

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 12 November 2012

Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor S Croft,
Professor Christina Hughes,
Professor Christopher Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor S Swain,
Professor M Taylor,
Professor P Winstanley,
Mr N Swain.

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor P Thomas.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of HR (for items 83/12-13 to 88/12-13), Director of Development and External Affairs, Director of Estates, Head of Governance Support Services, Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of Management Information and Planning (for item 88/12-13), Senior Assistant Registrar (Deputy Registrar's Office) - Ms B Lees (for item 89/12-13), Assistant Registrar (Governance) – Ms C Henrywood (for item 88/12-13).

83/12-13 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2012 be approved.

84/12-13 Warwick-Monash Developments

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University of Warwick and Monash University had formally launched their strategic alliance at a special event at Australia House in London on Wednesday 31 October 2012.
- (b) That the Reinvention journal, which had been published for five years by the University of Warwick, had been relaunched under the banner of both universities and renamed "Reinvention: an International Journal of Undergraduate Research".

85/12-13 Dr Oliver Sacks

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That the University was set to welcome renowned neurologist and author Dr Oliver Sacks to campus as a Visiting Professor who would be collaborating with academic colleagues in his own discipline, but also within more broad public engagement work.

86/12-13 AAB+ Russell Group Data

RESOLVED:

That consideration of paper SC.58/12-13 would be deferred to a future meeting of the Steering Committee to allow clarification of some of the points contained within the paper.

87/12-13 Update on the development of learning spaces

CONSIDERED:

A paper updating the Steering Committee on the development of the new study space in Leamington Spa (SC.70/12-13).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the Learning Grid Leamington had opened on Monday 05 November 2012.
- (b) That positive feedback had been received from students since the opening and that usage and feedback would be carefully monitored during the pilot phase.
- (c) That a formal opening ceremony would take place in the new calendar year.
- (d) That the facility had been designed to allow flexibility in the usage and configuration of the space allowing changing of the provision as necessary.
- (e) That work had begun on the new study space to be located in the Rootes building.

(by the Registrar)

- (f) That members of staff were encouraged to visit the Leamington space and submit any feedback, recognising that students were the primary audience.
- (g) That longer weekday and weekend opening hours were being investigated for the Postgraduate Hub in Senate House for implementation following the development of the student reception area.

88/12-13 University Key Performance Indicators

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on the status of the University's Key Performance Indicators(KPI) (SC.70/12-13).

REPORTED: (by the Assistant Registrar (Governance))

- (a) That each KPI status detailed had been reached in consultation with the relevant committee chairs.

(by the Director of Management Information and Planning)

- (b) That the areas of student satisfaction and widening participation had seen a downturn in their indicator performance but that activity was being undertaken which should help to improve the positions in both of these areas.
- (c) That some measures were based on qualitative rather than quantitative metrics and consideration was being given as to how the consistency of these assessments could be ensured.

(by the Registrar)

- (d) That the current KPI structure was being reviewed with the aim of allowing the data to be used in a more active and dynamic fashion throughout the year.

(by the Deputy Registrar)

- (e) That there was demand from departments for clearer metrics and that these requirements would be discussed at the upcoming Heads of Department meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the status of the KPIs relating to reputation with stakeholders, human resources and safety, and governance be approved as set out in paper SC.70/12-13.

89/12-13

University Risk Management Strategy and Framework Development and Autumn Term Risk Monitoring

CONSIDERED:

A paper setting out progress relating to the review of the University's risk management strategy and an updated copy of the risk register (SC.36/12-13).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That it was hoped to better integrate and demonstrate risk considerations into all levels of decision making rather than it being considered a separate activity (as was often felt to be the situation at present).
- (b) That to be successful, any replacement system would have to align with the culture of the University.

(by the Dean of the Warwick Business School)

- (c) That the paper made an important distinction between risk awareness and risk aversion.

(by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (d) That consideration should be given as to how opportunities (and their associated uncertainties) could also be captured and considered within this framework.

RESOLVED:

That the subset of risks discussed at the meeting be highlighted to the Council alongside any risks which have seen a change in their risk status.

90/12-13

HEFCE call for proposals to deliver a programme of student demand-raising activity in Modern Foreign Languages

CONSIDERED:

A circular letter from HEFCE calling for proposals for programmes of demand-raising activity in modern foreign languages (SC.66/12-13)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the deadline for submissions was Wednesday 09 January 2013.
- (b) That given recent activity and investment in the area, the University may wish to consider a submission, either individually or as a partner.

(by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts)

- (c) That there may be capacity issues which would pose challenges in completing a high quality submission.
- (d) That consideration could be given to the Language Centre leading on such an initiative.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education (Innovation, Employability and Widening Participation))

- (e) That given the increasing calls for activity such as this (in a variety of disciplines), a more holistic view of these programmes should be taken when considered a bid submission.

(by the Chair of the Graduate School)

- (f) That IGGY presented the University with the potential to add value and create a distinctive programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts would continue to informally assess the appetite for a submission and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

91/12-13

Membership of Senate Committees

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the appointment of Professor Mark Knights to serve on the Information Policy and Strategy Committee (IPSC) as one of the three members of the academic staff appointed by the Senate be approved.
- (b) That the appointment of Dr Tim White (School of Theatre, Performance & Cultural Policy Studies) to serve on the Board of Undergraduate Studies as one of the two full-time members of the academic staff from each of the Faculties of Arts, Science and Social Sciences appointed by the Senate be approved.

92/12-13 Postgraduate Education - An Independent Inquiry by the Higher Education Commission

RECEIVED:

A report entitled 'Postgraduate Education - An Independent Inquiry by the Higher Education Commission' analysing the current postgraduate education provision in the UK authored by the Higher Education Commission with input from HEFCE and other relevant stakeholders (SC.68/12-13)

NOTE: A full copy of the report is available online at:

<https://files.warwick.ac.uk/steeringcommittee/files/2012+11+12/SC.68.12-13+-+HEC+-+Postgraduate+Education+Report+-+Full.pdf>

93/12-13 British Council Report - Internationalisation Strategies of UK Universities

RECEIVED:

A report from the British Council entitled 'Going Mobile: Internationalisation, mobility and the European Higher Education Area' examining the strategies of UK Universities and discussing barriers and benefits to international mobility (SC.69/12-13).

94/12-13 A risk-based approach to quality assurance: Outcomes of HEFCE consultation and next steps

RECEIVED:

A report from HEFCE detailing the outcomes and next steps of the HEFCE consultation 'A riskbased approach to quality assurance: Consultation', on a more risk-based approach to the quality assurance of higher education in England (SC.55/12-13).

NOTE: A full copy of the report is available online at:

<https://files.warwick.ac.uk/steeringcommittee/files/2012+11+12/SC.55.12-13+-+Risk-based+approach+to+Quality+Assurance+-+Full+Document.pdf>

95/12-13 UUK and AURIL Response to the Independent Review of IP and Growth

RECEIVED:

The response from Universities UK and the Association of University Research and Industry Links (AURIL) to the Independent Review of Intellectual Property and Growth (SC.57/12-13).

96/12-13 Allocation of Schools Direct Places for 2013/14

A letter from the Teaching Agency outlining the allocations of new entrant Initial Teacher Training places for the Schools Direct programme for the 2013/14 academic year (SC.67/12-13).

KS/SS/Steering/Minutes/2012-13/12-11-2012