

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 6 December 2010

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor S Bruzzi,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor R Higgott,
Professor C Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor K Lamberts,
Mr D Stevens.

Apologies: Professor M Taylor, Professor P Winstanley, Director of HR.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Finance Director, Director of Estates, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Acting Deputy Director (Institute of Education) (for item 208/10-11), Finance Administrator (Institute of Education) (for item 208/10-11), Business Development Director (Institute of Education) (for item 208/10-11), Head of Finance (Warwick Medical School) (for item 211/10-11), Digital & Online Communications Manager (for item 212/10-11), Learning & Development ~~Adviser~~ Manager (for item 213/10-11).

207/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2010 be approved.

208/10-11 Teach First ITT allocations bid (minute 191/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft Teach First ITT Funding proforma for provision from the TDA (SC.148/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the recent White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" (minute 190/10-11 refers) highlighted the future importance of schools-based initial teacher training and specifically, the increased investment in "Teach First" provision.
- (b) That the deadline for submission of the bid was 8 December 2010.
(by Professor I Abbott (Institute of Education))
- (c) That the Institute of Education had a strong relationship with the Teach First organisation, including support for curriculum and quality assurance, the contract for the Teach First National Summer School, as well as providing the Teach First Midlands MA offering.
- (d) That the bid provided an opportunity to build on the existing relationship with Teach First, and was aligned with other aspects of the Institute's initial teacher training provision.

- (e) That the Teach First programme had multi-party support for its methods of teacher training which focused on training in school settings, and this was reflected in the increased investment of government funding.
- (f) That the University's bid was focused on subject areas of current expertise.
- (g) That Teach First funding would be received directly by the University, with arrangements and costs for interviews and placements handled centrally by Teach First, including the payment for placement supervision in schools.

(by the Business Development Director (Institute of Education))

- (h) That it was likely that Teach First allocations would be made in order to be viable at a subject level for providers.
- (i) That other Teach First providers in the Midlands region included the University of Worcester, University of Wolverhampton and UCE, however, the University of Birmingham was also expressing interest in becoming a new provider.

RESOLVED:

That the bid be submitted by the deadline of Wednesday 8 December 2010, following further refinement of the draft.

209/10-11 Technology Innovation Centres (minute 181/10-11 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the University's response to the Science and Technology Committee inquiry examining the Fraunhofer model as a model for Technology Innovation Centres (TICs) in the UK, was submitted by the deadline of 2 December 2010.

210/10-11 CBI/NUS employability guide (minute 193/10-11 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the University's response to the UUK's request for case studies on employability for a forthcoming CBI-NUS report was submitted by the deadline of 3 December 2010.

211/10-11 WMS Q1 report

RECEIVED:

A report setting out the 2010/11 Q1 financial position for Warwick Medical School, together with an oral report (SC.150/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Head of Finance (Warwick Medical School))

- (a) That the research forecast was maintained as per the financial plan.
- (b) That the dilution of teaching grant resulting from overshoots in a number of other academic departments was the principal reason for the drop in forecast teaching income.
- (c) That there was optimism for improvement in year, with extra QR income expected.

212/10-11 Development and Alumni Relations Office Update

RECEIVED:

A report from the Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, updating the Committee on the activity of the Development and Alumni Relations Office, together with a presentation on the Knowledge Centre (SC.143/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Development, Communications and Strategy)

- (a) That David Willetts, Minister of State for Universities and Science, had publicly confirmed that the final year of the HEFCE Matched Funding Scheme was secure.
- (b) That the University's fundraising experience in 2008/09 compared favourably to the trends in the Russell Group.
- (c) That £20.4m had now been secured in cash and pledges since 2006, triggering the formal launch of a £50m fundraising campaign, and that he intended to report back to the Steering Committee later in the 2010/11 academic year on the establishment of the campaign.
- (d) That the Knowledge Centre website was originally piloted with a target audience of the graduating class of summer 2010, and was now being extended to broaden the Knowledge Centre's reach to staff and alumni.
- (e) That the Knowledge Centre had potential to revolutionise alumni relationships by improving engagement, and supporting fundraising activity as a result.

(by the Digital & Online Communications Manager)

- (f) That the Knowledge Centre was now in its second phase, with the introduction of further interaction through blogs and live online chats with academics.
- (g) That the aim of the Knowledge Centre was to demonstrate impact and provide syndicated content to develop and enhance the Warwick brand.

213/10-11 UK Professional Standards Framework for HE

CONSIDERED:

The consultation by the Higher Education Agency (HEA) on the UK Professional Standards Framework (SC.152/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience)

- (a) That there was a lack of clarity over whether it was within the HEA's remit to request responses to a consultation on the UK Professional Standards Framework.

(by the Learning & Development ~~Adviser~~ Manager)

- (b) That many of the consultation questions were too prescriptive, with most of the highlighted work already being undertaken by the University.

