

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 22 February 2010

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

Apologies: Professor A Caesar

In Attendance: Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Professor S B Palmer, Acting Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) (for item 320/09-10), Director of Research Support Services (for items 321/09-10 and 322/09-10), Professor T Jones (for item 321/09-10), Mr D Mullins and Mr G Wright (for item 322/09-10).

312/09-10 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2010 be approved.

313/09-10 National HE STEM Programme (minute 301/09-10 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment would co-ordinate the bid from Warwick with liaison with the interested parties outlined at the previous meeting.

314/09-10 Draft of Revised University Information Security Policy (minute 674/08-09 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A draft of the revised University Information Security Policy initially approved by the Steering Committee on the recommendation of the Information Policy and Strategy Committee in June 2009 (SC.216/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the revised policy had been considered by the Information Policy and Strategy Committee at its meeting held in January 2010 and that the Committee had taken advice from colleagues in the Deputy Registrar's Office, ITS and HR to further refine the wording of section 4.2 'Acceptable Use'.

RESOLVED:

That the University Information Security Policy be approved as set out in SC.216/09-10, subject to the following amendment to Section 4.2 (deletions struck through and insertions underlined):

“Viewing, creating ~~or~~, transmitting or storing offensive, obscene, indecent or defamatory images, data or other material. “

315/09-10

Visit of David Willetts MP

RESOLVED:

That the Committee extend its thanks to colleagues involved in the organization of the successful visit and lecture given by David Willetts MP, Shadow Minister for Universities and Skills.

316/09-10

Award of Queen's Anniversary Prize

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he, the Director of Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG), and the Pro-Chancellor had attended the awards ceremony for the Queen's Anniversary Prizes held at Buckingham Palace on 19 February 2010 to collect the award for the work of WMG.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its thanks to those colleagues who worked on the submission and plans for the presentation events.

317/09-10

Labour Party Pre-Election Event

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its thanks and congratulations to colleagues who organized at very short notice the Labour Party Pre-Election Event held on campus on 19 February 2010, in particular the Security and Estates teams.

318/09-10

Russell Group Response to the HEFCE Revised Financial Memorandum Consultation

CONSIDERED:

The draft response compiled by Russell Group Registrars to the HEFCE consultation on proposed revisions to the Financial Memorandum (SC.223/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the response as presented in SC.223/09-10 was the current draft of a Russell Group response, noting that there was likely to be further revision prior to submission by the deadline of 5 March 2010.
- (b) That the draft response, like those of the Committee of University Chairs and the British Universities Finance Directors Group, was robust and direct in its approach.
- (c) That Warwick, along with a number of other institutions, was taking legal advice regarding the proposed revisions presented in the consultation.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee was in favour of a direct and robust response to the HEFCE consultation on revisions to the Financial Memorandum ideally via the Russell Group.

319/09-10 Appointment of Deputy Vice-Chancellor

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Deputy Registrar outlining the required process for selecting and approving the appointment of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, together with a suggested timeline for the current academic year (SC.225/09-10).

RESOLVED:

That the process for selecting and approving the appointment of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor be approved as set out in SC.225/09-10, noting that the process presented included the variation of Ordinance 2 (Procedure for the Appointment of a Deputy Vice-Chancellor) to allow the Vice-Chancellor to chair the Search Committee, as per the recently revised procedure for the appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

320/09-10 Draft University Response to HEFCE Consultation 'Future Arrangements for Quality Assurance in England and Northern Ireland' (minute 178/09-10 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the HEFCE consultation proposing revisions to the system used for quality assurance of higher education in England and Northern Ireland (SC.213/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Acting Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality))

That the consultation suggested greater central regulation of the HE sector and that it sought to introduce mechanisms to secure increased comparability in standards between universities.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the response be approved for submission by the deadline of 5 March 2010 as set out in paper SC.213/09-10, subject to the following amendments:
  - (i) That question 5 relating to the comparability of standards and standardisation of curricula be strengthened in line with discussion at the meeting; and
  - (ii) That the Committee's concern regarding the potentially unmanageable number of principles and objectives presented in the proposed system be incorporated in the response.
- (b) That the University's final submission be circulated to members for their information at a future meeting.

321/09-10 Warwick Innovation and Knowledge Centre (IKC) in Quantum Technologies for Energy and the Environment

CONSIDERED:

A Major Research Proposal for the Warwick Innovation and Knowledge Centre (IKC) in Quantum Technologies for Energy and the Environment (SC.211/09-10).

