

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 8 June 2009

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor S Bassnett,
Professor L Bridges,
Professor S Bruzzi,
Professor R Higgott,
Professor K Lamberts,
Professor R Lindley (from item 609/08-09),
Mr S Thomson,
Professor M Smith,
Professor M Underwood,
Professor M Whitby (from item 613/08-09)

Apologies: Professor H Thomas

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Finance Director, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (Vice-Chancellor's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of the International Office (for item 613/08-09)

605/08-09 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June be approved.

606/08-09 University's Response to the Consultation on UKRIO Code of Practice (minute 585/08-09 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the consultation on the UK Research Integrity Office's draft Code of Practice for Research submitted by the deadline of 31 May 2009 (SC.482/08-09).

607/08-09 Strategic Departmental Review of Physics (minute 509/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the Committee was informed at a previous meeting of the wish to bring forward the Strategic Departmental Review of Physics to 2009/10 from 2010/11.
- (b) That having considered this further, it had been agreed with the Department and the Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Research) that the Review would be carried out in 2010/11 as planned originally, noting that the Review would be initiated by the new Head of Department at that time.

608/08-09 Chaplaincy Update (minute 592/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the selection process for a new Anglican Chaplain at the University had taken place on 3 June 2009 and that the Panel had failed to appoint.

- (b) That the post would be re-advertised in September 2009, noting that the Diocese was in the process of identifying an interim Chaplain for the intervening period.

609/08-09 New Dignity at Work and Study Policy

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University was launching its new Dignity at Work and Study Policy from June 2009, noting that the policy, approved by the Senate and the Council at their meetings in March 2009, emphasised the ways in which colleagues and students could contribute to a positive working, learning and social environment.

610/08-09 Alumni Weekend 20-21 June 2009

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University would host its first Alumni weekend on 20 and 21 June 2009 with some highlights of the weekend including Ian Stewart's lecture on "Mathematical Curiosities", Warwick Manufacturing Group's showcase of the eco racing car and a panel discussion on the global economic crisis hosted by Warwick Business School and the department of Economics.
- (b) That the programme also included sporting and social activities with around 500 people expected to attend the weekend.

611/08-09 Festival of Social Sciences

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the Festival of Social Sciences would be held on campus from Monday 15 June 2009 celebrating Social Science, featuring key note lectures from himself and Lord Professor Anthony Giddens.

612/08-09 New Government Department – Business, Innovation and Skills

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the Government had announced the creation of a new department for Business, Innovation and Skills, merging the former departments for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR).
- (b) That the new department was headed by Lord Mandelson but that the Minister responsible for higher education had yet to be announced.

613/08-09 Policy Update: International Issues

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning/International Affairs) and the Director of the International Office updating on the recent visit to China, core partnerships with international institutions and international student recruitment (SC.481/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Director of the International Office)

- (a) That the recent visit highlighted China's centrality to furthering the University's international aspirations and that the foundations had been laid for a much deeper engagement with several Chinese institutions, noting that the Warwick delegation would be meeting shortly to discuss next steps in this regard.
- (b) That the core partnerships strategy was developing rapidly, and had become a central part of the International Office's activities.

- (c) That the student tier of the Points-based Immigration System (PBS) had caused concern with regards to its impact on the University's recruitment potential but that this was being monitored.
- (d) That the International Office had focused on a UK-based applicant conversion campaign, contacting overseas applicants via web chat and telephone to encourage them to accept.

(By the Academic Registrar)

- (e) That Universities UK (UUK) had reported anecdotal evidence that the PBS had increased the rejection rate for student visas in China and Thailand to 80% as local authorities were not adhering to the UK Border Agency's guidance.
- (f) That UUK advised that the details of any rejections reported to the University should be forwarded to UUK.

(By the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning/International Affairs))

- (g) That the University of California, Irvine, was not currently listed amongst Warwick's core partners as a delegation had yet to visit Warwick, noting that a visit to the University was scheduled for the Autumn Term 2009.

RESOLVED:

That the report on International Issues be approved as set out in SC.481/08-09.

614/08-09

UUK I-Note I/2009/048: Centre for Workforce Intelligence

CONSIDERED:

A UUK I-Note updating on the latest development in the establishment of a Department of Health Centre for Workforce Intelligence and requesting institutions to participate in market testing of the concept of the Centre (SC.483/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That a recent conversation with HEFCE suggested that the University might be contacted by the Department of Health as a potential host site for the Centre.

(By the Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies)

- (b) That it was important to identify the academic opportunities linked to the Centre and the proposed balance between commissioning and undertaking research to ensure that it would be worth the University's effort in terms of institution-building and service management should it wish to be involved.

RESOLVED:

That the University not engage directly with the market testing phase of the Centre for Workforce Intelligence.

615/08-09 UUK I-Note I/2009/050: Independent Review of Higher Education Support for the Would-be self-employed

CONSIDERED:

A UUK I-note informing that the Secretary for State (DIUS) had asked entrepreneur Peter Jones to undertake a review of the support provided by HEIs to the 'would-be self-employed' (SC.488/08-09).

RESOLVED:

That the University consider whether to submit a response by the deadline of 3 July 2009, noting that Universities UK will submit a joint response together with the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship, the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services and the Higher Education Careers Service Unit.

616/08-09 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 17 June 2009 be approved as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate, noting that a report on the establishment of a School of Life Sciences would be considered at the meeting of the Senate on 1 July 2009.

617/08-09 Sunday Times Article on Private Tutoring

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and Community))

That the University had been named in an article regarding undergraduate students hiring private tutors in the 7 June 2009 edition of the Sunday Times, noting that Oxford and UCL had also been mentioned.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning/International Affairs) prepare a report on the case highlighted in the article for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.

618/08-09 Health Innovation and Education Clusters (HIECs)

REPORTED: (by the Acting Dean of Warwick Medical School)

- (a) That the local NHS Strategic Health Authority was establishing a process for Pre-Selection to the HIEC application procedure.
- (b) That it was expected that the three medical schools in the West Midlands would submit individual proposals for HIECs but that they would collaborate on a bid regarding the postgraduate deanery functions included in the HIEC profile.
- (c) That a small amount of resource might be secured from local NHS partners to fund a development manager to take forward the proposals.

RESOLVED:

That the University's draft expression of interest be considered at the meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 22 June 2009 prior to submission on 24 June 2009.

Kms/jf/steershare/minutes2008-09/June09/08June09