

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 11 March 2013

- Present: Deputy-Vice-Chancellor,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor S Croft,
Professor Christopher Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor J Palmowski,
Professor S Swain,
Professor M Taylor,
Professor P Thomas,
Professor P Winstanley
Professor L Young.
- Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor Christina Hughes, Mr N Swain.
- In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Group Finance Director, Director of Development and External Affairs, Director of Estates, Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of IATL (for item 264/12-13), Senior Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling) (for item 265/12-13), Head of Institutional Governance Services (for item 266/12-13).
- 256/12-13 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2013 be approved.
- 257/12-13 Professor Jackie Labbe
- RESOLVED:
- That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to Professor Labbe on securing her appointment as Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Sheffield.
- 258/12-13 Student Union Election Results
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)
- (a) That the provisional results of the 2013 Warwick SU Officer Elections had been announced on Friday 1 March 2013.
- (b) That Ben Sundell, the current Welfare and Campaigns Officer, had been elected as Student Union President for 2013-14.
- (c) That the elections had attracted a record turnout, with 800 more votes cast than during the 2012/13 campaign.
- 259/12-13 Fabulous Feedback Winners
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)
- (a) That the winners of the student-nominated Fabulous Feedback Awards had been announced in the previous week.

- (b) That Professor Seán Hand from French Studies finished top of the table for the Faculty of Arts; Dr Ian Tuersley from WMG was the overall winner for the Faculties of Science and Medicine; and Dr Richard Lampard from Sociology took the prize for the Faculty of Social Sciences.
- (c) That the winners would each be given access to a £1000 fund to support their own personal teaching.

260/12-13 Global University Summit

REPORTED: (by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That Warwick would be hosting the Global Universities Summit in London in May 2013.
- (b) That the Summit would bring university leaders from across the world to the UK to prepare a formal declaration of commitment and policy recommendations to the G8, concerning the major global challenges facing higher education and society.
- (c) That the student-led Warwick Universities Summit took place on campus on 9 and 10 March 2013, from which a report focusing on the key issues facing the higher education sector was compiled to be presented at the Global Universities Summit.

261/12-13 Excellence in Student Support Award

REPORTED (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

That the University and the Students' Union had won the Excellence in Student Support award at the NUS and UKCISA Internationalisation Awards.

262/12-13 Annual Congress of the Polish Students' Society

REPORTED (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

That he had recently attended the 6th Annual Congress of the Polish Students' Society.

263/12-13 TEDx Warwick 2013

REPORTED (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (a) That he had attended the annual TEDx event held in the Butterworth Hall on Saturday 9 March 2013.
- (b) That the student-led event, which focused on developing connections between communities, disciplines and places, had been very well organized and featured a range of exceptional speakers.

264/12-13 Periodic Report from IATL

CONSIDRED:

A report from the Director of IATL updating the Steering Committee on matters relating to interdisciplinarity and innovation (SC.161/12-13).

REPORTED: (by the Director of IATL)

- (a) That IATL would be offering eight undergraduate and six postgraduate interdisciplinary modules in 2013/14.

- (b) That IATL had written to Directors of Graduate Studies across the University to determine the level of interest in the postgraduate modules, and that responses received to date were largely positive.
- (c) That funding from the Monash-Warwick alliance would allow IATL to support the University's internationalisation strategy and diversity policy through the creation of initiatives such as the International Teaching Portal.
- (d) That IATL would continue to be proactive in both its development of innovative approaches to pedagogy and its support for University processes such as debates on assessment and feedback methods.

RESOLVED:

That the support of the Committee for the expansion of interdisciplinary activity around the University as set out in paper SC.161/12-13 be recorded.

265/12-13

Capital Developments

RECEIVED:

A report from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling) updating the Steering Committee on key issues relating to capital developments and space management (SC.162/12-13).

REPORTED: (by the Senior Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling))

- (a) That a reduction in grant income through the HEFCE Capital Investment Fund (CIF) would lead to restrictions on the level of capital investment available in the future, yet the demand for additional facilities and infrastructure to support the strategic vision of the University was continuing to increase.
- (b) That the role of the Capital Planning and Accommodation Review Group (CPARG) would be critical to the mitigation of institutional risk F2 (Imbalance in supply and demand of infrastructure hampers University growth and achievement of goals), and that criteria for the prioritisation of future projects would be essential in ensuring that investments made supported the achievement of the University's strategic goals.
- (c) That Space Management and Timetabling was working to identify areas for improvement in the Central Teaching Timetable for 2013/14 to address imbalances in demand for large capacity rooms at peak times during the teaching week, noting that the impact of all changes on the student experience would need to be taken into consideration.

(by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (d) That the Russell Group was planning a high-profile campaign on the impact of the reduction of the CIF, and that the University had contacted the Russell Group's Director General to determine whether the campaign would clearly communicate the need for increased capital funding.

(by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)

- (e) That the balancing of investment in academic appointments and infrastructure development should be central to strategic planning, noting the significance of these areas to the University's reputation, growth and financial sustainability.

Strategy and Risk Update

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Deputy Registrar and Head of Institutional Governance Services on matters relating to institutional risk (SC.163/12-13).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the closer alignment of University Strategy and Risk would enable risk dialogue to take place in the context of the University's goals and ambitions, and as such, the termly risk reports to the Committee would increasingly move towards an assessment of performance against strategy goals and of risks that could hinder their achievement.
- (b) That the Strategy and Change Team was now established in the Deputy Registrar's Office and had commenced work on a range of initiatives spanning the University's strategic priorities.
- (c) That the Management Information and Planning Office had been re-named to the Strategic Planning and Analytics Office to better reflect its centrality to the University's strategic functions.

(by the Head of Institutional Governance Services)

- (d) That the status of risks included on the University Risk Register had not changed since a report was last presented to the Committee, with three risks remaining at red status.
- (e) That due to extensive work taking place on IT infrastructure and information security it was anticipated that risk IT4 would be reduced to amber status by 2014 and that risk O4 would be reduced to amber status by Autumn 2013.
- (f) That risk Res2 would remain at red status due to the likely impact of proposed changes to the NHS on research funding, and that further exploration was required as to how this could be mitigated.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (Science and Engineering), Knowledge Transfer and Business Engagement)

- (g) That there was scope for risk F2 to be elevated to red status, noting the potential of the inability to meet demand for infrastructure development and maintenance to impact severely on the University's growth and ambition.

(by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (h) That risk IT4 should be reduced to amber status with immediate effect, to reflect the work achieved to date.

(by the Group Finance Director)

- (i) That all Finance risks should be grouped under the Sustainability heading.

(by the Deputy-Vice-Chancellor)

- (j) That whilst it was noted that not achieving a strategically desirable number of student applications was a highly significant risk and should continue to be closely

monitored, given the extent of the mitigating action already in progress it was not currently necessary to increase the status of risk T7 to red.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the status of risk IT4 be reduced from red to amber.
- (b) That the status of risk T5 be increased to three or four
- (c) That the University continue to closely monitor risk T7.

267/12-13 Invitation to Make Submissions to the REF

RECEIVED:

A letter from the Manager of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) setting out arrangements for making submissions to the 2014 REF (SC.169/12-13).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

That the deadline for notifying the REF of the individuals authorised to make the REF 2014 submission on behalf of the University was 5 April 2013.

KS/CS/Steering/Minutes/2012-2013/11-03-2013