

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 14 December 2010

- Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor A Caesar,  
Professor K Lamberts (from item 242/10-11),  
Professor M Taylor,  
Mr D Stevens (from item 237/10-11).
- Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor S Bruzzi, Professor R Higgott, Professor C Hughes,  
Professor T Jones, Professor J Labbe, Professor P Winstanley.
- In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar (until item 240/10-11), Finance  
Director, Director of HR, Director of Estates, Executive Officer (VC's Office),  
Administrative Officer (Governance), International Research Development Officer (for  
item 237/10-11).

236/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2010 be approved, subject to the following addition:

*213/10-11*

(...)

REPORTED: (by the Learning & Development Adviser Manager)

(...)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience and the Learning & Development Adviser Manager would investigate potential responses to the HEA consultation on the UK Professional Standards Framework by other institutions.
- (b) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience together with the Learning & Development Adviser Manager compile a letter in response to the HEA consultation on the UK Professional Standards Framework, before the submission deadline of Monday 17 January 2011.

(...)

237/10-11 BIS EU Framework Programme – Call for Evidence (minute 140/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's response to the Government's consultation on the EU Framework Programme (SC.172/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the International Research Development Officer)

- (a) That there were similarities between the EU Framework and the University's current activity and focus.

- (b) That the University's response could be used as a basis for the University's own purposes in discussions with the UK Government and European Commission.

(by the Finance Director)

- (c) That she would provide the International Research Development Officer with suggested amendments to the response to Question 37 regarding the funding of overheads, before submission of the University's response to the consultation.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (d) That Question 15 should refer to the Health Technology Assessment, rather than the Human Tissue Authority.
- (e) That consideration should be given to the University's response to Question 5 regarding low carbon as an integral element of all appropriate collaborative R&D activities.

RESOLVED:

That the International Research Development Officer make the suggested amendments to the responses to Questions 5, 15 and 37 of the University's response to the Government's consultation on the EU Framework Programme, before submission prior to the deadline of Tuesday 4 January 2011.

238/10-11

Qtr 1 End - ARC and Devolved Departments

RECEIVED:

A report setting out the 2010/11 Q1 financial position for academic departments, including WMS and WBS, together with an oral report (SC.166/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the Income Summary Statement showed a significantly favourable variance against forecast for student fees and research income.
- (b) That favourable comparisons in gross surplus against budget were observed for Statistics, Mathematics, Law and Politics & International Studies.
- (c) That adverse variances in gross surplus against budget were observed for Warwick Business School and History, and that discussion between these departments and ARC would continue.

239/10-11

Fees Working Group report

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Fees Working Group proposing changes to non-standard fee levels, and the operation of fee and bursary payments in response to the changed standard period of registration for PhD students (SC.169/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the Fees Working Group report was submitted to the Committee earlier than in previous years, to ensure that non-standard fee details were available to students earlier in the admissions cycle.

- (b) That key elements of the proposal included:
  - (i) That the Department of Economics planned to move to a single fee across all Masters courses.
  - (ii) That the Warwick Medical School proposed a below-standard increase to their Masters fees.
  - (iii) That the Institute of Education would move to the standard fee but noted their funding streams remain uncertain.
  - (iv) That the School of Law indicated some reservation regarding the ongoing impact of fee levels on recruitment to their courses.
- (c) That work was being undertaken in the Faculty of Arts to identify impact and trends in enrolments experienced as a result of changes to fee levels, to be presented at a future meeting of the working group.
- (d) That the extension of the standard period of registration for PhDs to four years, could result in the re-consideration of academic regulations but would not impact fee policy.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience))

- (e) That a drop in recruitment to the History MA had occurred following an increase in fees.
- (f) That further consideration should be given before the Research Excellence Framework deadlines, noting that panels looked for smooth trajectories in research student registrations.

(by the President of the Students' Union)

- (g) That the Students' Union policy was to oppose any increase in fees, noting that the University would need to consider the potential impact of increased undergraduate fees on resultant postgraduate student numbers.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed increases in non-standard tuition fees for undergraduate and postgraduate courses for 2011/12 be approved, as set out in SC.169/10-11.
- (b) That the Committee approved the fee for all full-time PhD students on a standard period of registration be charged and payable annually over the specified first three years of their registration.
- (c) That, in line with resolution (b), the Committee approved the total maintenance funding for students via WPRS be paid over the first three years of their registration, with no further payments being due in the period of registration.

240/10-11

UUK update: establishment of new HE panel on Freedom of Information

RECEIVED:

An update from the UUK regarding freedom of information (Fol) issues affecting HEIs, including the publication of research data (SC.168/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That FoI responsibilities placed an increased burden on institutions, in addition to potential issues arising for academics compelled to release the results of their research.
- (b) That UUK and the Information Commissioner's Office would establish a Higher Education Panel that will meet on 27 January 2011, to consider sector specific issues relating to FoI, and had sought expressions of interest for senior nominees.

241/10-11 UKBA consultation on the Student Immigration System

CONSIDERED:

Communication from the UKBA regarding a consultation on reform of Tier Four of the Points Based System (SC.175/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the media focus concerning the Tier Four student entry route, had focused particularly on the limited entitlement to work and the return of students overseas after their course.

(by the President of the Students' Union)

- (b) That he believed the reform of Tier Four would have a large negative impact on overseas recruitment to UK institutions.

RESOLVED:

That a response to the Tier Four reform consultation be drafted by the Director of the International Office, to be considered by the Committee at a future meeting, prior to the deadline of 31 January 2011.

242/10-11 UUK: Relocation of the UK Research Integrity Office

RECEIVED:

A note from the UUK regarding the relocation of the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) (SC.180/10-11).

243/10-11 RCUK "Concordat for engaging the public with research"

RECEIVED:

A letter from RCUK with notification of the launch of the new research funders' "Concordat for engaging the public with research" on 7 December 2010 (SC.167/10-11).

244/10-11 Technology Innovation Centres

RECEIVED:

- (a) An announcement by the Science & Technology Select Committee confirming oral evidence sessions in its inquiry into Technology Innovation Centres (SC.170/10-11).
- (b) The University's response to the Science and Technology Committee inquiry examining the Fraunhofer model as a model for Technology Innovation Centres (TICs) in the UK (minute 209/10-11 refers) (SC.176/10-11).

245/10-11 CBI/NUS employability guide

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the UUK's request for case studies on employability for a forthcoming CBI-NUS report (minute 210/10-11 refers) (SC.177/10-11).

246/10-11 UUK report: "Creating Prosperity: the role of HE in driving the UK's creative economy"

RECEIVED:

A UUK report highlighting the contribution of UK HEI's to the creative economy, noting the case study on the Digilab on page 28 (SC.181/10-11).

JFB/KP/steersshare/minutes/201011/Dec10/14Dec10