

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 14 July 2008

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (from item 621/07-08)
Professor L M Whitby
Professor R Lindley
Professor H Thomas,
Professor M Smith,
Professor R Higgott,
Professor L Bridges,
Professor Y Carter,
Mr J Kirby (from item 623/07-08)
- Apologies: Professor A Caesar, Professor S Bassnett, Professor K Lamberts
- In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Director of Communications, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Administrative Officer (Governance), Head of Governance Support Services, Director and Administrator of the Institute of Advanced Studies (for item 622/07-08), Director of Warwick Institute of Education (for item 624/07-08)
- 618/07-08 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2008 be approved.
- 619/07-08 List of Institutions Selected for REF Pilot Exercise (minute 582/07-08 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- A list of the 22 institutions selected to participate in the REF pilot (SC.482/07-08).
- 620/07-08 Letter from HEFCE Responding to University's Concerns on ELQ Funding Withdrawal (minute 507/07-08 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- A letter from Professor David Eastwood, Chief Executive of HEFCE, responding to the University's recent letter concerning integrated Masters programmes (SC.485/07-08).
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That, according to the Universities UK Information-note I/08/055, 56 institutions had submitted appeals.
- 621/07-08 Strategic Departmental Review Report: Biological Sciences
- CONSIDERED:
- The review report together with a draft action plan with recommendations on which body would be appropriate to take forward each of the recommendations (SC.487/07-08).
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)
- That the Head of Department had not yet had the opportunity to highlight any factual inaccuracies in the report.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, given the seriousness and urgency of some of the recommendations, a series of meetings be scheduled over the summer with the Head of the Biological Sciences department to review the report and to instigate appropriate recommendations.
- (b) That discussions be taken forward with the Chair of the Faculty of Science with regard to his chairing an action group to support the Head of Department in taking forward the recommendations.
- (c) That the report be re-issued to the Steering Committee once clarification had been sought on factual issues.

622/07-08

Policy Update: Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS)

RECEIVED:

A paper from the Director of IAS updating in the areas of award allocations, facilities, programmes for 2008/09 and future initiatives (SC.475/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Director of IAS)

- (a) That the Institute's new accommodation in Milburn House and the Visiting Fellows' residence in Cryfield Grange had been working well.
- (b) That, following the meeting of the Council on 9 July 2008, the Institute had been approached by two Council members who were interested in potential collaboration.
- (c) That the Director of Finance had suggested approaching Council members, through DARO, to assist in funding outstanding refurbishments at Cryfield Grange and future fellowships.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of IAS be thanked for the report and the significant progress outlined within it.

623/07-08

Policy Update: DARO (Matched Funding Update)

CONSIDERED:

An update from the Director of Communications and Strategy detailing how the University intended to use the matched funding under the new Government scheme (SC.484/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Communications and Strategy)

- (a) That the scheme would commence in August 2008 and was expected to run for a period of three years.
- (b) That the University would need to be transparent on how the matched funding would be used to avoid misleading donors should the intended project change within the duration of the scheme.
- (c) That, while the University had to be clear about the intended use of matched funds, some flexibility in distribution was important.

RESOLVED:

That the position statement outlining eligible donations under the scheme be approved as set out in SC.484/07-08.

624/07-08

TeachFirst Proposal

CONSIDERED:

A proposal from the Director of Warwick Institute of Education for provision of a Masters to Ed.D programme for the TeachFirst organisation (SC.478/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Warwick Institute of Education)

- (a) That the TeachFirst organisation would target high-calibre graduates, enabling them to spend two years working in challenging secondary schools before moving on to a commercially orientated career with top employers.
- (b) That the programme would utilise existing course specifications with some degree of tailoring to the new market and aims of the programme.

RESOLVED:

That the development of a Memorandum of Understanding as detailed in SC.478/07-08 be approved, noting that the financial case for the proposal should be brought to the Steering Committee in due course, prior to any commitments being made.

625/07-08

Students' Union International Consultation

RECEIVED:

A report detailing the findings of a student-based consultation into how the University might achieve a fully internationalised student experience (SC.481/07-08).

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

That the consultation aimed to position Warwick as a pioneering institution for a fully internationalised student experience, with four key recommendations:

- (i) Integrated induction
- (ii) Immersion into the University community
- (iii) Student-led innovations, such as One World Week and the Innovation Summit
- (iv) Appointment of an International Sabbatical officer

(by the Deputy Registrar)

That the report demonstrated that the internationalisation of the student experience was a complex issue and that whilst some of the suggestions proposed in the report had been under discussion for some time, the support and urgency provided by the report was welcomed.

(by the Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies)

That utilising the Faculty structure might make the implementation of the recommendations more manageable.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning))

- (a) That other institutions had introduced a 'refresher' week towards the end of the first term and perhaps the University should consider this approach

- (b) That the report represented significant student initiative and input to the University community and would be a useful component of the QAA student written submission if the students were so minded.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Steering Committee records its thanks to the President of the Students' Union for his considerable work on the International Consultation.
- (b) That the information and the recommendations in the report be considered alongside the findings of the International Student Barometer to inform the setting of priorities for the coming year.

626/07-08

UUK I-Note I/08/056: Darzi Next Stage Review

RECEIVED:

Information on the Darzi review into the health service in England, providing details of the reports resulting from the review (SC.489/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

That the reports gave an important focus to the development of Academic Health Science Centres and Health Innovation and Education Clusters, both of which were of significance to the University.

RESOLVED:

That the University's response to the review of the NHS consultation be co-ordinated by the Dean of Warwick Medical School and considered by the Steering Committee prior to submission by the deadline of 17 October 2008.

62707-08

DIUS' 'Higher Education at Work' Consultation Response

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the DIUS consultation on 'Higher Education at Work' submitted by the deadline of 7 July 2008 (SC.474/07-08).

628/07-08

Information from the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee Session Evidencing the QAA Report on Standards at Universities

RECEIVED:

An email announcing the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills sub-committee session on the Quality Assurance Agency's recent reports on standards in universities (SC.486/07-08).

629/07-08

UUK I-Note I/08/051: The Future Shape and Size of the HE Sector in the UK

RECEIVED:

Information on the UUK report into the future shape and size of the HE sector in the UK, analysing in particular the difference in HE expansion between the four UK countries (SC.488/07-08).

630/07-08

UUK I-Note I/08/055: Summary of ELQ Funding Appeals to HEFCE

RECEIVED:

Information on the scope and nature of the ELQ-related appeals received by HEFCE from HEIs with regards to their funding allocations for 2008/09 (SC.480/07-08).

631/07-08

UUK I-Note I/08/052: JISC Repositories Briefing Papers

RECEIVED:

Briefing papers describing the need for research papers and learning and teaching materials to be properly managed and the benefits of digital repositories for fulfilling this purpose (SC.477/07-08).

632/07-08

UUK I-Note I/08/053: National Audit Office Report – Widening Participation in HE

RECEIVED;

A summary of the main findings of the NAO report on widening participation in Higher Education (SC.479/07-08).

KMS/jf/steersshare/minutes200708/July08/14July08