

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 9 November 2015

Present: Professor S Croft (Provost (Chair)), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education)), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science), 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 Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences), 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 C Sparrow (Academic Member of the Senate), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences)).

In Attendance: Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Mrs P Glover (Director of Governance and Assurance Services) for items 40/15-16 and 41/15-16, Ms J Horsburgh (Deputy Registrar (Secretary)), Dr E Hough (Assistant Registrar (Governance) (Assistant Secretary)), Ms G McGrattan (Director of Human Resources), Mr J Phillips (Director of Health and Safety) for item 41/15-16.

31/15-16 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2015 be approved.

32/15-16 In Memoriam: Professor Geoffrey Wilson

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That the University was deeply saddened by news of the death of Professor Geoffrey Wilson, who in 1967 had been appointed as the first Warwick Professor of Law with the remit of founding and developing the study of law at the University.

RESOLVED:

That the condolences of the Steering Committee be extended to Professor Wilson's family.

33/15-16 In Memoriam: Professor Rolfe Tomlinson

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the University was deeply saddened by news of the death of Professor Rolfe Tomlinson.
- (b) That Professor Tomlinson joined the Warwick Business School in 1980 and was head and first professor of the Operational Research and Systems Group, playing a leading role in the growth and development of WBS in the 1980s.

RESOLVED:

That the condolences of the Steering Committee be extended to Professor Tomlinson's family.

34/15-16 In Memoriam: Professor Craig Pringle

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the University was deeply saddened by news of the death of Professor Craig Pringle, Emeritus Professor in the School of Life Sciences.
- (b) That Professor Pringle joined Warwick in December 1983 as Professor and Head of the Virus Research Group in the Department of Biological Sciences, noting that he had an international reputation for his extensive contributions to the field of virology.

RESOLVED:

That the condolences of the Steering Committee be extended to Professor Pringle's family.

35/15-16 WATE Postgraduate Winners

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That the 2015 Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence (WATE) for postgraduate students who teach had been awarded to: Rob Daniel and Jack McGowan (English and Comparative Literary Studies), Pieralberto Guarniero (Statistics), Ann Houghton (History of Art), and Dean West (Centre for Lifelong Learning).

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Steering Committee be extended to the winners of the WATE awards for postgraduate students who teach.

36/15-16 Warwick Medical School – Doctoral Training Partnership

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That Warwick Medical School had been successful in its bid to the Medical Research Council's Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), noting that they had been awarded 5 notional three and a half year studentships per intake year.

RESOLVED:

That Warwick Medical School be congratulated on their tremendous achievement.

37/15-16 New Centre for Television History, Heritage and Memory Research

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the Department of Film and Television Studies, in collaboration with the Centre for Cultural Policy studies, had opened a new Centre for Television History, Heritage and Memory Research.

- (b) That the Centre would enable the department to build upon its longstanding reputation for excellence in the field of historical television studies, noting that it also had plans to develop existing connections with television production companies and archives in order to deliver innovative, world-class postgraduate education and training.

38/15-16 ERC Grant Success

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the University of Warwick had been the only institution in Europe to be awarded three grants in the European Research Council (ERC) Proof of Concept 2015 call.
- (b) That the successful grantees were: Dr Sybille Lammes (Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies), Professor Evgeny Rebrov (Engineering), and Dr Rachel Edwards (Physics), noting that each had been awarded €150,000.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to Dr Edwards, Dr Lammes and Professor Rebrov.

39/15-16 Award for Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya had been awarded the National Rainbow Bridge Award at a ceremony at the China National Convention Centre on 25 October in Beijing, China.
- (b) That the award had been presented by Ms Zhang Rongming the Vice-Chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, at a special ceremony as part of the 2015 China Annual Conference for International Education.
- (c) That this was a significant achievement, noting that Professor Lord Bhattacharyya had been the first person to win such an award, which would in future be made annually to an expert who had made outstanding contributions to cooperation between China and countries around the world, in the fields of education, science and technology, and culture.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to Professor Lord Bhattacharyya on this accolade.

40/15-16 Government Green Paper on Higher Education

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the Government's Green Paper on Higher Education, '*Fulfilling our Potential: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice*' had been published on 6 November 2015.

- (b) That the paper detailed a number of significant proposals, noting that these would need to be considered alongside the soon to be published Nurse review of research councils and the Spending Review 2015.
- (c) That the University would undertake an open and broad consultation within the institution in drafting its own response.

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

- (d) That the Secretariat for the Academic Quality and Standards Committee would be able draw together relevant and useful information on the topic for circulation to members of the Steering Committee in due course.
- (e) That academic staff across the institution could usefully be engaged in the internal consultation process, via the faculty Teaching and Learning committees.

(by the Deputy Registrar)

- (f) That consideration would be given to the timing of the internal consultation process, noting that this would seek to gather the views of key bodies prior to final consideration at the Steering Committee meeting on 11 January 2015.
- (g) That the proposals in the paper had cross-functional implications within the institution, noting that the University's overall response would be coordinated via the Governance team.

41/15-16

*Institutional Risk Register

CONSIDERED:

The Autumn Term institutional risk register update (SC.14/15-16 {Restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Autumn Term institutional risk register update (SC.14/15-16 {Restricted}) be noted.
- (b) That it was recommended that diversity be explicitly referenced at summary level in risk 16, noting that further discussion regarding the issue of diversity in relation to risks 16 and 17 would be undertaken in the new year.
- (c) That it was recommended that the post-control impact status for risk 2 be reduced to 3.
- (d) That clarification be provided by the Director of Estates regarding the proposed target date for risk 26.
- (e) That further discussion take place between the Director of Governance and Assurance Services and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources), regarding possible changes to the wording and target date for risk 2.
- (f) That further consideration be given to the possible combining of risk 20 (Teaching and Learning Experience) and risk 21 (Student Experience Satisfaction Ratings).

- (g) That further consideration be given to the wording relating to research in the risk register.
- (h) That subject to points (c) and (d) above, the recommendations as set out in paper SC.14/15-16 {Restricted} be recommended to the Council for consideration and approval.

42/15-16 *Health and Safety Report

CONSIDERED:

An update report on Health and Safety developments (SC.15/15-16 {Restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to the Director of Health and Safety on the confirmation of his permanent appointment to the role.
- (b) That the report on Health and Safety (SC.15/15-16 {Restricted}) be noted.

43/15-16 UUK Response to the BIS Consultation on Freezing Repayment Thresholds

RECEIVED:

A document (SC.16/15-16) detailing the UUK's submission to the government consultation on freezing the £21,000 income threshold above which graduates begin to repay their student loans. The response built on input received from UUK members following a call for feedback in July 2015, which was noted by the Steering Committee at its meeting held on 7 September 2015 (minute 435/14-15 refers).

44/15-16 *HTA Consultation on Codes of Practice and Standards

RECEIVED:

The University of Warwick's response to the Human Tissue Authority's consultation on proposed changes to its Codes of Practice and Standards, as submitted on 28 October 2015 (SC.17/15-16 {Restricted}).

45/15-16 UCAS Consultation on Name-Blind Applications

RECEIVED:

Notification from UCAS (the UK's university admissions service) that they would consult with universities and colleges on the Government's recently announced proposal to introduce name-blind applications. The proposal aims to address perceived risks arising from unconscious bias in university admissions, in relation to students from ethnic minority backgrounds in particular. UCAS has agreed to consult institutions about how name-blind applications might be realised as part of an ongoing conversation on the redevelopment of the application management service. The consultation would also provide a timely opportunity for universities to contribute ideas about other changes that could facilitate fair admissions for underrepresented groups.