

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 9 January 2017

Present: Professor Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President (Chair)), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor C Ennew (Provost), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor C Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)), Professor D Leadley (Academic Member of the Senate), Professor M Nudds (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President), Ms R Sandby-Thomas (Registrar), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement)), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)), Professor L Young (Academic Vice-President).

Apologies: Mr L Pilot (President of the Students' Union), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of Science).

In Attendance: Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Mr T Britten (Director (Business Development), for item SC.64/16-17), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Mrs P Glover (Secretary to Council), Ms J Horsburgh (Strategy Director (Secretary)), Dr F MacCallum (Associate Professor, Psychology), Ms G McGrattan (Director, People Group), Mrs C Wightman (Administrative Officer (Governance) (Assistant Secretary)).

150/16-17 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2016 be approved.

151/16-17 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.

152/16-17 Health and Safety Update (minute 120/16-17 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Chair's Action had been taken to approve the wording of minute 120/16-17 (Health and Safety Update) following review and minor revisions by the Director of Health and Safety.

153/16-17 Secretary to Steering Committee

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Strategy Director had resumed her role as Secretary to the Steering Committee following a period of absence during November and December 2016.
RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Committee be extended to Dr Giles Carden for acting as Secretary to the Steering Committee in the Strategy Director's absence.

154/16-17 Welcome to Professor Matthew Nudds

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Professor Nudds, who took up the role of Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences with effect from 2 January 2017, be welcomed to his first meeting of the Steering Committee.

155/16-17 Welcome to Dr Fiona MacCallum

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Dr Fiona MacCallum be welcomed on being in attendance as part of a programme of shadowing Professor Aileen Clarke.

156/16-17 Estates Office Award

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Estates Office had been named 'Employer of the Year' in City College Coventry's 2016 Shine Awards, having been nominated by City College's Carpentry Assessor, who had been impressed with the work of Lee Cartwright, the University's Carpenter / Supervisor, and his support for the three apprentices training on campus.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Steering Committee be extended to Mr Cartwright and colleagues in the Estates Office.

157/16-17 Response to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education Consultation on the Review Process for Transnational Education (TNE)

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- a. That Chair's Action had been taken in late December 2016 to approve the University's draft response to the QAA's consultation on the review process for transnational education (TNE) in order that this could be submitted by the response deadline of 23 December 2016.
- b. That the QAA's proposals were quite uncontroversial and similar to what was already in place, noting that the only issue raised by the University was about proposed timescales for the process.

158/16-17 Monash-Warwick Alliance Renewed

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That a new five year agreement, which would encourage the continuation of partnerships in research and education, had been signed between the University of Warwick and Monash University, Australia, noting that the Alliance continued to generate global acclaim, having recently been awarded the 'Excellence in Innovation in Partnership and International Engagement' accolade at the Victorian International Education Awards in Melbourne.

159/16-17 Review of University Governing Instruments

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That in November 2016 the Council had approved the establishment of a sub-group to undertake the review of the governing instruments of the University as commissioned in 2012, noting that there would be a process of consultation with Senate, the Students' Union, the Trades Unions and relevant committees, with the intention of producing proposals for discussion in the spring of 2017.

160/16-17 Destination Warwick

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That a Destination Warwick Staff Showcase Day was being held on Monday 16 January, opening up some of the campus's facilities through a range of taster sessions, noting that the Creative Warwick campaign, a collaboration between the Students' Union, Arts Centre and University as a whole, in celebration of the 250+ student societies at Warwick, would be launching simultaneously.

161/16-17 Student Occupation

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That on Friday 16 December 2016 the occupation of The Slate by University students protesting about a range of issues was brought to a peaceful conclusion, noting that the University had engaged with the protestors and the Students' Union sabbatical officers since the start of the occupation on 2 December 2016.

162/16-17 Higher Education and Research Bill 2016-17

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- a. That today was the first day of the committee stage of the passage of the Higher Education and Research Bill 2016-17 through the House of Lords, noting that there were six days of debate on the Bill scheduled over the coming weeks, prior to the report stage.
- b. That considerable preparatory work, including meetings with government officials, had been undertaken by the University prior to committee stage in order to ensure the provision of as much relevant material as possible, noting that the extent to which the government would press to get the Bill through the House of Lords was unknown.
- c. That the Home Office overseas student visa consultation promised by the UK Home Secretary for autumn 2016 would now not be published until 2017.

163/16-17 *Report from the Campus and Commercial Services Group Executive Committee

RECEIVED:

A report from the Campus and Commercial Services Group Executive Committee (SC.64/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Campus and Commercial Services Group Executive Committee be noted.

164/16-17 *Report from the Academic Resourcing Committee

RECEIVED:

A report from the Academic Resourcing Committee (ARC) (SC.65/16-17 {restricted}) providing an update on the work of the Committee during the first term of the current academic year.

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Academic Resourcing Committee be noted.

165/16-17 *Access Agreement Monitoring Return 2015/16

CONSIDERED:

A report (SC.66/16-17 {restricted}) from the Academic Registrar informing the Steering Committee of the main outcomes that the University would report to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) through its 2015/16 access agreement monitoring return.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the content provided be approved to form the basis of the University's annual monitoring return to OFFA relating to the commitments made in the 2015/16 Access Agreement.
- b. That the Access Agreement Monitoring Return 2015/16 report be noted.
- c. That the Committee wished to record its thanks to the departments responsible for the achievements against the Access Agreement.

166/16-17 Membership of Senate Committees 2016/2017

CONSIDERED:

A paper (SC.67/16-17) proposing changes to the constitution and membership of the Aegrotat Committee, the Board of the Faculty of Science, the Faculty of Science Undergraduate Studies Committee, the Faculty of Social Sciences Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Senate.

RESOLVED:

That the recommended in-year appointments and changes to memberships set out in paper SC.67/16-17 be approved on behalf of the Senate.

167/16-17 *Institutional Teaching and Learning Review

RECEIVED:

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

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

168/16-17 Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) Board decisions on changes to QR RDP Supervision Funding (HEFCE Circular letter 24/2016) (online only)

RECEIVED:

A report SC.68/16-17 (online only) setting out the HEFCE circular letter 24/2016 announcing decisions made by the HEFCE Board to implement a change in the method for counting postgraduate research (PGR) students that inform Quality-Related (QR) Research Degree Programme (RDP) supervision funding for 2017/18 onwards.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

As at 20 January 2017.