

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 20 March 2017

- Present: Ms R Sandby-Thomas (Registrar (Chair)), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), 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), 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 Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor C Ennew (Provost), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)).
- In Attendance: Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Mrs P Glover (Secretary to Council), Ms J Horsburgh (Strategy Director (Secretary)), Mrs E Morrison (Projects Officer (Strategic Programme Delivery) (Assistant Secretary)).

247/16-17 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2017 be approved subject to the requested amendments (deletions ~~struck through~~, additions underlined) to minute 238/16-17 *Car Parking Proposals.

248/16-17 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.

249/16-17 Higher Education and Research Bill

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That peers defied the Government five times during the first and second sittings of the report stage in the House of Lords on 5 and 8 March, in order to make five new amendments to the Bill. They voted to sever the link between the TEF and tuition fees in England and to prevent it from becoming a medals-style ranking, an amendment was passed that would require new providers to operate for four years before they became eligible for degree awarding powers or university title, peers sought to expand the grounds on which universities who have lost their title or degree awarding powers can appeal, and a further provision was introduced that requires universities to provide students with the opportunity to be added to the electoral register upon enrolment. The third reading of the bill is scheduled for 22 March, after which the Bill will return to the Commons to be considered by MPs.

- 250/16-17 Brexit
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That peers voted to allow Parliament a final say on Brexit, during the second reading of the European Union (notification of withdrawal) bill on 7 March.
- 251/16-17 PhD Funding
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That the Government had confirmed that it would introduce loans from autumn 2018 for PhD candidates not in receipt of Research Council grants. Maintenance loans for part-time students would also be introduced at the same time.
- 252/16-17 Funding for the Midlands Engine Strategy
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That £392 million in funding had been confirmed by the Government for Local Enterprise Partnerships in the Midlands Engine area, noting that £42m would be invested in Coventry & Warwickshire, of which up to £12m would be invested in University of Warwick projects. Subject to agreement of contracts the University had been awarded up to £2m towards the Arts Centre improvements, and up to £10m towards the cost of building an Apprenticeship Academy.
- 253/16-17 The Warwick Prize for Women in Translation
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That the University was launching The Warwick Prize for Women in Translation, which would be awarded for the first time in November 2017. The prize aimed to address the gender imbalance in translated literature and to increase the number of international women's voices accessible by a British and Irish readership. The prize would be awarded annually to the best eligible work of fiction, poetry, literary non-fiction or work of fiction for children or young adults written by a woman and translated into English by a female or male translator.
- 254/16-17 Best Academic Venue Award
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That Warwick Conferences had won the Silver award for Best Academic Venue at the Meetings & Incentive Travel (M&IT) Awards 2017, in addition to being shortlisted in the Best UK Management Training Centre and Best Value for Money Conference Venue categories, and that the congratulations of the Committee be extended to the Warwick Conferences team on their success.
- 255/16-17 *Report from Budget Steering Group on Q2 2016/17 Financial Performance and the Financial Plan 2017 Initial Considerations
- RECEIVED:
- The report from the Budget Steering Group on Q2 2016/17 Financial Performance and the Financial Plan 2017 Initial Considerations (SC.99/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Group Finance Director would circulate the comparison of financial figures for the Russell Group institutions.
- (b) That the Group Finance Director would circulate the analysis of the central infrastructure figures.
- (c) That the Provost would confirm the likely timings of planned expenditure in relation to REF once reviewed by ARC.

256/16-17 *Report from the Administrative and Professional Services Group

RECIEVED:

A report from the Administrative and Professional Services Group (APSG) on the key strategic and operational matters discussed in the January and March 2017 meetings (SC.100/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the President of the Students' Union would continue discussions with the Programme Director for Keeping Campus Moving on the issue of student parking permits.
- (b) That, notwithstanding the valued contribution of current academic members, the question of the academic membership of APSG would be raised by the Provost at a meeting of ARC to seek closer linkage between the two groups.

257/16-17 *Report from the Capital, Space and Amenities Group

RECEIVED:

A report from the Capital, Space and Amenities Group (CSAG) on the key strategic and operational matters discussed in the January and February 2017 meetings (SC.101/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Strategy Director would present pictures of the temporary theatre to the Committee when these were available, along with updates on mitigating any disruption to surrounding areas.
- (b) That the Strategy Director would report on the solution to mitigate disruption to the PG Hub from the temporary theatre once this had been developed in more detail.

258/16-17 *Admissions and Recruitment Spring Update

RECEIVED:

An update from the Director of SROAS on the current admissions position and key strategic matters (SC.102/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar would circulate the subject breakdown figures for PGR Home applications and analysis to illustrate where the decline in applications had occurred.

259/16-17

*Health and Safety Resolution (minute 221/16-17 referred)

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That a date for Head of Department Health & Safety training was still being organised and that a message from the Vice Chancellor would be communicated once this date had been finalised.

As at 29 March 2017