

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 8 May 2017

- Present: Ms R Sandby-Thomas (Registrar (Chair)), 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), 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 Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor C Ennew (Provost), Ms J Horsburgh (Strategy Director), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President), Professor L Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources)).
- In Attendance: Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Mrs P Glover (Secretary to Council (Secretary)), Ms G McGrattan (Director, People Group), Mrs E Morrison (Projects Officer (Strategic Programme Delivery) (Assistant Secretary)), Mr I Rowley (Director of Development, Communications and External Affairs).

311/16-17 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2017 be approved.

312/16-17 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.

313/16-17 Higher Education Research Bill

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That the bill was approved by the House of Commons on 26 April, the final draft was approved by the House of Lords on 27 April and the Higher Education and Research Act had been passed into law after receiving royal assent.
- (b) That international students would continue to be included in the net migration target.

- (c) That the Teaching Excellence Framework would be used to set tuition fees in England, but only after an independent review, noting that the review would consider whether the metrics used were appropriate, the names of the ratings and the impact of the framework on institutions.
- (d) That the gold, silver and bronze TEF ratings, which were now due to be awarded on 14 June 2017, would not be used to inform tuition fees at this stage.
- (e) That a further amendment stated that the TEF could not be used to limit an institution's ability to recruit international students.
- (f) That the government would retain the right to remove a university's title, even if it had been protected in perpetuity by a royal charter.
- (g) That degree awarding powers could only be revoked, granted or varied after advice from a designated, independent quality assurance body and that this agency must provide advice on an institution's ability to provide and maintain higher education of a suitable quality and standard, noting that when a university underwent a change of ownership or merged with another, its awarding powers would be automatically reviewed.
- (h) That the amendment to compel institutions to put their students on the electoral register had been revised, noting that the Office for Students would gain powers to steer universities in this direction.

314/16-17 Complete University Guide 2018

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Complete University Guide for 2018 had been published and that Warwick had retained its rank of 8th, with the University of Cambridge, followed by the University of Oxford, remaining at the top of the list.

315/16-17 New Role for Strategy Director

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Jo Horsburgh, the Strategy Director, had been appointed to the position of Registrar and Secretary at The University of York, noting that she would take up her new role in June.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to Ms Horsburgh on her appointment at York, together with their thanks for her fourteen years of service at Warwick.

316/16-17 Honorary Degrees Summer 2017

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Honorary Degrees would be awarded to Don Eigler, David Burbidge, Shigefumi Mori, Alan Bond, Christiana Figueres, Stephen Bloom, Pippa Norris, Bridget Ogilvie, Paul Cartledge, Larry Sullivan and Daniel Levinthal, noting that three of the honorary degrees had been awarded to women.

317/16-17 Grants Worth Almost £1.75m from EPSRC for Electronic Materials Research

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the University had been awarded grants which totalled almost £1.75 million from the EPSRC, noting that Professor Marin Alexe, Department of Physics, had been awarded grants for two research projects for cutting-edge electronic materials research.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to Professor Alexe and his team.

318/16-17 2017 Adams Prize

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Professor Graham Cormode, Department of Computer Science, had been awarded the 2017 Adams Prize, which recognised his work on "Statistical Analysis of Big Data", and was awarded jointly with Professor Richard Samworth of Cambridge.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to Professor Cormode.

319/16-17 Partnership with Also Festival

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the University had partnered with Also Festival to help bring to life the biggest and boldest ideas from art, science, psychology and philosophy with immersive talks and experiences, noting that the festival would take place from 30 June - 2 July 2017 at Park Farm in Warwickshire.

320/16-17 West Midlands Combined Authority Mayor

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Andy Street, the Conservative candidate, had been elected as the mayor for the West Midlands Combined Authority.

321/16-17 WBS Ranked in World's Top Two for Online MBA Courses

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Warwick Business School's Distance learning MBA had been ranked second in the world in the QS Distance Online MBA Ranking 2017, noting that the recent Financial Times' ranking had also placed WBS second, and first in the UK.

322/16-17 *Proposed Collaboration with New Model in Teaching Engineering (NMI TE)

CONSIDERED:

A proposal for a collaboration with New Model in Teaching Engineering (SC.120/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the proposal for a collaboration with the NMI TE, which consisted initially of validation of a three year M(Eng) course be approved in principle.

323/16-17 *Consultation on merger of Henley College and City College

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the consultation on the merger of Henley College and City College (SC.121/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the University's response to the consultation on the merger of Henley College and City College be noted.