

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 19 October 2015

Present: Professor S Croft (Provost (Chair)), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor T Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering and Medicine)), Mr I Leigh (President of the Students' Union), Mr K Sloan (Registrar and Chief Operating Officer), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences)), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science), Professor C Sparrow (Academic Member of the Senate), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (People and Public Engagement)), Professor P Winstanley (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor L Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources)).

Apologies: Professor Sir Nigel Thrift (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education)).

In Attendance: Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Ms J Horsburgh (Deputy Registrar (Secretary)), Dr E Hough (Assistant Registrar (Governance) (Assistant Secretary)), Ms G McGrattan (Director of Human Resources), Mr I Rowley (Director of Development, Communication and External Affairs).

14/15-16 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2015 be approved.

15/15-16 In Memoriam: Cllr Phil Townshend

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the University was deeply saddened by news of the death of Coventry City Council's Deputy Leader Councillor Phil Townshend.
- (b) That Cllr Townshend had made a significant contribution to his city and had been a great friend to the University, noting that he would be greatly missed.

RESOLVED:

That the condolences of the Steering Committee be passed to Cllr Townshend's family.

16/15-16 Royal Visit

RECEIVED:

A letter from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal (SC.4/15-16).

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal had visited the campus to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the awarding of the University's Royal Charter of Incorporation.
- (b) That during her visit, the Princess met with a number of staff, students and alumni, including academics with research distinctions, founders of the Warwick International Higher Education Academy, Staff Contribution Award winners, Sabbatical Officers and representatives of support and professional services, as well as hearing about the University's current research and teaching initiatives.

RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Committee be extended to those members of staff involved in the organisation of the event and those who attended on the day, who had contributed to making the Princess' visit such a success.

17/15-16

Festival of the Imagination

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That thousands of staff, students, alumni, local school children, and members of the local community had visited the campus on 16 and 17 October 2015 for the Festival of the Imagination, the centrepiece of the University's 50th anniversary celebrations.

(by the Director of Development, Communication and External Affairs)

- (b) That there had been a vibrant atmosphere on campus with a wonderful range of activities, including talks by notable speakers, noting that it had been particularly nice to see so many young people engaging with the University in this way.
- (c) That hundreds of staff and students had volunteered their time over the two days and had been instrumental in making the event such a success.

(by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (d) That on 17 October 2015 he had attended a dinner with alumni from the class of 1965, noting that they had conveyed a strong sense of pride in the scale of Warwick's achievements in its first 50 years.

RESOLVED:

That the sincere thanks of the Committee be extended to the organising committee and the many staff and students who volunteered their time, thereby helping to make the Festival such a success.

18/15-16

European Funding for the Liberal Arts at Warwick

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the University of Warwick had been awarded €275,500 from Erasmus+ to develop the teaching of Liberal Arts degrees, in partnership with a number of other European universities.

- (b) That over the next two years the funds would be applied to three project areas critical to the success and development of liberal arts and sciences programmes.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning))

- (c) That at Warwick there would be a focus on developing innovative educational interventions that enabled the implementation of undergraduate research strategies in liberal education curricula.

19/15-16 Warwick Prize for Writing Shortlist

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That the Warwick Prize for Writing had announced its shortlist of six titles under consideration for the £25,000 biennial literary award, noting that the winner would be announced on 10 November 2015 at a ceremony in London.

20/15-16 National Grid Memorandum of Understanding

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the University of Warwick and National Grid had re-signed their Memorandum of Understanding, to extend the successful strategic alliance they had operated for the past two years.
- (b) That the new Memorandum of Understanding would see the two organisations collaborate further in existing areas of partnership and also explore new themes such as big data and energy storage.

21/15-16 *Report from the Capital Space and Amenities Group

CONSIDERED:

A report updating the Committee on the business of the Capital, Space and Amenities Group (CSAG) (SC.5/15-16 {Restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the update report from the Capital Space and Amenities Group be noted.
- (b) That the handover of responsibilities from the PPGs to the Capital Programme Boards be completed by 1 January 2016, with any items of outstanding business being communicated to the Capital Programme Boards appropriately.

22/15-16 *BIS Consultation on the Teaching Excellence Framework

CONSIDERED:

A draft response to the BIS Select Committee Inquiry into Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SC.6/15-16 {Restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University's draft response to the BIS Select Committee Inquiry into Quality Assessment in Higher Education be amended as follows:

- (i) That the link between high quality teaching and research be made more robustly.
 - (ii) That the response to Question 2 explicitly state 'no'.
 - (iii) That in relation to the possible link between TEF outcomes and fee setting, the response be made more emphatic in its disagreement.
- (b) That following the above amendments, Chair's action be sought for final approval prior to its submission by the deadline of 30 October 2015.

23/15-16 *National Student Survey: Results and Actions

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining the University's results at institutional, departmental and JACS 3 Subject level and how performance compares to the sector (SC.7/15-16 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the report on the University's National Students' Survey results and actions be noted.

24/15-16 *Report from the Fees Working Group

RECEIVED:

A paper informing the Steering Committee of the main items of business from the meetings of the Fees Working Group held on 7 July and 2 October 2015. (SC.8/15-16 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the recommendations as set out in Sections 1-6 and 8 of the paper (SC.8/15-16 {restricted}) be approved, subject to the further work to be undertaken with regard to fee forecasting.
- (b) That WBS be invited to submit a paper to the Steering Committee for further consideration of their proposal regarding deposits for applicants.

25/15-16 *Counter-Terrorism and Security Act

RECEIVED:

A draft response to the HEFCE consultation on a monitoring framework for the higher education sector in relation to the Prevent Duty (SC.9/15-16 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the draft response to the HEFCE consultation on a monitoring framework for the higher education sector in relation to the Prevent Duty be approved.