

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 10 January 2012

- Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor S Croft,
Professor M Finn,
Professor C Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor S Swain,
Professor M Taylor,
Professor P Thomas (from item 226/11-12),
Mr L Bøe.
- Apologies: Professor K Lamberts, Professor P Winstanley.
- In Attendance: Acting Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance and Financial Strategy, Director of HR, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Director of Estates, Head of Corporate Governance, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Assistant Registrar (Institutional Review) (for item 226/11-12), Director of Jaguar Land Rover Programmes, WMG (for item 231/11-12).

225/11-12 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2011 be approved.

226/11-12 Institutional Teaching and Learning Review Update (minute 106/11-12 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A summary report regarding progress and action following the Institutional Review of Teaching and Learning held 14 to 17 November 2011 (SC.167/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That it would be beneficial for departmental Institutional Review reports and responses to be made available to all staff and students within the University in order to disseminate best practice, noting that this would represent a significant change in approach from the Strategic Departmental Review process.

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

- (b) That from the soundings she had taken from the academic community, it appeared there was support for the sharing of departmental Institutional Review reports and responses, and that departments had the opportunity to request the withdrawal of particularly sensitive sections of their reports from publication.

(by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences)

- (c) That a formal note should be sent to Heads of Departments to inform them of the publication of departmental Institutional Review reports and responses.

RESOLVED:

That the publication of the departmental Institutional Review reports and responses on the Institutional Review website be approved, to assist in the dissemination of good practice and in preparation for the Faculty Engagements in the Spring Term.

227/11-12 Government e-infrastructure Investment (minute 187/11-12 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That a bid for a share of the Government's multi-million pound e-infrastructure investment to improve high capacity networks, announced by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills on 1 December 2011, had been submitted and thanks were recorded for the work undertaken by Professor Mark Rodger in drafting this.

228/11-12 Monash University (minute 203/11-12 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That, following the signing of a Heads of Agreement with Monash University, Australia, the implementation of projects to take forward the strategic alliance between the two universities was progressing.

229/11-12 'Erasmus For All'

RECEIVED:

A Europe Note from the International Unit at UUK, providing information on "Erasmus for All", the new EU programme for Education, training, youth and sport, proposed on 23 November 2011 (SC.168/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Access, Widening Participation and Development)

- (a) That there would be an overall budget increase of 70% from the EU.
- (b) That the Erasmus Master student loan guarantee scheme represented a particularly positive development in supporting student mobility.
- (c) That she and the Director of the International Office had drafted a response to the UK HE International Unit's "Erasmus for All" consultation, and would be submitting the response prior to the submission deadline of 27 January 2012.

230/11-12 2011/12 Pay Negotiations – Concluding Position of Unions

REPORTED: (by the Director of HR)

- (a) That the University had been notified by UCEA that the 2011-12 pay round, effective from 1 August 2011, had been concluded.
- (b) That the University was taking steps to implement the consolidated £150 increase on all pay spine points as directed by UCEA.
- (c) That the outcome of the 2011-12 round contained a further national initiative on joint working with respect to Training and Development, further collaborative work on Equality and Diversity, the intention to update JNCHES Guidance on Work-Life balance to reflect current legislation, policy and practice in this area along with an update of the pay data following the joint work of the Pay Framework and Data Research Working Group.

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft application to the Department for Education to establish, in principle, the Warwick University Technical College (SC.169/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Jaguar Land Rover Programmes, WMG)

