

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 2 April 2012

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor M Finn,
Professor T Jones,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor M Taylor,
Professor P Winstanley,
Mr L Bøe.

Apologies: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor S Croft, Professor C Hughes, Professor S Swain,
Professor P Thomas.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of HR, Director of
Development, Communications and Strategy, Head of Corporate Governance, Head
of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative
Officer (Governance).

418/11-12 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2012 be approved.

419/11-12 TDA Consultation on ITT Accreditation Criteria and Requirements (minute 374/11-12 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had taken Chair's Action on behalf of the Steering Committee to approve the University's response to the TDA Consultation on ITT Accreditation Criteria and Requirements, and that the final response was submitted to the TDA prior to the deadline of 11 March 2012.

420/11-12 QAA Consultation on the UK Quality Code: Section B11 – Research Degrees (minute 407/11-12 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That, following the Steering Committee's consideration by correspondence, he had taken Chair's Action to approve the University's response to the QAA Consultation on the UK Quality Code: Section B11 – Research Degrees, as set out in SC.287/11-12, and that it was submitted to the QAA prior to the deadline of 23 March 2012.

421/11-12 Revised 2012/13 Access Agreement (minute 404/11-12 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That, following the Steering Committee's consideration by correspondence, the Vice-Chancellor had taken Chair's Action to approve the University's revised 2012/13 Access Agreement to include ITT students, as set out in SC.288/11-12, and that it was submitted to OFFA prior to the deadline of 30 March 2012.

422/11-12 GTTR Consultation on a Single Admissions Process for Postgraduate Initial Teacher Training (minute 386/11-12 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the Senior Assistant Registrar (Postgraduate Admissions) had attended a consultation event run by the GTTR and following clarification at this event regarding the proposal of a 35 working day response period to all applications made before the end of June, the University's response was strengthened in its opposition to this proposal.
- (b) That he had considered and approved the University's response to the GTTR consultation on a Single Admissions Process for Postgraduate Initial Teacher Training and that it was submitted to the GTTR prior to the deadline of 21 March 2012.

423/11-12 Home Office Statement of Intent - Review of Employment Related Settlement, Tier 5 and Overseas Domestic Workers (minute 397/11-12 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Director of HR)

- (a) That the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies had sought clarification around the impact of the UKBA's new arrangements to allow very short term leave to enter the UK for the purpose of examining students and performing related work, and that there appeared to be no unintended consequences arising for overseas academics already in the UK under Tier 2 provisions.
- (b) That the Graduate Entrepreneurs scheme would allow a graduate to remain in the UK for up to 12 months to develop world class innovative ideas and consequent business development aspirations, under their institution's status as a Highly Trusted Sponsor, but that the final details of the new route would not be available until late April 2012.

424/11-12 UCAS Admissions Process Review Consultation (minute 286/11-12 refers)

RECEIVED:

The Foreword and Executive Summary of the Findings and Recommendations of the UCAS Admissions Process Review and Consultation (SC.293/11-12).

Note: the full report is available at the following link
<http://www.ucas.com/reviews/admissionsprocessreview/>

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That UCAS would not progress a move to the post-qualifications application system (PQA), but would seek to implement a programme of continuous improvements to enhance the application process for all stakeholders.
- (b) That the importance of Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) for applicants was emphasised in a large number of responses to the consultation but that UCAS had not outlined any concrete measures that would be taken in this regard.

425/11-12 Part-Time Variants of the Warwick Dentistry Programme Fee Levels

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had taken Chair's Action on behalf of the Steering Committee to approve the fees for the part-time variants of the Warwick Dentistry programme run by the Warwick Medical School for 2012/13.

426/11-12

Visit to Korea

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had visited Korea during the last week, and it was evident that science in Korea was improving rapidly, with significant investment in science and medical research partnerships with overseas institutions.

427/11-12

Recurrent Grant and Student Number Control for the Academic Year 2012-13

RECEIVED:

A paper summarising the HEFCE recurrent grant settlement for 2012/13 financial year following receipt of the grant letter from the HEFCE on 19 March 2012 (SC.289/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the reduction in Teaching Grant for 2012/13 was attributable to the phasing out of "old regime" funding across all subjects.
- (b) That the overall net increase in the University's Research Grant for 2012/13 was attributable to a rise in Research Degree Programme (RDP) supervision funds and "Other QR" funding, despite a reduction in in the mainstream QR component of the Research Grant.
- (c) That work was underway to develop a clear framework for this summer's confirmation process, with a view to ensuring that the Student Number Control (SNC) limit would not be breached, with particular reference to the University's allocated SNC in strategically important and vulnerable subjects (SIVS).
- (d) That the HEFCE has reserved the right to reduce institutions' non-AAB student quota should the quota not be reached, noting that the financial penalties for exceeding this quota were significant.