REPORTED: (by Professor T Jones, Department of Chemistry)

- (a) That the proposal was a response to a third call from the EPSRC/Technology Strategy Board (TSB), it being noted that only one bid was permitted per institution and the EPSRC/TSB would fund only two successful applications from an expected shortlist of six.
- (b) That the proposal represented activity in four departments at Warwick partnered by the Department of Physics at Lancaster University and that it aimed to build on the work carried out by the AWM-funded Quantum Technology Partnership between the University, Lancaster University and Qinetiq.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal for a Warwick IKC in Quantum Technologies for Energy and the Environment as set out in SC.211/09-10 be approved, noting that, should the bid progress, a business case would be required by the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the approval of the desired University investment of £2.4m where this exceeded existing budgets and subject to the revision of the number of four –year studentships within the Centre from six per annum as stated in SC.211/09-10 to five.

322/09-10

International Institute for Product Service Innovation: Full Application Stage

CONSIDERED:

An application to AWM and ERDF to establish an International Institute for Product Service Innovation (IIPSI) (SC.221/09-10).

REPORTED: (by Mr D Mullins, Warwick Manufacturing Group)

- (a) That the IIPSI sought to combine international competitive research and knowledge transfer to the top 10 percent of regional companies in areas including plastic electronics and digital technology and media.
- (b) That the proposed revenue input from the University might be offset by the recovery of overheads under the EDRF methodology.

(By Mr G Edwards, Warwick Manufacturing Group)

- (c) That the capital budget of £8.5m was believed to be sufficient to create a building to complement the impressive International Digital Laboratory and Mathematics buildings on 'Academic Square'.

RESOLVED:

That the application to AWM and ERDF to establish an International Institute for Product Service Innovation (IIPSI) as set out in SC.221/09-10 be approved, noting that a business case would be required by the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the approval of the desired University capital investment of £4m.

323/09-10 ESRC Doctoral Training Centre Application

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies providing details of the new ESRC Postgraduate Training Framework and an outline of the University's application (SC.214/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (a) That, under the ESRC Training Framework, recognition would be given by the ESRC over five years on an institutional basis either for a Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) or as a Doctoral Training Unit (DTU), in opposed to the current system of 'quota' or 'pool' awards for students.
- (b) That, should it be awarded DTC status, the University would be required to provide advanced training 'pathways' opening this up to ESRC students from other institutions on a chargeable basis.
- (c) That Warwick's application would include more specific co-ordination on elements of advanced training with Birmingham and Nottingham and separately with Oxford but the University would not formally associate with any DTUs in the region.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee delegate formal approval of the final application as outlined in SC.214/09-10 to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Arts and Social Sciences), the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies and the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences, subject to the application being endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor prior to submission by 11 March 2010.
- (b) That the final application be circulated to the Committee for their information at a future meeting.

324/09-10 Report from the Fees Working Group

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Fees Working Group presenting recommendations on proposed increases to standard and non-standard fees from 2010/11, the continuation of a reduced postgraduate taught fee for relevant departments in the Faculty of Arts for 2010/11 only, changes in the fees setting process for the Higher Education Foundation Programme and the discontinuation of the Equivalent or Lower Qualification (ELQ) fee supplementation policy from 2010/11 (SC.222/09-10).

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Fees Working Group be approved as set out in SC.222/09-10.

325/09-10 HEFCE EP 02/2010: New Student Number Control for 2010/11

RECEIVED:

Information from HEFCE informing that the control introduced for full-time undergraduate and PGCE students in 2009/10 would be retained for 2010/11, noting that changes would be made to the groups of students included within the institutional limits (SC.215/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the introduction of an institutional limit would allow for greater clarity when defining recruitment targets in 2010/11 but that it would increase the administrative aspect of student data returns.

326/09-10 HEFCE Circular 03/2009: Employer Co-Funded Additional Student Numbers for 2010/11

RECEIVED:

A letter from HEFCE inviting institutions to bid for employer co-funded additional student numbers for 2010/11 in order to meet the Government's target of 20,000 additional entrants for 2010/11 (SC.217/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the School of Engineering was considering an application in relation to its tunneling projects by the deadline of 5 March 2010.

327/09-10 I/2010/007: Universities UK Report – HE and the Creative Economy

CONSIDERED:

A request from Universities UK to institutions to submit case study material to support its report on the HE contribution to the creative economy (SC.218/09-10).

RESOLVED:

That work be undertaken to identify potential case studies from the Centre for Cultural Policy Studies, the CAPITAL Centre, colleagues working in Digital Media in the Digital Laboratory and Professor Hilary Pilkington in the Department of Sociology prior to the deadline of 8 March 2010.

328/09-10 Students' Union Elections

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

That the election process for Students' Union officers for 2010/11 had begun with hustings taking place on 22 and 23 February 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the President of the Students' Union report the results of the elections at the next meeting of the Committee, noting the changes in Sabbatical Officer titles in relation to finance and democracy.

329/09-10 I/2010/006: Ofqual Consultation on Regulating for Confidence in Standards

RECEIVED:

A UUK I-Note alerting members to the current consultation by Ofqual (the Office of the Qualifications and Examinations Regulator) on regulating for confidence in standards (SC.219/09-10), noting that the University would not respond.