

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 11 January 2010

- Present: Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor L Bridges,  
Professor R Higgott,  
Professor C Hughes (from item 232/09-10),  
Professor K Lamberts,  
Professor M Smith,  
Professor M Underwood  
Professor M Whitby  
Professor D Wilson.
- Apologies: Professor S Bruzzi, Professor A Caesar, Mr A Bradley.
- In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Professor S B Palmer, Learning and Development Manager (for item 231/09-10).

223/09-10 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2009 be approved, subject to the following amendment (addition underlined):

*195/09-10*

(By the Academic Registrar)

- (b) That the limited HEFCE funding allocated to the University for the project was not guaranteed to continue beyond this year and the additional funding required to support the work would be drawn away from other 'widening participation' activities at the University.

224/09-10 Allocation of Additional Student Numbers 2010/11 (minute 120/09-10 refers)

RECEIVED:

Notification from HEFCE that the University had been awarded 66 of the 100 additional student places requested under the recent HEFCE scheme to allocate an additional 2000 places for 2010/11 (SC.159/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the precise nature of the allocation profile with regards to the 66 places was as yet unknown and that further details would be reported to the Committee when available.

225/09-10 Health Innovation and Education Cluster (minute 53/09-10 refers)

RECEIVED:

An announcement from the Department of Health detailing the 17 successful bids to establish Health Innovation and Education Clusters (HIECs), including the University's submission for a West Midlands South HIEC (SC.162/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Acting Dean of Warwick Medical School)

That the commitment of the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority to the Warwick HIEC was yet to be confirmed.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee express its thanks to the Associate Dean (Teaching), Warwick Medical School for his work on the successful bid.

226/09-10 Proposed Revisions to the HEFCE Financial Memorandum (minute 212/09-10 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the sector had begun to consider the revisions proposed to the HEFCE Financial Memorandum with institutions and that a comparison between the original memorandum and the revised version currently under consultation suggested an effective nationalisation of the HE sector.

(By the Registrar)

- (b) That, within the revised memorandum, HEFCE was in addition asserting that it was acting in the interests of students.
- (c) That the sector would have to decide by the end of February 2010 whether to contest the revisions collectively or whether institutions would submit responses to the consultation either individually or in smaller groupings.

227/09-10 Next Meeting of the Steering Committee

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 18 January 2010 would begin at 9.30am.

228/09-10 Nominations to UUK, GuildHE, HEFCE and DEL NI Groups for Quality Assurance in England and Northern Ireland (minute 197/09-10 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That, as anticipated, the nomination of Dr David Lamburn (Centre for Lifelong Learning) as a potential member of the Quality Assurances Systems Group had not been successful but the nomination was well received and would be kept on file for potential involvement in sub-groups emerging from the consultation.

229/09-10 Pay Negotiations 2009/10 (minute 202/09-10 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the national pay negotiations had been concluded following completion of the dispute resolution procedure with the Educational Institute of Scotland.

230/09-10 Russell Group Submission to the Independent Review of Funding and Student Finance

RESOLVED:

That the final draft Russell Group response to the Review be circulated to members of the Committee for comment, noting that any comments should be sent to the Registrar by 5pm on Thursday 14 January 2010.

231/09-10 Annual Review Report

RECEIVED:

A report from the Learning and Development Manager providing an update on the implementation and evaluation of the University's annual review process (SC.161/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Learning and Development Manager)

That the appropriate amendments suggested by University staff through the evaluation of the first cycle of annual review had been included in the preparations for the second cycle due to take place between January and April 2010.

232/09-10 Home/EU Full-time Undergraduate Intake Target 2010/11

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Academic Registrar proposing revisions to the 2010/11 intake targets for Home/EU students (SC.173/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the proposal to return the intake targets for 2010/11 to 2009/10 levels was a response to changes to the University's HEFCE contract range following submission of the Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES09) and the award of Additional Student Numbers by HEFCE for 2010/11 entry.
- (b) That the University had adjusted its methodology for calculating non-completions in funding terms from a course-level to a modular return and that this adjustment had returned the University's overall position to within contract range, thus reducing the imperative to reduce 2010/11 intake targets to achieve this.
- (c) That a non-completing student in HEFCE terminology was a student who had not completed the final assessment of a 'unit' or module.

(By the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Resourcing))

- (d) That measures had already been put in place by the Student Admissions and Recruitment Office to prepare for such a situation in order to support those departments who were still in a position to recruit at this stage in the cycle.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal to revert Home/EU undergraduate intake targets for 2010/11 to levels originally set for 2009/10 be approved as set out in SC.173/09-10, subject to further consideration of the approach for those departments which experienced significant reductions in targets or which were experiencing recruitment difficulties.

