

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 15 February 2010

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Professor L Bridges,
Professor S Bruzzi,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor R Higgott
Professor C Hughes,
Professor K Lamberts,
Professor M Underwood,
Professor M Whitby,
Professor D Wilson,
Mr A Bradley.

Apologies: Professor M Smith.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Director of Development, Communication and Strategy, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Professor S B Palmer, Director of the International Office (for items 298/09-10 and 299/09-10).

275/09-10 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2010 be approved.

292/09-10 I/2010/004 – How Institutions Have Used Income from Variable Fees (minute 35/09-10 refers)

RECEIVED:

The executive Summary of the UUK Report on how institutions used the income from variable fees (SC.202/09-10), noting that the report had been submitted to the Independent Review of Funding and Student Finance.

Note: The full report was available to members at the Steering Committee files.warwick site.

293/09-10 New Student Residences

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That construction work for the new student residences was due to start on site on 15 February 2010 and was due for completion in summer 2011.
- (b) That the work would involve the construction of 505 student bedrooms arranged in four blocks across the site between Rootes Residences and Tocil Ponds.

294/09-10 Lord Mandelson Visit

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he wished to extend his thanks to those colleagues involved in the successful visit of Lord Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, held on 11 February 2010.

295/09-10 Higher Education Early Student Statistics (HESES) Audit

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had received confirmation from HEFCE that the institutional HESES audit would take place in June/July 2010 and that the audit would be carried out by UNIAC, a shared internal audit service for a consortium of HEIs primarily in the north of England.

296/09-10 Appointment of Dean of Warwick Medical School

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Peter Winstanley, currently Head of the School of Clinical Sciences at the University of Liverpool, had been appointed as Dean of Warwick Medical School and that he would join Warwick in early May 2010.

297/09-10 HEFCE: Funding for Universities and Colleges 2011

RECEIVED:

A HEFCE circular letter outlining the decisions and approach to funding for 2011 taken by the HEFCE Board, together with UUK commentary (SC.204/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That universities and colleges would be told their provisional grant allocations on 12 March 2010 with the full grant announcement being published on 18 March 2010.

298/09-10 International Update

RECEIVED:

An update from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Arts and Social Sciences) and the Director of the International Office on international issues, including changes to the student immigration system, a proposed student exchange with Renmin University in China, partnerships and the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education Report on student recruitment in mainland China (SC.208/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Director of the International Office)

- (a) That the UK Border Agency had announced a number of changes to the Points Based Immigration System but that on inspection, these applied largely to sub-degree level courses and would not directly affect Warwick.
- (b) That the potential exchange for Warwick students to study at Renmin University, China, was an exciting development and that it was anticipated that students would fund themselves and/or a scholarship fund be identified.

(By the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Arts and Social Sciences))

- (c) That the Monash Strategic Alliance fund had been successful receiving 31 applications and making nine awards.

(By the Registrar)

- (d) That, although Warwick was not directly affected by the changes to the immigration system, the University would have to monitor the proposed improvements to the

security of testing English language skills and the potential implications for the Warwick English Language Test (WELT).

299/09-10 I/2010/003 – UUK Survey of International Student Recruitment and Admissions 2009

RECEIVED:

A UUK I-Note informing members of the findings of the UUK international student recruitment and admissions survey (SC.203/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Director of the International Office)

That the University had seen growth in the majority of cities most cited in the UUK survey as where decreases had been experienced by other institutions.

300/09-10 Carbon Reduction Targets and Strategy for HE (HEFCE 2010/01)

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Director of Estates regarding the publication of the HEFCE carbon reduction targets and strategy for HE, together with recommendations as to how Warwick might address these (SC.209/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

- (a) That carbon reduction was an emerging problem for the HE sector, noting that the UK Government was the only one to have adopted a legally binding target.
- (b) That the targets presented in the HEFCE strategy were challenging and that the Estates Office would require engagement from the academy to ensure Warwick progressed towards the targets set.
- (c) That the proposal to re-establish the Energy Committee, a sub-committee of Building Committee, would allow focused and technical discussion of the issues around carbon management which was currently not possible within the Environment and Amenities Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Estates, together with the Registrar, identify and implement a mechanism to appropriately consider issues relating to carbon management within the University governance structure.
- (b) That the President of the Students' Union liaise with the Director of Estates to arrange for the Students' Union Environment Campaigns Officer to attend the Building Committee as one of the two student members.

301/09-10 National HE STEM Programme

CONSIDERED:

A letter from the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham inviting engagement with the HEFCE National HE STEM Programme hosted by the University of Birmingham (SC.207/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science)

That there was interest from the Faculty of Science, the Student Admissions and Recruitment Office and the Centre for Student Careers and Skills to submit an application to the Programme, noting the deadline for the first round of applications was 12 March 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) and the Academic Registrar identify a coordinator for the Warwick bid to ensure interested parties were incorporated.

302/09-10 'Going for Growth – Our Prosperity'

RECEIVED:

Information regarding Lord Mandelson's recent request for regional reports on how universities, supported by Regional Development Agencies, could drive economic growth and prosperity in their regions (SC.205/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the University's Head of Business Relations, Dr Mark Bobe, was preparing the University's contribution for consideration at the West Midlands Higher Education Authority on 24 February 2010.

303/09-10 Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership Sub-Regional Economic Strategy

CONSIDERED:

A summary of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership Sub-Regional Economic Strategy and the implementation plan to be completed by stakeholder organizations to identify how they would assist the implementation of the Strategy (SC.206/09-10).

Note: The full report was available to members at the Steering Committee files.warwick site.

RESOLVED:

That comments from members be forwarded to the Head of Business Relations, Dr Mark Bobe, for incorporation into the University's implementation plan due to be submitted by 5 March 2010.

304/09-10 Students' Union Officers Elections

REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)

That the list of candidates for Students' Union officers for 2010/11 had been published on the Students' Union website and that polls would open on 24 February 2010 with the results being announced on 28 February 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the President of the Students' Union remind candidates and their campaign teams that defacing buildings with chalk or other substances was not permitted.