

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 10 January 2011

- Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (except for item 289 c)/10-11),
Professor S Bruzzi,
Professor C Hughes,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor K Lamberts,
Professor P Winstanley,
Mr D Stevens.
- Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor A Caesar, Professor R Higgott, Professor T Jones,
Professor M Taylor.
- In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Finance Director, Director of HR,
Director of Estates, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy (except
for item 290/10-11), Executive Officer (VC's Office), Acting Head of Governance
Support Services, Administrative Officer (Governance), Assistant Director (Planning &
Student Experience), International Office, (for item 274/10-11), Assistant Registrar
(Student Recruitment) (for item 275/10-11), Director of IT Services (for item 286/10-
11).

273/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2010 be approved.

274/10-11 UKBA Consultation on the Student Immigration System (minute 241/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Assistant Director (Planning & Student Experience), International Office, including the University's responses to the UKBA consultation on the Student Immigration System, and the Home Affairs Committee's inquiry into the impact of proposed restrictions on Tier 4 Migration, together with an oral report (SC.201/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Assistant Director (Planning & Student Experience), International Office)

- (a) That the majority of proposals in the UKBA consultation on the Student Immigration System were inappropriate in relation to Highly Trusted Sponsors such as the University of Warwick.
- (b) That there were three significant changes proposed that could negatively impact the University; the removal of in-country visa applications, the end of the Tier 1 post-study work route, and the cessation of the right of students' dependents to work in the UK.
- (c) That the Warwick Business School MBA team had provided further input into the consultation and inquiry responses.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Dean of Warwick Medical School would discuss the potential impact of the UKBA proposals within the Warwick Medical School, and feed back to the Assistant Director (Planning & Student Experience), International Office before 14 January 2011.

- (b) That the Warwick Medical School and Warwick Business School MBA team feedback be incorporated within the University's responses to the UKBA consultation on the Student Immigration System, and the Home Affairs Committee's inquiry into the impact of proposed restrictions on Tier 4 Migration.
- (c) That the University's response to the Home Affairs Committee's inquiry into the impact of proposed restrictions on Tier 4 Migration be sent from the Registrar before the deadline of 14 January 2011.
- (d) That the University's amended response to the UKBA consultation on the Student Immigration System be considered by the Committee at a future meeting, prior to the deadline of 31 January 2011.

275/10-11

OFFA: Access Agreements and Widening Participation Strategic Assessment (WPSA) Monitoring Return 2009/10 (minute 14/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Assistant Registrar (Student Recruitment) with a summary of the monitoring return for the University's Access Agreement and WPSA, together with an oral report (SC.202/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Assistant Registrar (Student Recruitment))

- (a) That the WPSA Monitoring Return would be considered against the WPSA submitted to HEFCE in June 2009.
- (b) That the WPSA Monitoring Return reflected the University's strong position in Widening Participation.
- (c) That the University's performance against HESA benchmarks was stronger than seen among many peer institutions.
- (d) That little guidance had been received from OFFA regarding the detailed requirements for the revised WPSA which was to be submitted by the end of March.

(by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

- (e) That Widening Participation was a continual challenge for the Warwick Medical School due to the operation of graduate level entry, but was being addressed as a high priority.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (f) That the University would need to amend the bursary offer for the 2012 student intake, to be reported to the HEFCE via the revised WPSA.

(by the President of the Students' Union)

- (g) That the Students' Union would welcome the opportunity to be involved in discussions regarding any significant changes to the offer of bursaries by the University.

RESOLVED:

That the final submission of the University's Access Agreements and WPSA Monitoring Return 2009/10 to OFFA would be reviewed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar prior to submission by the deadline of 14 January 2011.

276/10-11 Vision 2015 – 2010 Update (minute 136/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

An update report on the University Strategy Refresh Consultation process (SC.215/10-11).

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

- (a) That there had been a good response to the consultation demonstrating broad support for the proposals with common themes emerging, relating to costing and prioritisation.
- (b) That a response would be sent to all who submitted feedback to the consultation.
(by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)
- (c) That the level of response to the consultation demonstrated engagement with the process and support for the ambition shown within the proposed refreshed Strategy.

RESOLVED:

That a more extensive paper incorporating an initial revised draft of the University Strategy would be considered by the Committee at its next meeting on 17 January 2011.

