

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 12 July 2010

Present: Vice-Chancellor,  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor L Bridges,  
Professor S Bruzzi,  
Professor A Caesar,  
Professor R Higgott,  
Professor P Winstanley  
Mr A Bradley.

Apologies: Professor C Hughes, Professor K Lamberts, Professor M Taylor, Deputy Registrar,  
Director of Estates, Finance Director, Director of Development, Communications and  
Strategy.

In Attendance: Registrar, Academic Registrar, Professor S Palmer, Head of Governance Support  
Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance).

676/09-10 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2010 be approved, subject to the following  
amendment (deletions struck through, additions underlined):

*661/09-10*  
(...)

- (a) That the University had been provisionally awarded two large integrated FP7 grants  
worth €8M each, noting that Warwick ~~was negotiating contracts for~~ had secured two  
out of a total of five awards available to institutions across Europe in social sciences  
and the Humanities.

677/09-10 Abolition of Regional Development Agencies and Review of Future Projects (minute 655/09-  
10 refers)

RECEIVED:

A letter from Advantage West Midlands (AWM) highlighting the Coalition Government's  
abolition of Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and the changing focus of the Agency's  
project review to include future commitments (SC.449/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the abolition of RDAs and efficiency savings required by the Government of  
RDAs was beginning to affect the University's projects with AWM.

(By the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (b) That AWM had confirmed at a scheduled meeting that the Science City AM3 IT bid  
had been formally cancelled as part of the savings to be secured in year and that he  
and colleagues from the University of Birmingham had written to Science City  
participants to inform them of this development.
- (c) That the University would be negotiating the future funding of the several projects with  
AWM, of which the two that might have the most significant impact were:

- (i) TM2: Experimental Medicine project, inclusive of the £2M capital investment
- (ii) International Institute for Product and Service Innovation (IIPSI), noting that there were serious issues regarding whether this initiative could be funded without the direct RDA contribution.

(d) That there was funding from AWM which extended beyond its anticipated closure in 2012 and the impact of this should be carefully considered.

(By the Registrar)

(e) That the University would be seeking joint legal advice with the University of Birmingham regarding the proposed funding cuts to already contracted projects.

678/09-10 UUK 'Universities Week' (minute 526/09-10 refers)

RECEIVED:

A report on Universities UK inaugural 'Universities Week' held between 14 and 20 June 2010, together with a letter from the UUK Chief Executive thanking Warwick for its participation (SC.450/09-10).

679/09-10 Local Enterprise Partnerships (minute 663/09-10 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That a deadline of 29 July 2010 had been set for the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership to determine the future form of its potential Local Enterprise Partnership, noting that the Committee would be updated of developments at a future meeting.

680/09-10 USS Pension Review (minute 608/09-10 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) for the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) had met on Wednesday 7 July to continue discussions regarding the proposals from the Pensions Joint Review about potential revisions to USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme).
- (b) That the JNC independent chairman, Sir Andrew Cubie, exercised his casting vote to determine that the package of proposals for benefit reforms put forward by the employers would be recommended to the USS Trustees on 22 July 2010.
- (c) That it was likely that higher education institutions would experience industrial action in the Autumn 2010 in response to these proposals although local relationships with the University and Colleges Union (UCU) were positive.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee monitor developments regarding the proposed revisions to USS and in particular, the likelihood of local industrial action.

681/09-10 Public Service Pensions Review

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the former pensions minister, John Hutton, would chair the independent Public Service Pensions Commission's review of public service pensions.

- (b) That the review would consider:
  - (i) the gap between public service and private sector pension provision.
  - (ii) the need to ensure that future pension provision is fair across the workforce.
  - (iii) how risk should be shared between the taxpayer and employee.
  - (iv) wider government policy intended to encourage people to save for retirement, and longer working lives.
- (c) That the review would have some implications of the University as members of the University community were members of the local government and NHS pension schemes.

682/09-10 Research Excellence Framework (REF)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That it had been announced that the launch of the Research Excellence Framework had been postponed by a year to 2013 at the earliest, noting that discussions continued around the measure of Impact within the REF.

683/09-10 Coventry Ambassadors Group

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he wished to extend his thanks to colleagues at the Students' Union for hosting a meeting of the Coventry Ambassadors Group on 8 July 2010.

684/09-10 Next Meeting of the Committee

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting of the Committee, if required, be held on 19 July 2010 in the Seminar Room, University House, from 9am to 10am.

685/09-10 BBC Article: "Education Budget Loses £1bn More"

RECEIVED:

An article from the BBC website reporting a further £1bn cut by the Government to the education budget (SC.460/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That there had been no further details announced regarding the seemingly additional £265M cut to the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills budget.

(By the Academic Registrar)

- (b) That it was useful to note that the reductions related to unspent funds rather than reductions in core funding, which would have a greater impact on the sector.

