

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 5 March 2012

Present: Vice-Chancellor,  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor M Finn,  
Professor C Hughes,  
Professor T Jones,  
Professor J Labbe,  
Professor S Swain,  
Professor P Thomas,  
Mr L Bøe.

Apologies: Professor A Caesar, Professor S Croft, Professor M Taylor, Professor P Winstanley.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance and Financial Strategy, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Director of Estates, Head of Corporate Governance, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of IT Services (for item 377/11-12), Acting Librarian (for item 378/11-12), Director of the Institute of Advanced Study (for item 379/11-12), Institute of Advanced Study Administrator (for item 379/11-12), Director of the Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (for item 380/11-12).

372/11-12 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2012 be approved.

373/11-12 Major Research Proposal: ESRC Centres and Large Grants Competition 2011/12 (minute 351/11-12 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That, following revisions to the bid document as set out in paper SC.251/11-12, the Vice-Chancellor took Chair's Action on behalf of the Steering Committee to approve the bid to the ESRC Centres and Large Grants Competition 2011/12 for submission to the ESRC via the University of Nottingham prior to the deadline of 6 March 2012.

374/11-12 TDA Consultation on ITT Accreditation Criteria and Requirements

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That, on 20 February 2012, the University was invited by the TDA to contribute to a consultation on ITT Accreditation Criteria and Requirements and that the deadline for responses was 11 March 2012.
- (b) That, given there were no issues of principle for the University, he would take Chair's Action on behalf of the Committee to approve the response for submission, prior to the deadline.

375/11-12 Students' Union Sabbatical Officer Elections (minute 360/11-12 refers)

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

- (a) That 5883 students voted in the Students' Union Sabbatical Officer Elections 2012, resulting in 4 male and 3 female Sabbatical Officers being elected.

- (b) That Nick Swain was elected as the President of the Students' Union, the first mature student to be elected to this position at Warwick.

376/11-12

Wilson Review of Business-University Collaboration

RECEIVED:

The Executive Summary and Recommendations of the Wilson Review of Business-University Collaboration (SC.269/11-12).

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

- (a) That the University was highlighted on a number of occasions within the Wilson review document.
- (b) That the recommendations and their potential implications would be considered in greater depth.

377/11-12

IT Update

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Director of IT Services, including a status of current major projects (SC.265/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Director of IT)

- (a) That staff email migration was progressing as planned, with completion expected by the end of September 2012.
- (b) That relatively minor disruption during the migration had affected around 10% of users, with most issues resolved within an hour, but approximately 85 colleagues in the Department of Chemistry had suffered more substantial disruption, which was now resolved.
- (c) That the ambition for complete wireless coverage across campus was being progressed; student residence coverage would be completed for the next academic year, academic/administrative buildings would be completed within a 12 month period, subject to funding and timely access to those offices and buildings without current coverage.
- (d) That SITS would be integrated with the institutional Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and that the Feedback application could also be integrated with SITS.
- (e) That My.Economics was a local solution tailored for the Department of Economics, and that solutions for other departments would need to be designed to meet differing needs.
- (f) That there was an intention for IT Services at Warwick to become device independent in their provision of support, and that training to support a wider range of devices would be provided to current staff within IT Services to enable this.

(by the Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences)

- (g) That the Faculty of Social Sciences was keen to ensure that sufficient resource was in place to support IT application developments and to meet departmental needs.

(by the Registrar)

- (h) That, by the end of the current planning round, there would be greater transparency of which projects were supported and resourced.

RESOLVED:

That the Registrar and Deputy Vice-Chancellor were liaising on a process of integrating the Academic Resourcing Committee and Administrative planning processes to ensure that a holistic view of requirements against available resource could be taken and priorities established for the coming year.

378/11-12

Library Update

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Acting Librarian, including a report on a potential opportunity for digitisation of the remainder of the University's print-only theses (SC.266/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Acting Librarian)

- (a) That Warwick and other Research Library UK (RLUK) institutions had been approached by ProQuest, an international publisher of thesis and dissertation information, regarding a potential partnership agreement to digitise UK theses, at no cost to institutions, in order to sell copies of the full text through their databases.
- (b) That, while students and alumni would retain the copyright in their individual thesis, the University would be asking students and alumni to enter into a commercial arrangement with ProQuest.
- (c) That the University could continue to make theses available via WRAP and EThOS, and that opt-outs, embargoes and other restrictions would apply, as well as an immediate take-down policy.