277/10-11 Teach First ITT allocations bid (minute 257/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

A letter from the TDA and Teach First, confirming the providers selected to deliver Teach First places in each region (SC.197/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the Institute of Education had been appointed as Lead Regional Provider of ITT for Teach First in the West Midlands (in addition to its existing role as National Partner) and will be awarded an allocation of both primary and secondary students.
- (b) That in this cycle of Provider appointments more Russell Group institutions had been included than previously.

278/10-11 UUK invite to Healthcare Science briefing event (minute 268/10-11 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

That Professor Neil Johnson, Pro Dean (Education), would attend the UUK briefing event for Higher Education on Healthcare Science on 14 January 2011.

279/10-11 The Higher Education Academy (HEA) Consultation on UK Professional Standards Framework (minute 248/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A draft letter from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience in response to the HEA Consultation on the UK Professional Standards Framework, indicating the University's intention not to complete the questionnaire whilst highlighting issues of concern regarding the HEA's processes and proposals. (SC.200/10-11).

RESOLVED:

That, following minor editorial changes and further discussion with the Learning and Development Manager (Academic), the letter would be sent in response to the HEA Consultation on the UK Professional Standards Framework by the deadline of 14 January 2011.

280/10-11 Advanced Materials and Process Technologies Project (AMPTP) and LOw CARbon vehicle Technology Embedding project (LOCATE) (minute 260/10-11 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Finance Director)

- (a) That the bids to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the AMPTP and LOCATE projects would now be scaled back, reducing the risk to the University.
- (b) That the conditions for the use of ERDF funded equipment for further research purposes once depreciated were more complex than indicated at the previous meeting of the Steering Committee on 20 December 2010.

281/10-11 New Year's Honours

REPORTED: (by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)

That several individuals connected with the University were recognised in the New Year's Honours 2011, including Chancellor Richard Lambert (Knighthood), Alec Reed, Honorary Professor of Warwick Business School (Knighthood), Emeritus Professor John Benington, Warwick Business School (CBE), and Rehana Richens, a student with the School of Health and Social Studies (OBE for services to midwifery and nursing).

282/10-11 Student Accommodation

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That all students previously sharing rooms in Westwood had now been offered single rooms on campus.

283/10-11 Technology Innovation Centres (minute 244/10-11 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That a call for expressions of interest in hosting Technology Innovation Centres (TICs) had been made.

(by the Registrar)

- (b) That dialogue with WMG was underway with a view to determining whether it would be appropriate to submit an expression of interest in response to this first call or await the anticipated second call.

RESOLVED:

That the call for expressions of interest in Technology Innovation Centres (TICs) would be considered further by the Committee at its next meeting on 17 January 2011.

- 284/10-11 Regional Growth Fund (RGF)
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That the RGF bids were to be coordinated by the Local Enterprise Partnerships, and discussions were underway with respect to the University's potential involvement in bids as a partner.
- 285/10-11 Pay negotiations (minute 182/10-11 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- (a) That there had been no further progress in the ACAS talks with unions and that further discussions were taking place this week with Unite and the GMB.
- (b) That further advice was expected soon on the implementation of the 0.4% national pay offer.
- 286/10-11 IT update
- RECEIVED:
- A report from the Director of IT Services, highlighting progress on major projects and strategy updates (SC.149/10-11).
- REPORTED: (by the Director of IT Services)
- (a) That the ITS KPIs demonstrated compliance with expected performance levels.
- (b) That, having completed the large infrastructure projects, there would now be a refocusing of resources on user driven projects.
- (c) That the University network replacement project had been completed ahead of schedule, within budget, and delivered greater functionality than originally hoped.
- (d) That IT Services were performing to budget, with the inclusion of recurrent £525,000 non-staff savings.
- (e) That the Argent Court Data Centre project would go live in mid 2011, and that the contracts with IBM had been signed.
- (f) That the Information Policy and Strategy Committee would be recommending the migration of staff email to the Senate, and that specific concerns of provision for mass mailing could be addressed with separate complementary solutions.
- (g) That the bandwidth in student residences would be increased by mid-February 2011.
- 287/10-11 Provisional report on HEFCE grant adjustments
- RECEIVED:
- A letter from HEFCE containing a provisional report on adjustments to grant and verification of 2010-11 survey data (SC.213/10-11).
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)
- (a) That thanks were extended to colleagues in the Academic Registrar's Office for their work in ensuring that the University was in a good position with respect to the conditions relating to student numbers.

(by the Registrar)

- (b) That there would be no holdback on the Teaching Grant although a plan would be needed to migrate the University from outwith its contract range.

