward these types of discussions in future.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

206/16-17

*University Long-Term Strategy and Campus Master Plan

CONSIDERED:

Presentations by the Strategy Director and the Director of Estates, followed by a discussion led by the Chair.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the presentations by the Strategy Director and the Director of Estates be noted.
- (b) That the members and attendees of the Steering Committee would, in due course, be invited to an away day, the focus of which would be the University's long-term strategy and campus master plan.

207/16-17 Warwick Anti-Casualisation Petition Signatories (online only)

RECEIVED:

A list (SC.82b/16-17 {restricted} online only) of signatories to the petition (SC.82a/16-17 {restricted}) received from Warwick Anti-Casualisation on 15 December 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the list of signatories be noted.

As at 16 February 2017