

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 8 September 2008

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair),  
Professor Y Carter (from item 722/07-08)  
Professor R Higgott  
Professor K Lamberts  
Professor R Lindley (from item 722/07-08)  
Professor M Smith  
Professor M Whitby
- Apologies: Professor L Bridges, Professor A Caesar, Professor H Thomas, Mr S Thomson,  
Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Estates,
- In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Finance, Head of Governance Support Services,  
Administrative Officer (Governance), Chair of the School of Theatre Performance and  
Cultural Policy Studies and Professor C Bilton for item 728/07-08, Assistant Registrar  
(Teaching Quality) for item 729/07-08, Director of Student Admissions and  
Recruitment for item 730/07-08
- 721/07-08 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 August 2008 be approved subject to the following amendment (additions underlined):
- Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor R Higgott, Professor R Lindley, Professor H Thomas, Mr S Thomson
- 722/07-08 HEFCE Consultation on Proposals for New Higher Education Centres (minute 702/07-08 refers)
- CONSIDERED:
- The full consultation document from HEFCE inviting debate on the approach taken to support the development of new higher education centres (SC.539/07-08 (revised)).
- RESOLVED:
- That the Registrar compile a response on behalf of the University by the deadline of 17 October 2008, noting that a draft response would come to a future meeting of the Steering Committee in advance of the deadline for consideration.
- 723/07-08 Potential Projects for HEFCE Revolving Green Fund (minute 703/07-08 refers)
- CONSIDERED:
- A paper from the Director of Estates outlining the University's interest in the HEFCE Revolving Green Fund call for bids (SC.563/07-08).
- RESOLVED:
- That the University register its interest in the Institutional Small Projects Fund by 12 September 2008 deadline, noting that full bids under either the ISP Fund or the Transformational Fund schemes would be considered at a future meeting of the Steering Committee prior to submission to HEFCE.

724/07-08

Professor Michael Mallet

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had sent a letter of condolence on behalf of the University to the family of Emeritus Professor Michael Mallet who had died on 2 September, noting details of his funeral would be forthcoming.

725/07-08

HEFCE Letter: Policy for Addressing Unsatisfactory Quality in Institutions

CONSIDERED:

Details of a draft HEFCE policy setting out ways in which continuing issues of unsatisfactory quality in institutions, as judged by QAA in audit or review, would be addressed (SC.552/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That a response be sent by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning/International Affairs) by the deadline of 10 November 2008, stating that the University had found the proposed policy acceptable.

726/07-08

HEFCE Consultation: Future Support for Teaching Enhancement and Widening Participation

CONSIDERED:

A consultation document proposing changes to HEFCE's teaching funding methods to support teaching enhancement and widening participation (SC.559/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the proposed new funding methods might direct funding away from Russell and 1994 Group institutions.

(by the Finance Director)

- (b) That, as far as possible, the proposed funding streams should be modelled to investigate the potential effect on the University.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar, together with the Director of Management Information and Planning co-ordinate the University's response, noting that findings of modelling and the draft response would be considered at a future meeting of the Steering Committee prior to the deadline of 11 November 2008.

727/07-08

HEFCE Letter: 2009 Higher Education Workforce Framework

RECEIVED:

Information from HEFCE reporting on the establishment of a HE Workforce Steering Group following the Higher Education Workforce Framework and detailing its members (SC.558/07-08).

728/07-08

Departmental Response to Theatre Studies Strategic Departmental Review

CONSIDERED:

The departmental response from the School of Theatre Performance and Cultural Policy Studies (SC.562/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the detailed departmental response had addressed the majority of the potential issues to be raised from the SDR report and action plan considered by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 28 July 2008.

(by the Chair of the School of Theatre Performance and Cultural Policy Studies)

- (b) That enhancements to the Postgraduate space within Milburn House sought by the School would provide collective workspace for postgraduate students from all disciplines housed in Milburn House, enriching the culture of the building.
- (c) That the desired increased engagement by the School with the CAPITAL Centre would aim to create a broader University involvement with the centre, similar to that of the Re-Invention Centre.

