

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 3 March 2008

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Mr J Kirby
Professor K Lamberts
Professor R Lindley
Professor M Smith
Professor H Thomas

Apologies: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor R Higgott, Professor L M Whitby

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Registrar, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Administrative Officer (Campus Affairs), Senior Assistant Registrar (Governance), Director of HR and Commercial Services (for item 365/07-08)

363/07-08

Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2008 be approved, subject to the revision of minute 354/07-08 as follows (deletions ~~crossed out~~, amendments underlined):

Campus Development Plan

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

That the Campus Development Plan had been ~~approved~~ recommended for approval at a recent meeting of Warwick District Council.

364/07-08

Speech by the Secretary of State, DIUS

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That at a recent speech the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills had announced that DIUS would be undertaking broad work to look at the future challenges facing the Higher Education sector.
- (b) That this would involve seven workstreams, covering:
- (i) Innovation and intellectual property (to be undertaken by Paul Wellings, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, and Baroness Morgan)
 - (ii) Higher level skills and business engagement (to be undertaken by Rt Hon Bill Rammell, Minister of State, DIUS).
 - (iii) Changing trends in Higher Education demographics (to be undertaken by UUK)
 - (iv) Changing student expectations and the student experience (to be undertaken by Paul Ramsden of the HEA)
 - (v) Internationalisation and Internationalising Universities (to be undertaken by Professor Drummond Bone, Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University)
 - (vi) Measuring the outputs of a Differentiated Higher Education sector (to be undertaken by HEFCE)
 - (vii) The relationship between academia and policy makers (to be undertaken by Professor Janet Finch, Vice-Chancellor of Keele University)

- (c) That DIUS had announced plans to create twenty new university campuses, backed by £150m funding from HEFCE, and that it was the eventual intention for every medium-sized town to host a campus.
- (d) That the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills would be announcing a renewed focus on Widening Participation at the HEFCE Conference to be held at the University on 7 and 8 April 2008, and that it was crucial for the University that this high profile conference was a success.

365/07-08

Policy Update: Human Resources, the Learning and Development Centre and Safety and Occupational Health Services

CONSIDERED:

- (a) An update from Human Resources including key developments on HR objectives, HR metrics, Framework Agreement: Phase 2, PULSE Staff Survey, Recruitment, Equality Impact Assessment, Harassment and Bullying Review, Payroll/Expenses, Academic Promotions and Probation, HR Operations, Pensions and Reward (SC.265/07-08).
- (b) An update from the Learning and Development Centre including key developments on Job-related Development, Leadership and Management Development, and Awards Schemes (SC.265b/07-08).
- (c) An update from Safety and Occupational Health including key developments on the Health and Safety Strategy, the University Health and Safety Plan, Occupational Health, Internal Audit Report, British Safety Council Audit, Stress at Work, Radiation Certificates and the appointment of the new Director of Safety and Occupational Health Services (SC.265c/07-08).

366/07-08

Students' Union Strategic Plan

CONSIDERED:

The University of Warwick Students' Union Strategic Plan 2007-2010 (SC.273/07-08).

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

That the Strategic Plan had been developed in a parallel and independent process to the University Strategy and represented an ambitious but achievable plan, aimed at creating the most modern, innovative and inclusive Students' Union in the country.

RESOLVED:

That the President of the Students' Union, Professor Carter and the Director of Communications and Strategy meet to discuss further the issue of co-ordination in relation to Students' Union fundraising.

367/07-08

Senate Business

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 12 March 2008 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.
- (b) That the Report of the Campus Life Committee (S.31/07-08) move to the 'Matters to Receive and Approve Without Further Discussion' section of the Senate Agenda.
- (c) That the Students' Union Strategic Plan (SC.273/07-08) be added to the Senate Agenda under 'Business of the Day'.

368/07-08

Power Failure on Campus

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

- (a) That the recent power failure experienced in parts of the campus was caused by simultaneous failures affecting both of the high voltage power networks on campus.
- (b) That the Estates Department would investigate options to reduce the likelihood and impact of this happening again.
- (c) That the power failure had brought to light a number of issues with regard to emergency lighting systems, which would be rectified.

369/07-08

HEFCE Guidance for Aimhigher Partnerships

RECEIVED:

The Executive Summary of HEFCE 2008/05 document, giving guidance for Aimhigher Partnerships (SC.271/07-08).

370/07-08

DIUS Consultation on Innovation (Minute 322/07-08)

RECEIVED:

The final University submission to the DIUS Consultation on Innovation (SC.270/07-08).

371/07-08

Creative Industries and UK Success

RECEIVED:

UUK Media Release MR 587, updating institutions on the publication of Creative Britain: New Talents for the New Economy, a DCMS action plan for the creative industries (SC.269/07-08).

372/07-08

Response on the Impact of the ELQ Policy

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/08/011, containing UUK's response to the impact of phasing-out of ELQs (SC.267/07-08, attached).

373/07-08

Research Information Network Principles of Research Data Stewardship

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/08/014, informing institutions of the publication of a set of principles on research data stewardship (SC.268/07-08).

KMS/gb/steersshare/minutes200708/mar08/03Mar08