

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 08 October 2012

- Present: Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor Christina Hughes,  
Professor Christopher Hughes,  
Professor J Labbe,  
Professor S Swain,  
Professor M Taylor,  
Mr N Swain.
- Apologies: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor A Caesar, Professor S Croft, Professor T Jones,  
Professor P Thomas, Professor P Winstanley.
- In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Group Finance Director, Director of  
Human Resources, Director of Estates, Head of Governance Support Services, Mr  
Ian Abbott (partial attendance for item 23/12-13) Executive Officer (VC's Office),  
Administrative Officer (Governance/Academic Registrar's Office).

15/12-13 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 01 October 2012 be approved.

16/12-13 UCAS Contextual Data Statement (minute 4/12-13 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A revised version of the UCAS Contextual Data Statement (SC.9/12-13(Revised)).

RESOLVED:

That the revised version of the UCAS Contextual Data Statement be approved for submission.

17/12-13 League Table Positioning

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University had recently placed 58<sup>th</sup> in the QS World University Rankings, falling from 50<sup>th</sup> in 2011 due to decreased student satisfaction scores.
- (b) That in the Times Higher Education World Ranking the University had risen 33 places since 2011 to 124<sup>th</sup> place following strengthening of the University's research citation scores.

18/12-13 Monash Alliance Developments

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That six professors of Chemistry were to be jointly recruited by Warwick and Monash and that this represented an important indicator of future development potential of the Alliance.

- 19/12-13 Virgin Media Business Digital Survey
- REPORTED: (by the Vice Chancellor)
- That the University had recently been found to be the most digitally savvy University in the UK following a recent survey by Virgin Media Business.
- 20/12-13 Royal Society Research Fellowships
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That the University had recently been awarded four Royal Society Research Fellowships out of a total of thirty-six that were available, aligning it with the other elite research universities in the UK and representing an exceptional achievement.
- 21/12-13 National Automotive Innovation Campus
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- (a) That the Chancellor of the Exchequer was due to announce later that day that a £92m a National Automotive Innovation Campus would be built at the University.
- (b) That this represented the largest single grant from a £200m public investment in the Government's UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF).
- (c) That the second largest grant of approximately £60m had been awarded to Birmingham University and smaller grants had also been awarded to Surrey and Oxford Universities.
- RESOLVED:
- That the congratulations of the Steering Committee be passed to Professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya and his team.
- 22/12-13 HEFCE's Annual Assessment of Institutional Risk
- CONSIDERED:
- A letter from HEFCE specifying the risk status of the University (SC.12/12-13).
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- (a) That HEFCE had deemed the University to be 'not at higher risk'.
- (b) That HEFCE would award one of only two possible classifications, the other being 'at higher risk'.
- (c) That whilst Warwick appeared below the sector averages in a number of the benchmarks, this was not a selection of comparable institutions.
- (d) That this represented a positive result for Warwick following what had been a challenging time for the sector.
- (by the Group Finance Director)
- (e) That the financial planning processes at Warwick were far more rigorous than those at a number of other institutions.

- (f) That benchmarking against comparable institutions took place annually for a similar range of metrics to those reported in the letter and was presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and to the Council.

23/12-13

24/12-13 Appointments to Committees of the Senate

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) Research Committee

The appointment of Ms Anna Chowcat (Postgraduate Officer), to serve on the Research Committee as the postgraduate research student representative, nominated by the Students' Union and approved by the Senate.

- (b) Board of Graduate Studies

The appointment of Ms Anna Chowcat (Postgraduate Officer), to serve on the Board of Graduate Studies as one of up to two co-opted students, subject to the approval of the Senate.

- (c) Board of Undergraduate Studies

The appointment of Dr Timothy Sinclair (PAIS) and Dr Christoph Hoerl (Philosophy), to serve on the Board of Undergraduate Studies as the two full-time members of the academic staff from the Faculty of Social Sciences appointed by the Senate.

- (d) Graduate Appeals Committee Panel

The appointment of Dr Miranda Alison (PAIS), to serve on the Graduate Appeals Committee Panel as one of up to twenty members of academic staff appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Boards of the Faculties.

- (e) Equality and Diversity Committee

The appointment of Professor Shirin Rai (PAIS), to serve on the Equality and Diversity Committee as one of two members of the academic staff recommended by the Faculty of Social Sciences and appointed by the Senate.

The appointment of Dr Evor Hines (School of Engineering), to serve on the Equality and Diversity Committee as one of two members of the academic staff recommended by the Faculty of Science and appointed by the Senate.

RESOLVED:

That the appointments listed in sections (a) to (e) be approved on behalf of the Senate.

25/12-13

HEFCE call for Research Users

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That HEFCE had stated their intention to call for Research Users to sit as members of panels for the Research Excellence Framework and that Heads of Departments would shortly be asked to submit suitable nominations in this regard.

KS/SS/steersshare/minutes/201213/Oct2012/08-10-2012