

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 10 March 2008

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Professor S Bassnett  
Professor A Caesar  
Professor Y Carter  
Professor R Higgott  
Mr J Kirby  
Professor K Lamberts  
Professor R Lindley  
Professor M Smith  
Professor L M Whitby

Apologies: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor L Bridges, Professor H Thomas

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Finance, Registrar, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Administrative Officer (Campus Affairs), Senior Assistant Registrar (Governance), Director of Warwick International (for item 380/07-08), Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment (for item 385/07-08)

377/07-08 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2008 be approved.

378/07-08 Higher Education Innovation Fund Round 4 (Minute 310/07-08 refers)

REPORTED: (By the Vice-Chancellor)

That a very large number of applications for HEIF4 funding had been received.

RESOLVED:

That, if necessary, given the schedule of Steering Committee meetings, the final approval of HEIF4 allocations be delegated to the Vice-Chancellor.

380/07-08 Policy Update: International Office

RECEIVED:

An update from the International Office including key developments on Student Recruitment, Strategic Initiatives, Institutional Support for the Internationalisation Strategy, the Points Based System of Immigration, Staffing and Organisation and the International Gateway for Gifted Youth.

REPORTED: (By the Vice-Chancellor)

That this would be the last meeting involving the Director of Warwick International, prior to his departure from the University.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Warwick International be thanked by the Committee for his contribution to the University.

381/07-08

Senate Business

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 12 March 2008 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.
- (b) That a short paper explaining the deferral of the consideration of the report from the Working Group on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors be prepared for consideration by the Senate at its meeting to be held on 12 March 2008.

382/07-08

Risk Management Report

CONSIDERED:

The University Strategic Risk Status Summary and Risk Register (SC.294/07-08).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the scores as set out in the paper represented an accurate and realistic reflection of the level of risk faced by the University, whilst noting:
  - (i) That a lack of movement in an overall risk status score did not reflect a lack of activity.
  - (ii) That the scores for risks T5 and T6 should remain as proposed.
- (b) That any change to the identified Risk Holders be discussed with the relevant individuals outside of the meeting.
- (c) That the full list of risks as laid out in the paper be presented to the Council at its meeting on 19 March 2008.

383/07-08

ARC Quarter 2 Report

RECEIVED:

The Academic Resourcing Committee Financial Report Quarter 2 2007/2008 (SC.298/07-08).

REPORTED: (By the Academic Registrar)

That she, the Director of Finance, and the Director of Research Support Services would be meeting to discuss research expenditure.

384/07-08

Report from the Fees Working Group

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Fees Working Group (SC.299/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approve the proposals as laid out in paper SC.299/07-08 noting that:

- (a) The outstanding information from the School of Law would be presented to the Committee for consideration at a future meeting.
- (b) The full impact of the withdrawal of funding for ELQ students was being explored and would be presented to the Committee for consideration at a future meeting.

385/07-08

Undergraduate Open Days

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment concerning Undergraduate Open Days (SC.280/07-08).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee approve the proposal to move the September Open Day from a Wednesday to a Saturday from September 2008.
- (b) That the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment investigate further the potential impact of a third Open Day in 2009, potentially on a Saturday, and report back the findings to a future meeting of the Committee.

386/07-08

Faculty Issues

- (a) Faculty of Arts

RECEIVED:

A report on current developments and issues of concern within the Faculty of Arts, including new Faculty Working Groups, the AHRC, funding for the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance, Faculty research and the Faculty Advisory Board (SC.295/07-08).

- (b) Faculty of Medicine

RECEIVED:

A report on current developments and issues of concern within the Faculty of Medicine, including the proposed Academic Health Sciences Centre, Anatomy and Clinical Skills funding, the Comprehensive Local Research Network, the IVIMEDS link, estates plans, Science City – Translational Medicine, international developments and new research grants (SC.296/07-08).

- (c) Faculty of Science

RECEIVED:

A report on current developments and issues of concern within the Faculty of Science, including the Capital Development Progress Group, the Life Sciences working group and a postgraduate training working group (SC.297/07-08).

387/07-08

Next Meeting of the Steering Committee

REPORTED: (By the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the meeting of the Steering Committee scheduled for March 17 2008 had been cancelled.
- (b) That the next meeting of the Steering Committee would be held on 31 March 2008 if required.

388/07-08

Students' Union Constitution

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

That a recent Students' Union referendum had passed a motion to amend the Students' Union Constitution to establish a Board of Trustees.

(By the Deputy Registrar)

That the proposal for an amended constitution would be considered for ratification by the Council at its meeting to be held on 9 July 2008.

389/07-08

Heads of Department Away Day

REPORTED: (By the Vice-Chancellor)

That it was proposed to hold a Heads of Department Away Day in May 2008, and that further details would be confirmed to the Committee and to Heads of Department in due course.

390/07-08

PPS4 'Planning for Sustainable Economic Development'

RECEIVED:

A proposed response from the University, Birmingham City University and the University of Birmingham to the DCLG PPS4 'Planning for Sustainable Economic Development' consultation (SC.281/07-08).

391/07-08

West Midlands Economic Strategy Delivery

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the West Midlands Economic Strategy Delivery consultation (SC.282/07-08).

392/07-08

Research Councils UK – Review of Full Economic Costs

RECEIVED:

A presentation by the Director of Resources of the EPSRC concerning the economic costs of research (SC.283/07-08).

393/07-08

Announcement of the New Bishop of Coventry

RECEIVED:

A press release announcing the new Bishop of Coventry (SC.284/07-08).

394/07-08

Teacher Education and Engagement with Schools

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/08/015 requesting information from institutions about work done with schools to raise attainment, with a deadline for submission of 14 March 2008 (SC.285/07-08).

395/07-08

Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills Speech (Minute 364/07-08 refers)

RECEIVED:

The text of a recent speech by the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (SC.286/07-08).

- 396/07-08            Points Based Immigration System (Minute 356/07-08 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- A letter sent from the President of the Students' Union to the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, expressing concerns about the new points based immigration system.
- 397/07-08            Research Excellence Framework: CBI Response
- RECEIVED:
- The response of the CBI to the HEFCE consultation on the Research Excellence Framework (SC.288/07-08).
- 398/07-08            Europe Unit Update February 2008
- RECEIVED:
- Europe Unit Update Issue 44 February 2008 (SC.289/07-08).
- 399/07-08            Advantage West Midlands Correspondence
- RECEIVED:
- Correspondence to the Vice-Chancellor from Advantage West Midlands, confirming arrangements for the forthcoming handover to its new Chief Executive (SC.290/07-08).
- 400/07-08            HEFCE Strategic Development Fund
- RECEIVED:
- Correspondence to the Vice-Chancellor from HEFCE confirming funding from the Strategic Development Fund for the Universities of Birmingham and Warwick Science City Interdisciplinary Research Alliance (SC.291/07-08).
- 401/07-08            West Midlands Region Skills Action Plan 2008-2011
- RECEIVED:
- The West Midlands Region Skills Action Plan 2008-2011 (SC.292/07-08).