428/11-12

Higher Education Commission - Postgraduate Education Inquiry

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft response to the Higher Education Commission Postgraduate Education Inquiry (SC.300/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the response should emphasise that Warwick, like many other Russell Group institutions, invested heavily in funding postgraduate students and that it would be helpful for the submission to state the level of investment.

(by the Dean of Warwick Business School)

- (b) That reference to "rhetoric" in the context of the immigration should be strengthened to underline the negative impact of immigration law on student recruitment, especially to post-experience courses.

(by the President of the Students' Union)

- (c) That the response should address the issue of students from low-participation categories wanting to be competitive in the labour market, and not simply attracting these groups of students onto the courses in the first instance.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Access, Widening Participation and Development)

- (d) That a recently published statistic that measured the effect of each additional £1,000 of debt (on graduation from undergraduate study) on the likelihood of students to continue with postgraduate study, could be incorporated into the response.

(by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

- (e) That he would draft a sentence regarding graduate-entry medicine courses at the University, for inclusion in the response.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Knowledge Transfer, Business Engagement and Research (Science & Medicine))

- (f) That the strength of the University's collaborative engagement with business was a distinctive feature of postgraduate study and that the submission could usefully emphasise investment through the Warwick Collaborative Postgraduate Research Scheme.
- (g) That the University had been very successful in establishing a range of Doctoral Training Centres and that the "1+3" model in these subjects was a strong model for postgraduate education.

(by the Deputy Registrar)

- (h) That the proposed response for Q7 could be moved to Q6, with Q7 left unanswered.

RESOLVED:

That the University's response to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Postgraduate Education Inquiry be approved as set out in SC.300/11-12, subject to the amendments discussed in the meeting, and be submitted to the HEC by the deadline of 2 April 2012.

429/11-12

University Risk Management

CONSIDERED:

An update paper on the management of operational risks through the Operational Risk Management Group (ORMG) (SC.301/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Head of Corporate Governance)

- (a) That a separate risk report would be considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting to be held on 17 April 2012.
- (b) That the risk register would be updated during the summer term, and the current risk management methodology would be reviewed to give greater acknowledgement to the successful application of mitigating measures.
- (c) That the Cryfield football pitches and Pavilion would be surrounded by a secure perimeter fence between 9 July and 25 August 2012, with management of the site being passed to the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) for the duration.
- (d) That risks already identified included the successful operation of other events on campus during the Olympic period, such as Degree Congregation and the Teach First Summer Institute, but that a recent meeting with LOCOG and local authority representatives provided a strong platform for risk management including emergency procedures and protocols.

- (e) That compliance with ISO 27001 was increasingly a requirement of some funding bodies and that there was evidence of increasing levels of fines from the Information Commissioner's Office for breaches of the Data Protection Act. .
- (f) That the ORMG had resolved that a pilot project be established with a small number of departments to test compliance with ISO 27001, and that this would enable an evaluation of the resource required to extend the ISO 27001 framework to cover the whole University.

(by the Director of HR)

- (g) That she welcomed the work that would address the Vodafone network coverage on campus, particularly in relation to the needs of the Major Incident Team and emergency planning.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University risk register should be updated to incorporate changes to the NHS and the development of a range of strategic partnerships for the University.
- (b) That the University should seek to demonstrate greater compliance with ISO 27001 rather than full ISO 27001 accreditation at this stage.

430/11-12 Varsity 2012 Events (minute 406/11-12 refers)

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

That Warwick had won the annual Varsity Sports competition against Coventry University.

431/11-12 Volunteer Awards

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

That the Students' Union were planning to launch Volunteer Awards.

432/11-12 Queen Mary Strategic Alliance

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

That he and his counter-part at Queen Mary, University of London, were in discussions about how the respective Students' Unions would recognise the new partnership between the institutions.

433/11-12 Students' Union Sabbatical Officer Elections (minute 375/11-12 refers)

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

That, following the decision of the elected Welfare and Campaigns Officer for the 2012/2013 academic year not to take up his post, a re-election for the position of Welfare and Campaigns Officer for 2012/13 would take place at the start of the Summer term 2012 with the result expected to be announced in the third week of term.

434/11-12 Athena SWAN Bronze Award

REPORTED: (by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

That Warwick Medical School had become the first UK medical school to receive an Athena SWAN Bronze award for its school-wide work supporting the Charter for Women in Science.

435/11-12 Summative Evaluation of the CETL Programme

RECEIVED:

The Executive Summary of the final summative report from research provider SQW to the HEFCE and the Department for Employment and Learning in Northern Ireland (DEL) evaluating the Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) programme (SC.290/11-12).

Note: the full report is available at the following link
http://aces.shu.ac.uk/employability/resources/cetl_evaluation.pdf

436/11-12 Funding for University Research Facilities

RECEIVED:

A BBC News article regarding the Chancellor's announcement, as part of the Budget 2012, of a £100m fund to invest in major new university research facilities (SC.304/11-12).

KMS/KP/steersshare/minutes/201112/Apr12/2Apr12