- (a) That University Technical Colleges (UTC) were new educational establishments for students aged 14 to 19 that would specialise in advanced technical studies and be sponsored by a university, with employers involved in shaping the curriculum to offer a broadly based general education to maximise progression routes for students.
- (b) That the UTC would be a state-funded school which would operate independently and would be established as a company limited by guarantee, operating as an exempt charity, independent of the University and overseen by a Board of Governors.
- (c) That there were currently two other UTCs in the region; the JCB Academy near Uttoxeter and another in Walsall, with forthcoming UTCs to be established by Aston University, the University of Sheffield and the University of Nottingham.
- (d) That it was proposed that the specialism for the Warwick UTC would be Engineering underpinned by digital technology as a cross-curricular enabler, and if approved, would open for the academic year 2014-15 with the ultimate objective of a cohort of 640 students.
- (e) That proposed sites would be on, or in close proximity to, the campus and its facilities but that a strong preference for the off-campus option had begun to emerge.
- (f) That the founding subscriber members of the Warwick UTC would be the University, the Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce and the West Midlands Manufacturing Consortium, and that Jaguar Land Rover had agreed to be the principal industrial sponsor for the Warwick UTC.
- (g) That no financial sponsorship was required by the University, and no financial exposure existed once the Warwick UTC was established, but there was an expectation to make an in-kind contribution through the engagement of staff in playing an active role in the development of the Warwick UTC and being active in its future governance, for example, providing pupils with access to certain University facilities, supporting visits, and allowing staff to teach on an occasional basis.
- (h) That a positive response had been received from consultation undertaken with employers, Warwickshire and Solihull Local Authorities, Westwood, Finham Park and Kenilworth Schools, with further feedback expected shortly from parents and students.
- (i) That the Warwick UTC was expected to make a significant contribution to Goal 4 of Vision 2015, concerned with further strengthening a sense of community and increased engagement with stakeholders.
- (j) That the Warwick UTC would be of particular interest to overseas partners and to local employers.
- (k) That the Warwick UTC was not being established to provide a direct route for students to an Engineering degree at Warwick, but that the Warwick UTC students should be considered as better equipped to study engineering at Russell Group institutions, given the level of engagement and education with employers from the age of 14.

- (l) That he would continue to provide support to the project until a decision is made by the Department for Education in May 2012, when resource would be provided for the appointment of a Project Director.
- (m) That the University would need to accept a certain level of reputational risk, by associating its name with the UTC, however there would be agreements on the use of branding, and the Warwick UTC would remain independently run.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (n) That the University was, at this stage, being asked to submit an in-principle statement of intent regarding the establishment of the Warwick University Technical College, without further obligation of commitment.
- (o) That there would be wider consultation with the Institute of Education and the School of Engineering.
- (p) That thought should be given to structured progression for students through the Warwick UTC that could feed into the University's future Widening Participation activity.

(by the Director of Estates)

- (q) That the programme for design and construction of the Warwick UTC, following the decision made by the Department for Education in May 2012, was ambitious in its pursuit of the Warwick UTC opening in September 2014.

(by the Director of HR)

- (r) That the Risk Register in paper SC.169/11-12 should include reference to the safeguarding implications of minors accessing facilities in the adult and student environment of the University campus, even if the chosen site was off-campus, noting that the risks would be higher should an on-campus site be chosen.

(by the Dean of Warwick Business School)

- (s) That an overall reputational risk should be articulated within the Risk Register.
- (t) That further consideration of the governance structures may help to mitigate this reputational risk.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (u) That consideration should be given to the potential impact of the establishment of the Warwick UTC on established relationships with neighbouring schools, both in the context of taking on their students, but also those who provide teacher training opportunities and assist in widening participation activities.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the online application to proceed by the deadline of 17 January 2012 be approved for submission, subject to further work being completed as discussed at the meeting, noting that this did not commit the University at this point to the establishment of the UTC.
- (b) That the Director of Jaguar Land Rover Programmes, WMG, contact established University Technical Colleges to gain an understanding of how they have provided an in-kind contribution.

232/11-12 Lectures and Seminars

REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)

That he had been informed that several undergraduate lectures and seminars had been cancelled during the first week of term, some without justification or rearrangement.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience would make enquiries within the departments concerned and report back to the President of the Students' Union.

233/11-12 Library Cafe

REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)

(a) That clarity on the timescales for the refurbishment of the Library Café would enable the Students' Union to effectively feed into the development process.

(by the Director of Estates)

(b) That the refurbishment was in the very early stages of its scoping, but that should previously developed floor plans be utilised, then improvements could be made promptly.

234/11-12 JNCHES Sustainability Issues Working Group - Statement of Values

RECEIVED:

A UCEA Update highlighting work undertaken by the JNCHES Sustainability Issues Working Group, including their statement of values relating to sustainability of HE institutions (SC.171/11-12).

235/11-12 UCAS Admissions Process Review Consultation (minute 206/11-12 refers)

RECEIVED:

The Russell Group response to the UCAS Admissions Process Review Consultation (SC.170/11-12).

236/11-12 David Willett's Speech – Higher Education Strategy

RECEIVED:

A press release from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills regarding a speech that David Willetts was to give at the Policy Exchange on 4 January 2012, regarding his strategy for higher education (SC.176/11-12).