

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 15 January 2018

Present: Professor S Croft (Vice-Chancellor and Chair), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor C Constable (Representative of the Senate), R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director and Chair), Professor C Ennew (Provost), Professor C Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)), Professor P Roberts (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of the Sciences), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement)), R Sandby-Thomas (Registrar).

Apologies: Professor M Nudds (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)), H Worsdale (President of the Students' Union).

In Attendance: P Blagburn (Head of Widening Participation) (for item 138/17-18), J Breckon (Director of Estates), K Dixon (Administrative Officer (Governance) and Assistant Secretary), K Gray (Acting Deputy Academic Registrar), Dr R Hutchins (Strategy Director), G McGrattan (Director, People Group), R Roke (Director of Strategic Programme Delivery (Secretary)), I Rowley (Director of Development, Communication and External Affairs), S Tuersley (Acting Secretary to Council), R Wooldridge Smith (Acting Academic Registrar).

*Note: Some items are noted as "Exempt information not included" as they contain information that would be withheld from release to the public because an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.*

119/17-18 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2017 be approved, subject to the following amendments:

[Additions underlined, deletions ~~struck through~~]

105/17-18 Coventry wins City of Culture 2021

[...]

REPORTED: (by the Group Finance Director)

- (c) That the University anticipated that the result would have a positive impact on student recruitment, its conference centres, sports and culture, noting that its financial contribution to the bid would likely be recouped as Coventry enjoyed the benefits of City of Culture status.

- 120/17-18     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.
- 121/17-18     Coventry wins City of Culture 2021 (minute 105/17-18 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That there was need for the University to begin developing delivery plans in the coming year, in light of both Coventry's forthcoming City of Culture status in 2021 and Birmingham's hosting of the Commonwealth Games in 2022, to maximise the benefit to the University.
- 122/17-18     Office for Students Consultation (minute 109/17-18 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That the final version of the Office for Students consultation response, which had been amended in line with feedback received at the meeting of Steering held on 18 December 2017, was approved prior to submission by the Registrar and Group Finance Director, on behalf of the Steering Committee.
- 123/17-18     Chair of the Faculty of Arts
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That Professor Penny Roberts, Chair of the Faculty of the Arts, be welcomed to her first meeting of the Steering Committee.
- 124/17-18     Acting Secretary to Council
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That Sharon Tuersley, Acting Secretary to Council, be welcomed to her first meeting of the Steering Committee.
- 125/17-18     Strategy Director
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That Dr Richard Hutchins, Strategy Director, be welcomed to his first meeting of the Steering Committee.

- 126/17-18 California Update
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That at its meeting on 22 November, the University Council agreed that Warwick would withdraw from the initiative to build a new University campus in California, noting that the opportunity had moved too far beyond the original vision to establish a fully comprehensive research-led campus.
- 127/17-18 Professor Richard Lilford
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That Professor Richard Lilford, Professor of Public Health at Warwick Medical School, had been awarded a CBE for services to health research in the New Year's Honours.
- 128/17-18 Sir Henry Dale Fellowship
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That Dr Andrew Bowman, from Warwick Medical School, had been awarded the Sir Henry Dale Fellowship, a scheme run by the Wellcome Trust and the Royal Society, for his work on how the human genome is packaged within a cell.
- 129/17-18 British Society for Cell Biology Hooke Medal
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That Professor Andrew McAinsh, from Warwick Medical School, had been announced as 2018's winner of the British Society for Cell Biology's prestigious Hooke Medal, for his work on understanding how chromosomes are correctly separated into the two new daughter cells following cell division.
- 130/17-18 Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That Professor John McEldowney, from the School of Law, had been appointed as an ordinary member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences by Pope Francis.
- 131/17-18 Schwarzman Scholarship Winners
- REPORTED: (by the Chair)
- That two Warwick graduates had been selected for the Schwarzman Scholarship Programme at Tsinghua University in Beijing; it was noted that Ross Jagers, who will graduate in 2017 with a Doctorate in Chemistry (PhD), and Yi Lok Enoch Wong, who graduated with a BSc. Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics, will commence their scholarships at Schwarzman College in August 2018.

132/17-18 Research Placements at the University of Hong Kong

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the University had signed an agreement with the University of Hong Kong which will allow undergraduate researchers at each university to carry out summer projects at the other institution from next year, as part of the Undergraduate Research Support Scheme.

133/17-18 WMG's Contribution to Motoring

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Professor Lord Bhattacharyya had received a Special Commendation for WMG's Contribution to Motoring at the Guild of Motoring's annual dinner and awards night held in December, in recognition of the WMG's significant contribution to the automotive industry.

134/17-18 Senate Business

CONSIDERED:

The Business of Senate to be considered at its meeting on 24 January 2018.

RESOLVED:

That the business of Senate be approved.

135/17-18 \*TEF Submission

CONSIDERED:

The University's TEF Submission (SC.57/17-18) {restricted}.

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)).

- (a) That after having been awarded a silver for TEF2 in June 2017, the University had decided to resubmit for TEF3 next month. [Exempt information not included]
- (b) That the HEFCE had also updated its TEF metrics and invited universities to resubmit with a view to either validating their current award or attaining a higher status than previously awarded.
- (c) That there had been a significant amount of work involved in the TEF3 submission, noting that there had been wide consultation across the University in preparation for this.

[Exempt information not included]

- (g) That the TEF methodology had changed since TEF2, with NSS Results having half the weighting for TEF3; the continued need to improve NSS metrics was emphasised.
- (h) That whilst Longitudinal Education Outcomes data was a supplementary metric, it was one in which Warwick's performance was strong.

[Exempt information not included]

- (k) That research had shown that other universities had been open about areas requiring improvement in their submissions but had achieved a high award where it was clear that improvement strategies were in place.

