

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 23 February 2009

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor S Bassnett,
Professor L Bridges,
Professor S Bruzzi,
Professor R Higgott
Professor K Lamberts,
Professor R Lindley,
Professor M Smith,
Professor H Thomas,
Mr S Thomson,
Professor M Underwood,
Professor M Whitby

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance, Director of Development, Communication and Strategy, Executive Officer (Vice-Chancellor's Office), Head of Governance Support Services, Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment (for item 363/08-09), Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) (for items 369/08-09, 370/08-09 and 371/08-09)

361/08-09 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2009 be approved, subject to the following amendment (deletions ~~struck through~~):

~~351/08-09~~

Policy Update: International Issues

(...)

(By the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine))

- (d) That the consultants to conduct a scoping project on the Research Hotel had been asked to consider the potential for elements of international sources of funding within the Research Hotel. ~~so as to play a part in the International Quarter.~~

362/08-09 HEFCE Economic Challenge Investment Fund Bid (minute 348/08-09 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Industrial Development Officer outlining the process for finalising the University's bid to the HEFE Economic Challenge Investment Fund prior to the deadline of 27 February 2009 (SC.256/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine))

That three strands, namely those developed by WMG, Careers and WBS/Enterprise Hub, were being incorporated into Warwick's proposal which reflected identified need, capability and capacity to deliver, noting that the bid would request c£500k from the HEFCE ECIF.

RESOLVED:

That the final bid be approved by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the Steering Committee prior to submission by 27 February 2009.

363/08-09 HEFCE Circular 01/2009: Grant Programme Relating to Links between HEIs and Schools, Colleges and Academies (minute 281/08-09 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University draft proposal compiled by the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment for the HEFCE grant programme to explore models of higher education – school links (SC.262/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment)

That the proposal sought to explore models of engagement with the two relatively new governance contexts of Trust Schools and Academies, with which the University already had involvement.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal be approved as set out in SC.262/08-09 for submission by 27 February 2009, subject to the principal contact being the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment and the incorporation of comments noted at the meeting.

364/08-09 Queen's Anniversary Prizes (minute 347/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the University intended to submit a project from within the Warwick Manufacturing Group to the Queen's Anniversary Prizes 2009 round with the Director of Development, Communication and Strategy preparing the submission with Dr Dave Mullins in the Warwick Manufacturing Group, noting that the deadline for submissions was 1 April 2009.

365/08-09 National Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Consultation

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That, as reported previously to the Committee, the University of Birmingham had been awarded the HEFCE National STEM Programme and that it had now launched an online consultation into how the programme might be developed and implemented.
- (b) That the Heads of Departments in the Faculty of Science had been made aware of the consultation which would close later today.

366/08-09 National Centre for Involvement (NCI)– End of Current Contract

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Deputy Registrar informing the Committee that the current Department of Health contract for the National Centre for Involvement would expire on 31 August 2009 and presenting proposals to establish a group to discuss the University's possible future engagement (SC.257/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the University was one of three consortium partners and acted as contract holder on behalf of the consortium.

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

- (b) That he had met with the Chief Executive Officer of the NCI last week and that it was clear the contract needed to end on a positive note with a legacy conference being planned to showcase the outcomes of the NCI's work.

(By the Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies)

- (c) That several researchers within Warwick Medical Schools and the Faculty of Social Studies had an interest in this area of activity and should be involved in appropriate discussions concerning any future involvement.

RESOLVED:

That a group be established as set out in SC.257/08-09 to consider options for the future beyond the expiry of the existing contract for the NCI, noting that its recommendations would be considered by the Steering Committee.

367/08-09

UUK I-Note I/2009/007 – Update on Research Concordat

CONSIDERED:

Information from Universities UK updating members on the implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers including details of the Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS) running from March to May 2009 (SC.258/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That every university was expected to operate in line with the Concordat and that UUK had established a Strategy Group to oversee implementation and review progress.

(By the Deputy Registrar)

That it would be beneficial for the University to contribute to the CROS survey and engage with the implementation of the Concordat.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Research Support Services co-ordinate the University's response to the CROS survey, noting that any response would be considered by the Steering Committee prior to submission in May.