(by the Registrar)

- (c) That much of the consultation document drew from recommendations in the Browne report, with the assumption that all parts of the Browne Report would become policy.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience and the Learning & Development Adviser Manager would investigate potential responses to the HEA consultation on the UK Professional Standards Framework by other institutions.
- (b) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience together with the Learning & Development Adviser Manager compile a letter in response to the HEA consultation on the UK Professional Standards Framework, before the submission deadline of Monday 17 January 2011.

214/10-11

UUK: HE exports and Government support and UCEA: Immigration Announcement and Call for Information

CONSIDERED:

An email from the Chief Executive of UUK requesting views on experiences of working with different parts of the Government, and a note from UCEA providing details of the Government's plans for caps on immigration (SC.151/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That a follow up letter had not yet been sent to Jeremy Oppenheim, National Lead for Temporary Migration at the UK Border Agency, highlighting the issues in recent statements that were seen to run contradictory to the discussion at the meeting with him in October.
- (b) That no further information was provided about the UUK survey on experiences of working with different parts of the Government, aside from the email considered by the Steering committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar liaise with the Director of the International Office to identify further information regarding the UUK survey on experiences of working with different parts of the Government, before the submission deadline of Monday 13 December 2010.

215/10-11

HEFCE consultation on Public Information about HE

CONSIDERED:

HEFCE consultation documentation on changes to public information published by Higher Education Institutions (SC.153/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience)

- (a) That there was uncertainty surrounding how the proposed public information would enable effective interpretation of the quality of university provision.

(by the Deputy Registrar)

- (b) That the response would require input from those areas within the University who were concerned with the compilation of the proposed information.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (c) That there was little evidence of strong correlations between greater consumer information and more informed decision making.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience would discuss the compilation of a response to the HEFCE consultation on changes to public information published by Higher Education Institutions, prior to the submission deadline of 7 March 2011.

216/10-11 QAA: summaries of "Outcome" papers

RECEIVED:

Correspondence from the Chief Executive of QAA, providing notice of publication of two "Outcome Papers" (SC.154/10-11).

217/10-11 UUK: Government review of Prevent strategy

CONSIDERED:

An invitation from UUK to respond to the Government's Review of the Prevent Strategy (SC.155/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the Prevent Strategy formed the latest part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy, with a focus on higher education institutions remaining.
- (b) That, despite the University facing different issues to city based campuses, there was no place for complacency with regard to counter-terrorism.

RESOLVED:

That a response to the Government's Review of the Prevent Strategy would be submitted from the Deputy Registrar's Office, before the submission deadline of 17 December 2010.

218/10-11 UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI)

CONSIDERED:

A letter from the Director and Chief Executive Designate of UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI) requesting feedback on the plans of UKCMRI (SC.159/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the plans outlined could require large amounts of Wellcome Trust funding and this would have significant impact on other institutions.
- (b) That the letter in response should clearly state the University's intentions.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (Science and Medicine) would liaise with the Dean of Warwick Medical School and Head of the School of Life Sciences, and submit the response on the plans of UKCMRI, before the deadline of 31 December 2010.

219/10-11 Appointments to Committees of the Senate

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That the appointment of Grier Palmer of the Warwick Business School to the Higher Education Foundation Programme Board of Studies, be approved on behalf of the Senate.

- 220/10-11 Student Charters
- REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)
- That he and the Students' Union Education Officer, Sean Ruston, would form part of the consultation group on Student Charters, reporting to BIS at a meeting in London on Tuesday 7 December 2010.
- 221/10-11 Student protests
- REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)
- (a) That a protest march was planned from the SU Piazza on 8 December 2010 between 11.30am and 1pm.
- (b) That a demonstration was planned for Westminster, London on 9 December 2010.
- (c) That he would be writing a letter to the Vice-Chancellor to encourage opposition to the proposed changes to the fee regime.
- (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- (d) That the University's position remained opposed to the funding cuts, but enhanced graduate contributions provided the only realistic alternative income source.
- (e) That the Students' Union's sponsorship of local protest activity provided helpful responsibility for the action to be undertaken.
- (f) That the University was a place where peaceful protest could take place, however the University must prioritise the health and safety of the public and staff.
- 222/10-11 RCUK notification of phased changes in Research Councils grant processing
- RECEIVED:
- A letter from RCUK with notification of phased changes in Research Councils grant processing (SC.156/10-11).
- 223/10-11 RCUK Business Plan Competition
- RECEIVED:
- The final publication for the RCUK Business Plan Competition 2009-2010 (SC.157/10-11).
- 224/10-11 UUK: The School White Paper 2010
- RECEIVED:
- A note from UUK alerting members engaged in teacher education to the proposals contained in the White Paper published on 24 November 2010 (SC.160/10-11).
- 225/10-11 UUK: Changes to immigration system: employment routes
- RECEIVED:
- A note from UUK providing an update on recently announced changes to employment routes (Tier 1 &2) within the points-based immigration system (SC.161/10-11).

226/10-11

Russell Group response to the House of Commons Inquiry on Technology and Innovation Centres

RECEIVED:

The draft Russell Group submission to the House of Commons Inquiry on Technology and Innovation Centres (SC.162/10-11)

JFB/KP/steersshare/minutes/201011/Dec10/6Dec10