233/09-10 Higher Education Funding 2010/11

RECEIVED:

A letter from Lord Mandelson, Secretary for Business, Innovation and Skills to HEFCE outlining HEFCE's budget for 2010/11 and the objectives the Government had set for the funds allocated (SC.164/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the letter, together with the other current HEFCE consultations on revisions to the Financial Memorandum, the regulation of HEIs as charities and the Capital

Investment Framework, presented a complex and rather directive set of objectives for institutions which might impact on institutional autonomy.

(By the Vice-Chancellor)

- (b) That an increase in tuition fees was becoming more likely as the alternative funding options for institutions were being removed or restricted by Government and HEFCE initiatives.

(By the Deputy Registrar)

- (c) That policy issues regarding the student experience and its development as promoted by HEFCE and Government developed further the 'customerisation' of higher education, largely because it was what they believed students wanted, and that students should be aware of the evidence and decisions being made in this regard by potentially unrepresentative or ill-informed bodies.

234/09-10 HEFCE Capital Investment Framework

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A consultation document from HEFCE setting out proposals for the development of the Capital Investment Framework (CIF) (SC.160/09-10).
- (b) The University's response to notification from HEFCE of areas of concern regarding Warwick's performance in capital planning and investment (SC.169/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

- (a) That the second Capital Investment Framework (CIF2) was anticipated to value circa £42m over 3 years in line with the first scheme.
- (b) That the metrics presented within the consultation and proposed to be used to evaluate universities' performance appeared to be derived from HEFCE's internal data, rather than from publicly available data or that supplied by universities themselves.
- (c) That the proposals for CIF2 focussed heavily on carbon management and corporate responsibility in terms of long term sustainability of capital projects, with income per m<sup>2</sup> as the main driver.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University's response to the areas of concern identified by HEFCE (SC.169/09-10) be treated as confidential to members of the Steering Committee at this stage.
- (b) That a response to the CIF development consultation be prepared for consideration by the Committee prior to submission by the 12 March 2010.

235/09-10 Establishment of UUK Working Group Examining Prevention of Violent Extremism

RECEIVED:

An announcement from UUK regarding the establishment of a Working Group to examine how universities might protect academic freedom whilst preventing violent extremism (SC.174/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That Warwick had a positive and open partnership with Islamic groups and students and that all parties understood the need for caution in the current climate.

(By the President of the Students' Union)

- (b) That the President of the Islamic Society had been proactive on this issue and would maintain the open nature of the dialogue with the University.

(By the Registrar)

- (c) That the issue of extremism and its management within institutions presented difficult challenges, not only in terms of their academic and pastoral role but also in terms of international recruitment.

236/09-10

Response Rates to HESA Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey

RECEIVED:

Notification from HEFCE of the target response rates for HEIs in the 2008/09 Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey and Warwick's performance against those targets (SC.166/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That Warwick's performance exceeded target in all areas.
- (b) That HEFCE was paying particular attention to the DLHE survey as a tool for demonstrating the value of higher education.
- (c) That careers directors across the sector were concerned about achieving or maintaining high response rates due to the greater anticipated numbers of graduates not in employment and the potential unwillingness to disclose this, noting that the University careers service was making every effort to maintain its high response rates.

237/09-10

Notification of Identification Card for Foreign Nationals

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the UK Border Agency had announced the roll out of the Identification Card for Foreign Nationals (ICFN) replacing the vignettes (visa stamps) in passports and that this would be proof of the holder's right to stay, work or study in the UK
- (b) That the scheme would initially apply to migrants who had been granted visas under Tiers 2 and 4 of the Points Based System and would be extended to Tiers 1 and 5 during 2010/11 and came into effect on 6 January 2010.

238/09-10

Appointment to Senate Committees

RESOLVED:

That the following local practitioners in the field of Social Studies be appointed to the Fitness to Practise Committee as recommended by the Head of the School of Health and Social Studies:

Anne McCarthy

Fiona Metcalfe

John Hawthorn

Anne Winn

Jean Gascoyne

Angela Whitford

- 239/09-10 Review of Postgraduate Revision in the UK  
REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)  
That leaked findings of the Review of Postgraduate Provision in the UK conducted by Professor Adrian Smith, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, appearing in the Times suggested that the Review would recommend the concentration of research funding for postgraduate students in some 40 institutions only.
- 240/09-10 UUK I/2009/125: Variable Tuition Fees in England  
RECEIVED:  
I-Note from UUK announcing the publication of the fourth report on *Variable tuition students and higher education institutions* (SC.165/09-10).
- 241/09-10 Leadership Foundation for Higher Education Annual Report 2008-09  
RECEIVED:  
The annual report from the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education outlining the organisation's achievements and developments in 2008-09, as well as its future plans (SC.170/09-10).
- 242/09-10 UUK Report: Higher Education Pay and Prices Index  
RECEIVED:  
The executive summary from the annual UUK report regarding price increases facing HEIs in the UK (SC.171/09-10).