368/08-09

Faculty of Arts Update

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Chair of the Faculty of Arts updating the Committee on activities in the areas of research, postgraduate study and Faculty management (SC.255/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Faculty of Arts)

- (a) That the Faculty was continuing to build on research success in terms of the RAE2008 results and grant income by exploring the strengthening of interdisciplinary research within the Faculty.
- (b) That the Faculty aimed to maintain last year's MA intake and to increase the conversion from MA to PhD study over the next few years in line with the University Strategy.

- (c) That the schedule to relocate the Department of Film and Television to Millburn House had been finalised with consideration being given to events to mark the completion of Millburn House.

(By the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (d) That the outcome of the recent AHRC Block Grant Partnership bid would be known this week.

RESOLVED:

That the report be approved as set out in SC.255/08-09.

369/08-09

Faculty of Science Update

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Chair of the Faculty of Science proposing the establishment of two planning groups to further develop the Life Sciences initiative and to update the Committee on the appointment of the Head of the proposed School of Life Sciences (SC.252/08-09).

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

- (a) That it was hoped that the School of Life Sciences, to replace the Department of Biological Science, Warwick HRI and the Centre for Systems Biology, would be functional by the start of the next academic year.
- (b) That the Academic Planning Group would focus on the academic and academic management issues with the Planning and Implementation group addressing issues around governance, human resources and finance.
- (c) That an extraordinary meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science would take place on 4 March 2009 to consider an interim report from the Academic Planning Group as part of the consultation process, noting that a full proposal would be considered by Faculty Boards, the Senate and the Council at their meetings in the Summer Term.
- (d) That the physical infrastructure required to support the School of Life Sciences would be determined once the form and structure of the School had been agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the establishment of the two planning groups be approved as set out in SC.252/08-09.

370/08-09

Faculty of Medicine Update

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Acting Dean of Warwick Medical School updating the Committee on activities in the areas of Academic Health Science Centres and Health Education and Innovation Cluster bids, Science City, the Life Sciences Review and Biomedicine, Medical School Strategy Away-Day and new research grants (SC.253/08-09).

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

- (a) That Warwick Medical School now had its first benchmark for performance following the recent RAE.
- (b) That despite the lack of confirmation from the Department of Health regarding the criteria for Health Education and Innovation Cluster designation, discussions with local NHS partners indicated that it was an activity the University should develop and that the partners would support.

RESOLVED:

That the report be approved as set out in SC.253/08-09.

371/08-09

Strategic Departmental Review: Warwick HRI Departmental Response

CONSIDERED:

The departmental response to the Strategic Departmental Review of Warwick HRI held on 28 and 29 November 2008, together with an oral report from the Director of Warwick HRI (SC.254/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Warwick HRI)

- (a) That the Review report provided clear momentum for change with regards to identifying sustainable areas of research for the future.
- (b) That there were a number of staff with strengths in the area of translating research into practice and that this could be a source of external funding in future.

(By the Deputy Registrar)

- (c) That currently the Strategic Departmental Review Report was confidential to the Director of WHRI and that the Committee needed to agree how it could now be used and distributed.
- (d) That the Review Panel would need to approve any revised version prior to circulation to colleagues.

(By the Registrar)

- (e) That the action plan needed to be developed in the context of the Life Sciences initiative and that this might provide a bridge between the original report and proposals for the future.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the departmental response be approved as set out in SC.254/08-09.
- (b) That the Head of Governance Support Services, the Registrar and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor work with the Director of WHRI in order to ensure appropriate dissemination of the report and action plan.

372/08-09

Appointment of President of the Students' Union

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That the President-elect of the Students' Union was Andrew Bradley, a third year undergraduate student in the Department of Politics and International Studies, noting that the full results of the elections would be received by the Steering Committee in due course prior to conferral of registered student status by the Senate in the Summer Term.

373/08-09 HEFCE Letter: Bid for Additional Student Numbers 2009/10 and 2010/11

RECEIVED:

A letter from HEFCE confirming that the University's bid for Additional Student Numbers for the academic years 2009/10 and 2010/11 had been unsuccessful at this time (SC.259/08-09).

374/08-09 HEFCE Financial Sustainability Strategy Group Report

RECEIVED:

The final report of the HEFCE Financial Sustainability Group examining the sustainability of teaching published on 19 February 2009 (SC.263/08-09).

Kms/jf/steersshare/minutes2008-09/Feb09/23Feb09