[Exempt information not included]

- (m) That there was not a definitive quota for the number of gold or silver awards in any given year, therefore Warwick's status for TEF3 would not be dependent on competitor institutions; it was however noted that benchmarking would be affected by the performance of other universities.
- (n) That there had been engagement with the Students' Union in the process of redrafting the submission and, whilst it still opposed TEF as a methodology, there was recognition that the University needed to engage with TEF and that it did provide some indication of teaching quality.

[Exempt information not included]

- (p) That the result of TEF3 could be expected in June 2018.

(by the Director of Estates)

[Exempt information not included]

(by the Chair)

- (r) That the criticality of TEF as part of the future architecture of Higher Education be reiterated, as well as the importance of the University's submission in the context of the proposed review of Higher Education funding and the potential for differential fees by subject.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft TEF3 submission be approved in principle, noting that the submission would be subject to ongoing inclusion of data and feedback.
- (b) That the proposal that the Vice-Chancellor be authorised to approve the final version of the submission to HEFCE be approved.

(c) That the grade inflation data provided at Appendix 1 be noted.

(d) That the TEF3 metrics provided at Appendix 2 be noted.

136/17-18

\*Campus Masterplan

CONSIDERED:

An update on the progress of the Campus Masterplan refresh (SC.58/17-18), {restricted}.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

(a) That the current Campus Masterplan was due to expire in 2019, therefore a new one would be created this year, with the initial stage having been the development of a strategic brief by specialist consultants CPB Projects Ltd, with the input of the University Executive Team.

[Exempt information not included]

(d) That the new masterplan would aim to provide constancy of purpose, developing a guiding framework to ensure the delivery of a long-term vision whilst allowing for flexibility.

(e) That the masterplan would be structured as a phased approach to ensure affordability and manageability of proposed changes to the campus; it was noted that the masterplan would encompass existing buildings and planned new builds, as well as incorporating the current building and services infrastructure to ensure it remained sustainable.

(f) That there was an emphasis on the importance of consultation throughout the process, and that the proposed development of the new masterplan would be subject to the consideration of a number of committees in the coming weeks.

(g) That the importance of engagement with the local community would be emphasised in the strategic brief, with reference to 'spheres of influence' indicating the collaborative relationship between the University and its local community; it was noted that liaison with the Director of Development, Communication and External Affairs would be welcomed to ensure that this theme was clearly articulated.

(h) That support would be welcomed from the Director of Strategy and Policy to ensure positive local and regional political engagement in the University's masterplanning process.

(by the Chair of the Faculty of Arts)

- (i) That the recent refurbishment of the Faculty of Arts building had highlighted issues regarding space provision for academic and teaching staff (especially teaching fellows) and also how departments utilise their space; it was noted that this would require addressing as the campus developed.

(by the Provost)

- (j) That 'space norms' for new buildings had been highlighted as an issue at the last meeting of the Capital, Space and Amenities Group and therefore this could be considered as being addressed through the appropriate channels.

(by the Senate Representative)

- (k) That there were some student safety concerns around particular types of landscaping and therefore student safety should be emphasised in the design and layout of the campus.

(by the Chair of the Faculty of Medicine)

- (l) That the campus masterplan should take account of forthcoming regional developments such as Coventry's City of Culture status.
- (m) That the development of a new campus masterplan should be viewed as a long-term opportunity and should therefore be closely linked with the overall University Strategy.

(by the Chair)

[Exempt information not included]

- (o) That the new masterplan should ensure the long-term financial and environmental sustainability of the campus, noting that as an uncertain future environment developed, the University would be required to show flexibility to adapt to it.

RESOLVED:

That the Campus Masterplan (SC.58/17-18) {restricted} be noted.

137/17-18    \*Report from the Budget Steering Group Q1 2017-18

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Budget Steering Group Q1 2017-18 (SC.59/17-18) {restricted}.

REPORTED: (by the Group Finance Director)

[Exempt information not included]

(by the Provost)

[Exempt information not included]

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

[Exempt information not included]

(by the Acting Deputy Academic Registrar)

[Exempt information not included]

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Budget Steering Group Q1 2017-18 (SC.59/17-18) {restricted} be noted.

138/17-18 \*Access Agreement Monitoring Return

CONSIDERED:

The University's Access Agreement Monitoring Return (SC.60/17-18) {restricted}.

REPORTED: (by the Head of Widening Participation)

- (a) That the Access Agreement Return focused on three key areas: Higher Fee income, expenditure commitments and progress towards Widening Participation entrants targets.

[Exempt information not included]

- (d) That the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) encouraged Universities to look at the impact the financial support they offered, instead of focusing on just the amount offered; it was noted that the Student Funding Team had subsequently surveyed all first year bursary holders and key findings were included in the return.

[Exempt information not included]

- (g) That the new Widening Participation Committee would be taking on a greater overview of access activity and would have strategic oversight of funding allocation in the future.

[Exempt information not included]

- (k) That the University was not necessarily recognised for the access work it undertook in cases where engagement in the local community may support general aspiration-raising in schools and/ or an informed decision for a student to study at another Russell Group University, other than Warwick; it was noted that this issue had been flagged with OFFA.

- (l) That it would be beneficial for departments to be issued with their access data to ensure that they are in a position to make improvements where needed and that all areas of the University have an invested approach towards exceeding access targets.

[Exempt information not included]

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

[Exempt information not included]

(by the Chair)

- (q) That OFFA, and in the future the Office for Students, was placing a greater focus on student outcomes, especially for BME and disabled students, and those from Widening Participation backgrounds.

RESOLVED:

That the University's Access Agreement Monitoring Return (SC.60/17-18) {restricted} be noted.

As at 16 August 2018