

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 29 January 2018

- Present: Professor C Ennew (Provost and Chair), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor C Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)), Professor M Nudds (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor P Roberts (Chair of the Faculty of the Arts), R Sandby-Thomas (Registrar), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of the Sciences), H Worsdale (President of the Students' Union).
- Apologies: Professor C Constable (Senate Representative), Professor S Croft (Vice-Chancellor), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement)), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)).
- In Attendance: K Dixon (Administrative Officer (Governance) and Assistant Secretary), Dr R Hutchins (Director of Strategy and Policy), H Knee (Deputy Director, Executive Office), L McCleary (Administrative Officer (Governance) and Assistant Secretary), R McIntyre (Senior Assistant Registrar (Strategic Planning and Analytics))(for item 154/17-18), R Roke (Director of Strategic Programme Delivery) (Secretary), 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.

144/17-18 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2018 be approved, subject to the following amendments:

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

135/17-18 *TEF Submission

[Exempt information not included]

138/17-18 *Access Agreement Monitoring Return

[...]

[Exempt information not included]

145/17-18 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.

146/17-18 Members and Attendees of the Meeting

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That Professor Jan Palmowski's last meeting of the Steering Committee was noted, with thanks extended for their contribution to the committee.
- (b) That Helen Knee (Deputy Director, Executive Office) and Lauren McCleary (Administrative Officer (Governance)) be welcomed to the meeting as observers.

147/17-18 WMG to join Faraday Institution Battery Projects

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Faraday Institute had announced up to £42m in new government funding to four UK consortia, to conduct research aimed at overcoming battery challenges and thereby accelerating the electric vehicle revolution, with WMG to be a partner on two of the consortia; it was noted that this was a testament to the work of WMG.

148/17-18 Blavatnik Young Scientist's Award

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Professor Andrew Levan from Warwick's Physics Department had been named a finalist in the 2018 Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists, for their contribution to the discovery of gravitational waves that demonstrate the origin of gold.

149/17-18 Farabi International Award

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Morteza Hashemi, a recent PhD graduate from Warwick's Sociology Department, had been awarded the Farabi International Award, the highest honour for research in the humanities and social sciences to be awarded by the Iranian Government, for their first book entitled 'Theism and Atheism in a Post-Secular Age'.

150/17-18 Royal Astronomical Society Herschel Medal

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Royal Astronomical Society's Herschel Medal had been awarded to Warwick astrophysicist Professor Tom Marsh, for investigations of outstanding merit in observational astrophysics.

151/17-18 New Academic Director (Cultural Partnerships)

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That Professor Jonothan Neelands had been appointed to the role of Academic Director (Cultural Partnerships) and was due to commence their post on 1 February 2018.

- (b) That Jonothan would work with Professor Simon Swain and, in collaboration with regional and national partners in the cultural and creative industries, would develop Warwick's cultural profile and maximise the impact and public engagement opportunities provided by Coventry's successful bid to be UK City of Culture 2021.

152/17-18

*Report from the Campus and Commercial Services Group

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Campus and Commercial Services Group (SC.64/17-18, {restricted}).

REPORTED: (by the Group Finance Director)

[Exempt information not included]

- (c) That a number of Retail refurbishment works had been completed, in particular the University House Café and Phase One of the Library Café, noting that good progress had also been made on the NAIC Café development.
- (d) That Training and Conference Centre refurbishment works were ongoing, with the Scarman refurbishment having a number of outstanding works, including the replacement of the windows; it was noted that the Radcliffe refurbishment was on target and now fully open as it moved into Phase Three.

[Exempt information not included]

- (f) That 100% of Health and Safety risk assessments were now complete across CCSG, noting that this was a significant improvement on the preceding months' completion rate.
- (g) That the topping out ceremony for the Sports Centre would take place on 30 January, presided over by the Registrar.
- (h) That there had been a number of noteworthy achievements for Warwick Sport, including the high satisfaction rates for the 4G pitch and water-based hockey pitch (which was reportedly the best in the region), in addition to significant overachievement of participation targets.

[Exempt information not included]

- (i) That the final decision on the £4.2m Arts Council England bid was anticipated in February 2018, with initial feedback received having been positive.

[Exempt information not included]

RESOLVED:

[Exempt information not included]

- (b) That the report from Campus and Commercial Services Group (SC.64/17-18, {restricted}) be noted.

153/17-18 *Report from the Capital Space and Amenities Group

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Capital Space and Amenities Group (SC.65/17-18, {restricted}).

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

[Exempt information not included]

- (f) That under-utilised or low quality locally timetabled teaching rooms were to be transferred to centrally timetabled control, with the Room Utilisation Survey having indicated that centrally timetabled rooms were utilised more effectively than those which were locally timetabled; it was noted that new, non-specialised teaching rooms would also be centrally timetabled.

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Capital Space and Amenities Group (SC.65/17-18, {restricted}) be noted.

154/17-18 *Academic Statistics Yearbook and Draft Key Performance Indicators

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The Academic Statistics Yearbook (SC.66/17-18, {restricted}).
- (b) The draft KPIs to be presented to the Council (SC.67/17-18, {restricted}).

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That the meeting should be considered as an opportunity to provide high level feedback on the Academic Statistics Yearbook for 2017/18 and the draft KPIs, and that any specific queries should be emailed to the Senior Assistant Registrar (Strategic Planning and Analytics).
- (b) That the Academic Statistics Yearbook was a useful single point of reference for a broad range of academic statistical data and that thanks be extended to the Strategic Planning and Analytics team for their work.

(by the Senior Assistant Registrar (Strategic Planning and Analytics))

- (c) That the Academic Statistics Yearbook provided a summary of the academic statistics published online and was produced using a variety of methodologies, noting that a review was planned to ensure the data published in future years was of maximum use to the wider University.

[Exempt information not included]

- (e) That the KPIs were designed to be read in conjunction with the Academic Statistics Yearbook as they provided a useful summary of its key themes; it was noted that the KPIs also complemented wider enterprise analytics available to academic and professional services colleagues.

[Exempt information not included]

- (g) That despite changes to questions in the National Student Survey (NSS), the results for overall student satisfaction remained broadly comparable to prior years.

[Exempt information not included]

- (k) That there were a number of differences to the methodologies used for the financial metrics for 2016-17, with HEFCE having changed the range of data and benchmarking available.

[Exempt information not included]

- (m) That the academic statistics were available online, noting that hard copies of the Academic Statistics Year book would be circulated to Heads of Departments.

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

- (n) That it would be important to ensure that the Academic Statistics Yearbook be disseminated to departments.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Academic Statistics Yearbook and KPIs be circulated to departments.
- (b) That the Academic Statistics Yearbook 2017 (SC.66/17-18, {restricted}) be noted.
- (c) That the draft KPIs to be presented to the Council (SC.67/17-18, {restricted}) be noted.

155/17-18 Date of Next Meeting

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the meeting of the Steering Committee due to be held on 5 February 2018 was cancelled, due to lack of business.

As at 31 January 2018