

# THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

## Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 5 May 2009

Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor S Bassnett,  
Professor L Bridges,  
Professor S Bruzzi,  
Professor R Higgott,  
Professor H Thomas,  
Professor M Smith,  
Professor M Whitby,

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor Y Carter, Professor K Lamberts, Professor R Lindley, Mr S Thomson

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (Vice-Chancellor's Office), Assistant Registrar (Deputy Registrar's Office), Director of HR and Commercial Services (for items 524/08-09 and 525/08-09), Director of HR (for items 524/08-09 and 525/08-09)

520/08-09 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 April be approved.

521/08-09 Heads of Department Away Day 7 May 2009

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the agenda for the forthcoming Heads of Department Away Day, to be held on 7 May 2009, was currently being finalised, and that the day would focus on the challenges being faced in the current environment and the need for Warwick to be fit for the future.

522/08-09 Times Higher Education Awards (minute 456/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the Director of Development, Communications and Strategy was coordinating nominations for the Times Higher Education Awards in conjunction with the Vice-Chancellor and that any nominations with the potential to be successful would be submitted.

523/08-09 School of Life Sciences

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That a paper from Professor Lamberts concerning the proposed School of Life Sciences would be considered by the relevant Faculty Boards this term, before being considered by the Senate and the Council later this term.
- (b) That Professor John Beringer, previously of the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Bristol, had recently been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor's Adviser on Life Sciences.

524/08-09 Proposed Additional HR Policies

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Director of HR outlining the key principles of three proposed additional HR policies written to support Heads of Department in managing the current financial situation (SC.429/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Director of HR and Commercial Services)

- (a) That given the need to implement the policies this term, the Treasurer had approved the financial principles underpinning the policies by Chair's Action on behalf of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Chair of Council had approved the policies by Chair's Action on behalf of the Council.
- (b) That the proposed new policies would be discussed with Heads of Department at the forthcoming Away Day, and that optional workshops would also be offered to Heads of Department to further explain the policies.
- (c) That the University reserved the right to decline to accept applications from staff under these schemes.
- (d) That communication of the policies to the wider University community, particularly the Enhanced Leavers Scheme, would need to be handled carefully.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed additional HR policies be approved as set out in SC.429/08-09, subject to the inclusion of the clarifications discussed at the meeting.
- (b) That the Director of HR and Commercial Services work with the Director of Development, Communications and Strategy to draft a carefully-worded communication to publicise the new policies after the Heads of Department Away Day.

525/08-09 Academic Continuity Planning

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Academic Registrar outlining the proposed contingency plans to be put in place to mitigate the impact of any potential industrial action (SC.435/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That it was anticipated that the results of the UCU ballot would be known on either 23 or 26 May, and that any industrial action would be likely to start on or around 1 June.
- (b) That the target for any industrial action should be clear by the time the outcome of the ballot is known, although there remained a chance that it would not.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposals, subject to amendments following the feedback of the Steering Committee, be presented and discussed at the Heads of Department Away Day.
- (b) That a revised paper be brought forward to a future meeting of the Steering Committee.

526/08-09 HEFCE Response to University ECIF Proposal

RECEIVED:

Correspondence from HEFCE informing the University that it had been unsuccessful in its bid to the Economic Challenge Investment Fund (ECIF) (SC.432/08-09).

527/08-09 CBI Consultation on Diplomas

RECEIVED:

The University response to the recent CBI consultation on diplomas (SC.426/08-09).

528/08-09 The Independent Complete University Guide

RECEIVED:

A press release outlining the latest league tables compiled by the Complete University Guide, in association with The Independent confirming the University's position as 6<sup>th</sup> in the UK (SC.431/08-09).

Kms/jf/steersshare/minutes2008-09/May09/05May09