686/09-10

QinetiQ Restructuring

CONSIDERED:

A press release from QinetiQ announcing streamlining and restructuring of its UK business (SC.463/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the announcement had significant consequences for the University as it was engaged with QinetiQ on a number of activities, including the long standing Quantum technology Project which was being discussed with AWM as a potential regional priority, although the recent AWM announcements meant that it was unlikely to go ahead.
- (b) That, due to the closure of the several high technology activities and the impact this would have on some Warwick projects, the University would explore the possibility of perhaps jointly pursuing some of these in partnership.

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Vice-Chancellor explore the impact and opportunities following the announcement from QinetiQ with a view to reporting to the Committee at a future meeting.

687/09-10

ESRC Postgraduate Training Framework

RECEIVED:

Correspondence from ESRC regarding the arrangements for awarding Doctoral Training Accreditation and the associated allocation of studentships in light of the Government's budget announcement (SC.459/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (a) That ESRC would announce which institutions had been accredited with Doctoral Training Centre and Doctoral Training Unit status at the end of July 2010, with the announcement of studentship allocations being postponed potentially to January 2011 as the level of support available for the studentships was dependent on the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review due in October 2010.
- (b) That the University had yet to receive correspondence from the AHRC regarding future support from the Block Grant Partnership.

688/09-10

UKBA – Government Announcement to Limit Non-EU Economic Migration

RECEIVED:

Information from the UK Border Agency on plans to impose a limit on non-EU economic migration of Tier 2 (skilled workers) from April 2011, with an interim limit being implemented between 19 July 2010 and April 2011 (SC.453/09-10).

RESOLVED:

That the University respond to the Migration Advisory Committee consultation regarding how the proposed limits might be implemented in the most effective way by the deadline of 7 September 2010.

689/09-10

Future Funding of Healthcare Education

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Secretary of Warwick Medical School, together with an oral report from the Dean of Warwick Medical School, on future funding of healthcare education following the publication of a report from the Health and Education National Strategic Exchange (HENSE) (SC.464/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

- (a) That a significant percentage of the salary budget of Warwick Medical School was derived from the Service Increment for Teaching (SIFT) funding allocated via the Strategic Health Authorities which fell within the Multi-Professional Education and Training (MPET) levy potentially due to be cut by 14 per cent by 2013/14 by the Department of Health.
- (b) That the Warwick Medical School might be well-placed to capitalise on the move to deliver care in community settings, as well as from the potential lifting of the current cap on overseas students permitted on undergraduate medical courses.

(By the Academic Registrar)

- (c) That the Warwick Medical School had already addressed concerns regarding the large volume of short CPD courses, and vulnerability to this provision given potential public funding reductions, within their Financial Plan, it being acknowledged that a substantial proportion of the courses the School provided were mandatory for healthcare professionals.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Dean of Warwick Medical School prepare a paper on the status and progress of the University's Health Innovation and Education Cluster (HIEC) in light of the HENSE report and the forthcoming White Paper for consideration at a future meeting.
- (b) That, in relation to the forthcoming Government White Paper on reforming the NHS and establishing GP consortiums to facilitate local services, the Dean of Warwick Medical School explore opportunities for the School to provide training and guidance for the proposed consortiums.

690/09-10

HEFCE Circular 16/2010: Shared Services Pilot – Invitation to Apply for Funding for E-marketplace Systems

CONSIDERED:

A letter from HEFCE inviting HEIs to apply for funding for e-marketplace systems (SC.451/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the initiative was part of the HEFCE University Modernisation Fund and sought to facilitate electronic trade between organisations.

RESOLVED:

That the draft University application be considered at a future meeting prior to submission to HEFCE by the deadline of 6 August 2010.

- 691/09-10 HEFCE Request for EU Statistics on Public Procurement – Annual Return for 2009
- RECEIVED:
- A request from HEFCE for institutional data regarding contracts awarded in the 2009 calendar year in accordance with the European Community directives in public procurement (SC.455/09-10).
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That the request came annually from HEFCE and the University's response was being prepared by colleagues in Procurement team and the Estates office for submission by the deadline of 23 July 2010.
- 692/09-10 UUK I/2010/049: Social Work Update
- RECEIVED:
- A UUK I-note providing information about the Munro review of child protection and the continuation of the Social Work Taskforce and alerting HEIs to the imminent publication of the General Social Care Council's (GSCC) annual monitoring reports about recognised social work programmes (SC.452/09-10).
- REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)
- That the University had been in contact with the GSCC regarding the publication of the annual monitoring reports.
- 693/09-10 Russell Group Response to HEFCE Teaching Funding Consultation (minute 598/09-10 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- The final response by the Russell Group to the HEFCE Review of Teaching Funding consultation (SC.461/09-10).
- 694/09-10 Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Annual Report 2008/09
- RECEIVED:
- The Annual Report from the QAA highlighting some of the Agency's achievements and the scope of its activity for 2008/09, together with an indication of the key areas it wished to develop in the future (SC.462/09-10).

JFB/jf/steersshare/minutes2009-10/Jul10/12Jul10