

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 5 December 2016

- Present: Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director (Chair)), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor C Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)), Professor D Leadley (Academic Member of the Senate), Mr L Pilot (President of the Students' Union), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of Science), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)), Professor L Young (Academic Vice-President).
- Apologies: Professor S Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)), Professor C Ennew (Provost), Ms J Horsburgh (Strategy Director), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President), Ms R Sandby-Thomas (Registrar), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement)).
- In Attendance: Dr M Bobe (Head of Enterprise and Innovation Programmes, RIS, for item 139/16-17), Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Dr G Carden (Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics (Acting Secretary)), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Mrs P Glover (Secretary to Council), Mr D Pearson (Senior Assistant Registrar (Graduate School), for item 138/16-17), Mrs C Wightman (Administrative Officer (Governance) (Assistant Secretary)).

131/16-17 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 21 November be approved subject to the review and agreement of the wording of 120/16-17 by the Director of Health and Safety.

132/16-17 Conflicts of Interest

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That, should any members or attendees of the Steering Committee have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education Code of Governance (2014).

NOTE: No declarations were made.

133/16-17 *Student Occupation

134/16-17 Professor Andrew Coats

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Professor Coats would be leaving his role as Academic Vice-President of the Monash-Warwick Alliance at the end of December 2016, albeit that he would continue to work in a part-time capacity within Warwick Medical School.

RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Steering Committee be extended to Professor Coats for the work that he had undertaken in respect of the Monash-Warwick Alliance.

135/16-17 New Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Professor Matthew Nudds, who joined Warwick in 2012 as Head of the Department of Philosophy, would take over the role of Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences from Professor Christopher Hughes on 2 January 2017.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Steering Committee be extended to Professor Nudds in respect of his appointment to his new role.

136/16-17 Letter exchange between Warwick's University and College Union (UCU) and the Vice-Chancellor on topics discussed at the July and October all-staff meetings

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Vice-Chancellor had published his response to the letter from the Warwick UCU setting out staff concerns following the referendum result on membership of the EU and that the letter, which set out the range of steps that the University was taking to make clear its commitment to full engagement with Europe, was available to read on Insite, together with the letter from the UCU.

137/16-17 Location identified for Warwick in California Graduate School

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Roseville City Council in California had agreed to enter into negotiations into the sale of a property to the University Development Foundation which would enable the University to house its California Graduate School, noting that the building, which was currently occupied by the Roseville fire service, would be remodelled and upgraded to host 400-450 students by 2018.

138/16-17 *Consultation on Undergraduate Part-Time Maintenance Loans

CONSIDERED:

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University should, within its response to this consultation (and in the consultation response discussed under item 138/16-17), express in a non-contradictory way its view that there should not be an age restriction on loans as this would be discriminatory.
- (b) That subject to the inclusion of the view outlined in (a), the University's proposed response to the consultation on undergraduate part-time maintenance loans be approved for submission as set out in SC.57/16-17 {restricted} by the deadline of 16 December 2016.

139/16-17 *Consultation on Postgraduate Doctoral Loans

RECEIVED:

The University's draft response to the consultation on postgraduate doctoral loans (SC.56/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University should, in its response to question 23 of the consultation paper, include a note on the full cost of studying for a PhD and on the value of a standard Research Council stipend in order to show the cost to a student of self-funding.
- (b) That the University should, in its response to the postgraduate doctoral loans consultation, express in a non-contradictory way its view that there should not be an age restriction on loans as this would be discriminatory, noting that the Academic Registrar would review the wording prior to submission.
- (c) That the Senior Assistant Registrar (Graduate School) would bring to a future meeting of the Steering Committee details on faculties' non-completion rates for postgraduate students.
- (d) That, subject to the inclusion and approval of the additional responses set out in (i) and (j) above, the University's proposed response to the consultation on postgraduate doctoral loans be approved for submission as set out in SC.56/1617 {restricted} by the deadline of 16 December 2016.

140/16-17 *HE-BCI Survey 2015-16

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft response to the HE-BCI Survey 2015-16 (SC.58/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That further work would be undertaken on the response to question 19 - 'What other business and community activities are carried out in your HEP and are not covered in the survey?' - with the proposed text being reordered to ensure that information about some of the University's newer initiatives appeared first.
- (b) That the Part A response should be reviewed to determine whether there was an opportunity to reflect more robustly the University's strategy in terms of taking an active leadership role in regional engagement.
- (c) That the choice of the 'three key contribution areas' in Part A question 1 should be reviewed to determine whether any of the options not currently selected should replace 'commercialisation (e.g.: spin-off activity/licensing)' which was currently selected.
- (d) That any further thoughts in respect of adding to or amending the draft Part A response should be shared with the Head of Enterprise and Innovation Programmes, RIS, and any suggestions relating to the draft Part B response should be provided to the Group Finance Director, noting that the deadline for submission of the survey to HESA was 16 December 2016.
- (e) That subject to the agreed actions being undertaken, the University's draft Part A response as set out in SC.58/16-17 {restricted} be approved for submission to HESA.
- (f) That the recommendation to remit the Group Finance Director to approve the Part B submission on behalf of the Steering Committee, be approved.

141/16-17 *Report from the Capital Space and Amenities Group

CONSIDERED:

An update on the key strategic and operational matters discussed and decisions taken by the Capital Space and Amenities Group (CSAG) at its meeting on 14 November 2016 (SC.59/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee would consider the recommendations for events management in The Oculus building once the paper had been discussed by CSAG in 2017.
- (b) That consideration be given to the issues raised around the availability of suitable space both for the annual Confirmation and Clearing event and for examinations, including whether, from 2017, a standard annual booking could be made within The Oculus for the Confirmation and Clearing event and whether the old Sports Centre could be kept open as accommodation for examinations.
- (c) That the report from the meeting of the Capital Space and Amenities Group on 14 November 2016 be noted.

142/16-17 *Institutional Teaching and Learning Review

RECEIVED:

An oral update from the Academic Registrar on the Institutional Teaching and Learning Review (ITLR).

As at 5 January 2017.