

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 12 May 2008

Present:

Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor  
Professor L Bridges  
Professor A Caesar  
Professor R Higgott  
Mr J Kirby  
Professor K Lamberts  
Professor M Smith  
Professor S Bassnett  
Professor L M Whitby

Apologies:

Professor H Thomas, Professor Y Carter, Professor R Lindley

In Attendance:

Registrar, Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Communications, Director of Finance, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Administrative Officer (Governance) Senior Assistant Registrar (Governance), Director of Estates, Director of Management Information and Planning (for item 505/07-08), WIE Business Development Director and Mr A Townsend (for item 506/07-08) and Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning) (for item 507/07-08)

498/07-08

Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2008 be approved.

499/07-08

Strategic Departmental Review: Film and Television Studies

CONSIDERED:

A report detailing the key recommendations of the review report and the proposed bodies to take these forward (SC.395/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That, subject to minor amendments discussed at the meeting, the report be forwarded to the Department for a response to be considered at the meeting of the Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

500/07-08

Announcement of QAA Audit Team

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the team to undertake the institutional QAA audit had been announced as follows:

Ms Julia Clarke	University of Leeds	Auditor
Dr Richard Gadsden	Loughborough University	Auditor
Prof Dennis Wright	Imperial College	Auditor
Dr Richard Tong	Uni of Wales, Cardiff	Auditor
Mrs Louise Walmsley	University of Manchester	Audit Secretary

- 501/07-08                    Heads of Department Away Day
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That participants in the Heads of Department Away Day held at Warwick HRI on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008 be thanked for their engagement.
- 502/07-08                    RCUK Working Group on Full Economic Cost
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That the he had been asked to serve as a member on the RCUK's working group on Full Economic Cost.
- 503/07-08                    Policy Update: Development and Alumni Relations Office
- CONSIDERED:
- An update on the activities of DARO including fundraising performance, the Arts Centre campaign, preparations for the Government's Match-Funding scheme, as well as strategic planning and staffing issues (SC.394/07-08).
- REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)
- That the next policy update from DARO would include information on the Students' Union fundraising issues and potential collaboration between the DARO and the SU.
- 504/07-08                    Leverhulme Trust Call for Proposals
- CONSIDERED:
- An outline bid in response to a targeted call for proposals to a new scheme entitled 'Embedding of Emerging Disciplines' (SC.396/07-08).
- REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research (Science and Medicine))
- That the proposed field of Synthetic Biology presented a significant opportunity for the University to expand into this developing area of research.
- RESOLVED:
- That the outline bid be approved for submission to the Leverhulme Trust noting that the full business case and University commitments embedded within it would need to be given further scrutiny prior to approval, should the outline bid be short-listed.
- 505/07-08                    Guardian/Independent League Tables
- RECEIVED:
- A paper from the Director of Management Information and Planning providing analysis of the recent Guardian and Independent / Good University Guide league tables and highlighting issues of relevance to the University (SC.393/07-08).
- 506/07-08                    Institute of Education: Proposal for Joint Leadership Academy
- CONSIDERED:
- An outline proposal from the Business Development Director of the Warwick Institute of Education detailing the establishment of a Joint Leadership Academy with the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) (SC.98/07-08).
- RESOLVED:

- a) That the outline proposal be supported in principle and that discussions with the SSAT be taken forward noting that the full business case would be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

**This resolution has been recorded as confidential in the minutes.**

507/07-08

Withdrawal of HEFCE Funding for Equivalent or Lower Qualifications (ELQs)

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning) summarising issues arising from HEFCE's policy decisions arising from the withdrawal of funding for students aiming for ELQs (SC.397/07-08).

RESOLVED:

- a) That a letter be sent to HEFCE highlighting the University's concerns, particularly with regards to loss of funding for students progressing to Masters courses from integrated undergraduate masters courses (e.g MChem).
- b) That information regarding integrated masters courses be forwarded to Departments offering these courses.

508/07-08

HEFCE Grant Programme on Student Retention

CONSIDERED:

A circular from HEFCE presenting a new grant programme to evaluate institutional practice relating to student retention.

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That, in order to secure funds, the University should identify areas which are distinct from other institutions, such as the GOAL programme or Residential Life.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Admissions and Recruitment take forward the preparation of a bid in conjunction with the Director of Student Support and the Students' Union.

509/07-08

Science Bridges

CONSIDERED:

Three draft proposals in response to the RCUK Science Bridges Scheme, detailing proposed collaboration with USA, China and India.

RESOLVED:

That the draft proposals be approved for submission to RCUK by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008, noting the reservations discussed in the meeting.

510/07-08

UUK Information Note I/08/037: DIUS Higher Level Skills Consultation

CONSIDERED:

A note from UUK inviting responses to the DIUS high level skills consultation (SC.389/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That Professor Whitby co-ordinate a response in conjunction with relevant colleagues.

511/07-08

UUK Information Note I/08/36: Independent Safeguarding Authority Scheme

RECEIVED:

A report on the new Independent Safeguarding Authority Scheme and its implications for the Higher Education sector (SC.380/07-08).

512/07-08

CBI Education and Skills survey

RECEIVED:

A report detailing the results of the CBI's Education and Skills survey 2008, including how poor skills affect business performance, employer demand for graduates with relevant degrees and work experience, and engagement for effective education-business links (SC.381/07-08).

513/07-08

RAE Circular Letter 2008/01: Publication of Results

RECEIVED:

A letter regarding the publication of the RAE 2008 results, including information on format and timescales(SC.383/07-08).

514/07-08

Europe Unit April Newsletter

RECEIVED:

The April publication from Europe Unit (SC.384/07-08).

515/07-08

Europe Note E/08/02: 'Mastering Diversity'

RECEIVED:

A document examining the current arrangement for Masters courses in four participant countries in the Bologna Process drawing comparisons and highlighting differences with UK current practice (SC.385/07-08).

516/07-08

Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee: Science Budget Allocations

RECEIVED:

The Fourth Report of Session 2007-08 Volume 1 reviewing the Government Science Budget allocations for 2007/08 – 2010/11 (SC.387/07-08).

KMS/gb/steersshare/minutes200708/May08/12may08