288/10-11

Secretary of State's grant letter to HEFCE

RECEIVED:

The Secretary of State's grant letter to HEFCE covering higher education funding for 2011-12 and beyond, with UUK's initial analysis of the letter and the allocation of science and research funding (SC.203/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the letter from the Secretary of State contained no unexpected announcements, but that questions remained regarding the replacement of the AimHigher programme and the development of two year degrees.

(by the Registrar)

- (b) That the University was expecting its grant letter from the HEFCE in March.

289/10-11

UK Magnetic Resonance Centre for Doctoral Training

(Note: the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine) facilitated the discussion for this item. Following presentation of the case, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor left the room.)

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining the required resources for a bid to EPSRC for a multi-partner UK Magnetic Resonance Centre for Doctoral Training (UK-MRBT-CDT), led by Warwick (SC.211/10-11).

REPORTED: (by Professor M Smith)

- (a) That funding for a number of studentships required to meet the matched funding requirements of the programme had already been identified.
- (b) That this was a key area of the physical sciences and there was significant activity in the UK industrial sector in the area of magnetic resonance.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine):

- (c) That proposals from the three eligible Basic Technology projects held at Warwick had been reviewed and this had been deemed the most appropriate for submission to the EPSRC.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal be supported in principle, noting that matched funding should not draw on WPRS or WPCRS funding.
- (b) That it be noted that the full case would be brought to the Committee for consideration at its next meeting on 17 January 2011.

- 290/10-11 Research Proposal for Submission to BBSRC: Mechanochemical Systems Biology of the Dynamic Microtubule End Complex
- CONSIDERED:
- A major research proposal for submission to BBSRC: Mechanochemical Systems Biology of the Dynamic Microtubule End Complex (SC.210/10-11).
- RESOLVED:
- That the research proposal for Mechanochemical Systems Biology of the Dynamic Microtubule End Complex be supported for submission to the BBSRC by the deadline of 11 January 2011.
- 291/10-11 Social Work Reform Board report
- CONSIDERED:
- A note from UUK highlighting the release of the Social Work Reform Board's report "Building a safe and confident future: One year on", with an invitation to comment (SC.205/10-11).
- RESOLVED:
- That the Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences would liaise with the School of Health and Social Studies regarding a response, for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting prior to submission by the deadline of 31 March 2011.
- 292/10-11 QAA: Recruitment of reviewers and review secretaries for the Institutional review process
- CONSIDERED:
- Correspondence from QAA requesting nominations for Institutional reviewers and review secretaries (SC.207/10-11).
- RESOLVED:
- That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience would nominate Dr Amanda Dowd, WMG, to QAA as an institutional review team member before the deadline of midday on 26 January 2011.
- 293/10-11 Global University Entrepreneurial Spirit Students' Survey (GUESSS) Research Project
- CONSIDERED:
- Correspondence from Kingston University, with an invitation to contribute to the Global University Entrepreneurial Spirit Students' Survey (GUESSS) Research Project (SC.206/10-11).
- RESOLVED:
- That the University would not contribute to the Global University Entrepreneurial Spirit Students' Survey (GUESSS) Research Project.
- 294/10-11 Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce
- CONSIDERED:
- A note from UUK regarding the release of the consultation "Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce" (SC.212/10-11).

RESOLVED:

That the Dean of Warwick Medical School draft, with appropriate colleagues, the University's response to the consultation "Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Workforce" for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting prior to submission by the deadline of 31 March 2011.

295/10-11 White Paper: 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for Public Health in England'
(minute 259/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

The Executive Summary of the White paper on the Government's strategy for public health in England (SC.198/10-11).

296/10-11 BIS EU Framework Programme – Call for Evidence (minute 237/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

The Russell Group's response to the BIS EU Framework Programme call for evidence (SC.199/10-11).

297/10-11 Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (LFHE) Annual Review 2009-10

RECEIVED:

The Leadership Foundation for Higher Education's Annual Report for 2009-10 (SC.204/10-11).

298/10-11 Update on government proposals for university funding and student finance

RECEIVED:

A UUK update on recent developments in relation to the Government's proposals for student finance and university funding (SC.214/10-11).

299/10-11 Global Health collaboration survey – results (minute 277/09-10 refers)

RECEIVED:

A UUK update on the results of the global health collaboration survey conducted earlier this year (SC.216/10-11).

JFB/KP/steersshare/minutes/201011/Jan11/10Jan11