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

- (d) That the issue of potentially amending the modes of summative assessment for undergraduate students within the School would be considered by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee in consultation with the School.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Arts and Social Studies))

- (e) That there seemed a real opportunity for the development of revenue streams for the Centre for Cultural Policy Studies through pursuing further collaboration with the Warwick Business School.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the School be thanked for its comprehensive response.
- (b) That the Finance Director confirm with the School whether the desired postgraduate space had been planned within the new extension to Milburn House.
- (c) That the delegation of responsibility to consider individual recommendations as set out in the action plan be approved.
- (d) That the School provide the Steering Committee with a report outlining their progress against the recommendations within the School's Strategic Departmental Review Report in the Summer Term 2009.

729/07-08

National Student Survey Results 2008

CONSIDERED:

A summary paper outlining the University's headline results in the National Student Survey 2008 (SC.565/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University had scored above the national average in most categories and was on a rising trend but work would be required to reach the desired scores of 90% or higher.

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

- (b) That results highlighted that the University still had much progress to make in the areas of assessment and feedback, Warwick receiving a score of 60% which was 4% lower than the national average.
- (c) That the scores received by the University overall represented strong efforts and significant changes particularly in Engineering, Classics and Psychology.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (d) That a coding issue in 2006/07 had resulted in Civil Engineering being compiled with General Engineering and having rectified this for the 2008 results, the streams were reported individually, noting that the course structures institutionally did not allow for clear distinctions of this nature.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That deeper analysis be undertaken when the full set of data was available, focusing particularly on:
  - (i) Whether a correlation exists between high participation and high scores at departmental level;
  - (ii) Distribution of satisfaction scores at subject level across the sector compared to Warwick's subject scores.
- (b) That a paper from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) including the above detailed further analyses be considered by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 22 September 2008.

730/07-08

HEFCE Summer Schools 2008-2010

CONSIDERED:

The draft University proposal for HEFCE funding under the Aimhigher partnership and matched funding for HEI's own summer schools (SC.560/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment)

- (a) That the Aimhigher bid would yield a predetermined amount of funding ring fenced by Coventry and Warwickshire Aimhigher partnership.
- (b) That the Government matched funding would also be allocated with the aim to enhance opportunities within the region.

RESOLVED:

That the bid be approved as set out in SC.560/07-08, subject to minor amendments to be made by the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment for submission by the deadline of 12 September 2008.

731/07-08

University Response to HEFCE Sustainable Development Consultation

RECEIVED:

The University Response to the HEFCE Sustainable Development consultation submitted on 5 September 2008 (SC.557/07-08).

- 732/07-08                    University Representations to Warwick Core Strategy
- RECEIVED:
- A draft summary document of the University's representations under the Warwick District Council Core Strategy (SC.566/07-08).
- 733/07-08                    Major Research Proposal: ESRC 'Succeeding in the Global Economy' Centres Competition
- RECEIVED:
- A proposal to establish a Centre to research in the area of success in the Global Economy submitted to the ESRC on 4 September 2008, including a summary of costs and key issues for the information of the Steering Committee (SC.549/07-08).
- 734/07-08                    AHRC Block Grant Partnership: Case for Support
- RECEIVED:
- Details of a bid to the AHRC to secure funding for 25 postgraduate studentships from 2009-2013 (SC.561/07-08).
- 735/07-08                    Update Report on the Government's Proposal to Introduce a Single Equality Act
- RECEIVED:
- An update report giving further details on the Government's proposed Single Equality Act, including areas to be incorporated and the University's response (SC.554/07-08).
- 736/07-08                    HEFCE Circular: HE in FE Colleges – HEFCE's Funding Powers
- RECEIVED:
- Information from HEFCE regarding its position with regards to funding of HE courses in Further Education colleges (SC.564/07-08).
- 737/07-08                    UUK I-Note I/08/70: International Comparative Performance of UK Research Base
- RECEIVED:
- A UUK Information Note informing the University of recent international comparative research performance data published by DIUS (SC.550/07-08).
- 738/07-08                    HEFCE Leaflet: Bibliometrics and the Research Excellence Framework
- RECEIVED:
- Information from HEFCE clarifying the broad approach using bibliometrics in the REF and work being undertaken to further develop this approach (SC.553/07-08).