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

- (d) That the electronic publication of theses could make subsequent submissions to journal editors less desirable for publication, potentially compromising the early careers of promising students.
- (e) That research into the impact of this business model on students within the US market should be undertaken.

RESOLVED:

That the Acting Librarian produce a detailed business case for the partnership agreement with ProQuest, to include resource implications and sustainability, risk assessment, identification of lead staff within the University, and a recommendation for the way forward, to be considered by the Steering Committee prior to the deadline for commitment on 1 May 2012.

379/11-12

Institute of Advanced Study Update

RECEIVED:

A report from the Director of the Institute of Advanced Study (IAS), providing an update on activities, together with an oral report (SC.267/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Director of IAS)

- (a) That the Global Research Fellowship Scheme would be used to maximise the leverage of awards, to assist in preparations for the REF2014 and would signal Warwick's commitment to outstanding research and global leadership.
- (b) That the issue of long-term sustainability of these Fellowships remained, and that work with Development and Alumni Relations Office would be undertaken to identify potential sponsorship opportunities.
- (c) That the Warwick World Book Festival was scheduled for 9 June 2012 and would coincide with the arrival of Mario Vargas Llosa, Nobel Prize-winning author, with other high-profile guests being sought.
- (d) That an unprecedented thirteen Early Career Fellowships (ECF) were offered in February 2012, and that the current disposition and timeline of the ECF scheme had been reviewed to enable students to prepare for high profile external competitions such as Leverhulme and British Academy.
- (e) That the Communications Office had requested IAS assistance with its emerging ideas for the 2015 University of Warwick Anniversary, to include a possible Oral History interview-based project on the history of the University.

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

- (f) That it would be beneficial for IAS and IATL to work together with undergraduate students as part of any Oral History project.

380/11-12

Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning Update

RECEIVED:

A report from the Director of the Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL), providing an update on work undertaken, together with an oral report (SC.268/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Director of IATL)

- (a) That IATL's ongoing work in interdisciplinarity and internationalisation was proceeding as planned.
- (b) That in Summer 2012, IATL would move to Coventry House, and that they would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the overall vision of the building and development of space utilisation within it.
- (c) That the refurbishment of teaching space in the Ramphal Building was underway, following the award of £1 million in CIF funding, and that IATL urged the University to consider the maintenance of premium teaching spaces on campus.
- (d) That, following the Institutional Review of Teaching and Learning, IATL wished to facilitate events to promote good practice identified in the thematic reports.

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

- (e) That IATL was mentioned frequently and favourably throughout the Institutional Review reports.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (f) That the Faculty Engagements would provide a steer on emerging events that IATL could assist with in the promotion of good practice identified in the thematic reports.

- 381/11-12      Senate Business
- RESOLVED:
- That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 14 March 2012 be approved as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate, subject to revisions as agreed in the meeting.
- 382/11-12      Varsity 2012 Events (minute 359/11-12 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)
- That the Varsity matches between Warwick and Coventry University continued, with defeats in Basketball and Netball, and victory in Rugby.
- 383/11-12      International Women's Week
- REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)
- That the Students' Union was organising events and activities during International Women's Week (5 – 9 March 2012) on the topics of women, sexism, feminism, and gender.
- 384/11-12      Warwick Integration Summit 2012 (minute 316/11-12 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)
- That the University and the Students' Union would jointly host an Integration Summit on Thursday 8 March 2012, to examine how universities and students' unions could best work together to encourage integration between international and domestic students.
- 385/11-12      HEA Annual Report 2010-11 and Institutional Report
- RECEIVED:
- The Higher Education Academy (HEA) Annual Report for 2010-11 together with a summary of engagement between the University and the HEA from the past year (SC.276/11-12).
- 386/11-12      GTTR Consultation on a Single Admissions Process for Postgraduate Initial Teacher Training
- REPORTED:
- That the University's response to the GTTR consultation to review the processes for application to postgraduate teacher training would be overseen by the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment, and be considered by the Steering Committee prior to the submission deadline of 21 March 2012.
- 387/11-12      RCUK Consultation on a Capital Investment Roadmap
- REPORTED:
- That the University's response to the Research Councils UK (RCUK) consultation on a Capital Investment Roadmap for research and research-led innovation would be overseen by the Director of Estates, and be considered by the Steering Committee prior to the submission deadline of 4 May 2012.