

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 18 November 2013

- Present: Vice-Chancellor and President,
Professor Christina Hughes,
Professor Christopher Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Mr B Sundell,
Professor P Winstanley,
Professor L Young.
- Apologies: Provost, Registrar and Chief Operating Officer, Professor A Caesar, Professor J Palmowski, Professor S Swain, Professor M Taylor, Professor P Thomas.
- In Attendance: Deputy Registrar, Group Finance Director, Director of Estates, Director of Human Resources, Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics (for items 62/13-14 and 63/13-14), Assistant Registrar (Strategic Planning and Analytics) (for items 62/13-14 and 63/13-14).

55/13-14 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2013 be approved.

56/13-14 Times Higher Education Research Grant Income League Table

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That the University had been ranked 9th in the Times Higher Education league table of research grant income, published on 14 November 2013.
- (b) That this position represented a threefold increase on the 2012 rankings.
- (c) That it would be useful for the results to be calculated per-capita, noting that Warwick's ranking could potentially be even higher given its comparatively small size.

57/13-14 Institute of Digital Healthcare

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That Professor Sudhesh Kumar, Deputy Dean of Warwick Medical School, had been appointed as the new Director of the Institute of Digital Healthcare.
- (b) That the Institute of Digital Healthcare (IDH), a partnership with NHS Midlands and East, WMG and WMS, aimed to improve health and wellbeing through the development, evaluation and use of innovative digital technologies and services.
- (c) That Professor Kumar would be leading a new team that drawing on a wide range of backgrounds including biomedical engineering, health informatics, biomedical imaging, healthcare virtual reality and neural engineering.

58/13-14 Awards for the Monash-Warwick Alliance

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That the Monash-Warwick Alliance was celebrating a double awards success from both UK and Australian funders for research into the worlds of Italian culture and of ageing and pensions.
- (b) That along with Griffith University and the University of Western Australia, the Alliance was part of a £1.8 million (AU\$3m) joint research award from Australian research funding body Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) for research on superannuation and ageing societies.
- (c) That additionally, academics at Warwick and Monash would also collaborate as part of an £1.8 million award from the UK-based Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), looking at how modern Italian culture had developed around the world.
- (d) That the AHRC funded project would be led by the University of Bristol.

59/13-14 Warwick Conferences

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That Warwick Conferences had again been awarded the prestigious Investors in People accreditation.
- (b) That the achievement placed Warwick Conferences amongst a select group of employers, as just a quarter of firms achieved the standard each year.
- (c) That the areas in which Warwick's collection of conferencing venues were found to particularly excel were: the apprenticeships programme; staff inductions; the learning and development programme for staff; and the staff Reward and Recognition scheme.

60/13-14 Delegation from Brazil

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That on Tuesday 22 October 2013, the University had hosted a delegation of Presidents and representatives from ten of Brazil's state funding.
- (b) That as the visit was a part of the UK Embassy in Brazil's Low Carbon Energy initiative, Warwick's Energy GRP put together a programme to showcase some of the work being done on the Warwick campus in the area of energy research.
- (c) That on Thursday 14 November 2013 the University also hosted the second annual Brazil Networking Event in Radcliffe Private Dining Room, at which the latest cohort of students funded by the Science Without Borders programme were welcomed.
- (d) That the aim of the networking event was to encourage colleagues at different stages of engagement with Brazil to share expertise on collaborating in the country.

61/13-14 Annual Monitoring Statement 2013

CONSIDERED:

The draft Annual Monitoring Statement for 2013 (SC.21/13-14).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the Annual Monitoring Statement (AMS) had been revised for 2013 to include questions on the equality and diversity of the student and governing bodies, and a section on perceived opportunities and challenges for higher education.
- (b) That completion of the AMS, and notably the additional questions on the current higher education environment, presented a good opportunity for the university to provide structured feedback to HEFCE.
- (c) That the AMS had been compiled by relevant contributors from administrative departments across the University.

(by the Group Finance Director)

- (d) That there was scope to re-word the response to question 2 on knowledge exchange activity to greater emphasise the University's advancements in this area.

(by the Director of Estates)

- (e) That the response to question 15 on the Capital Investment Fund should be expanded to include more detail on the work done on space usage and reducing carbon emissions.

(by the Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences)

- (f) That he would liaise with the Deputy Registrar over the inclusion of additional information on the intake modern foreign languages students in the response to question 17 on strategically important vulnerable subjects (SIVS).

(by the Dean, Warwick Medical School)

- (g) That the University's AMS response did not currently refer to the collaboration with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), and that he would give further consideration to the answer to question 23 on connected institutions.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (Life Sciences and Medicine) and Capital Development)

- (h) That the responses to questions 21b and 22 could be further nuanced to give greater emphasis to the University's research collaborations, including that with the LSTM.

(by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (i) That a number of the responses did not adequately reflect Warwick's unique, innovative nature, and that there was potential for further up-sell, notably in the sections on how the University was responding to challenges in the higher education sector.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft Annual Monitoring Statement be amended to incorporate the feedback from the Committee, and that delegated authority be granted to the Vice-Chancellor and President to approve the final response prior to submission by the deadline of 2 December 2013.
- (b) That the thanks of the Committee be extended to all colleagues who had contributed to the AMS response.

RECEIVED:

The Academic Statistics Yearbook for the 2013/14 academic year (SC.34/13-14).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics)

- (a) That there had been a modest increase in the student population, noting that 2012/13 had seen first stall in growth for 5 years.
- (b) That non-completion rates for undergraduate students had been decreasing for 5 years, which reflected the sector-wide trend; however, there remained potential for further improvement, noting that some competitors had non-completion rates of less than 2%.
- (c) That non-completion rates for postgraduate taught students were low, but the figures for postgraduate research were relatively high, particularly in the Faculty of Social Sciences.
- (d) That whilst it was possible that issues such as the number of students on extension and the volume of students leaving to pursue employment could be contributing to the high non-completion rate in Social Sciences, further analysis was required, including that of benchmarking data.
- (e) That there had been a growth in the number of academic and research staff since 2012, and that it was anticipated that the number of research staff would continue to increase in 2013/14.
- (f) That the research grant and contract award values were exceptionally high, noting that whilst this was largely due to the value of awards achieved by the Faculty of Science, there had been a marked increase in the value of awards for the Faculty of Social Sciences, following a downturn in this area in 2012/13.
- (g) That the number of Warwick researchers in the ISI Highly Cited index in Russell Group institutions had fallen, noting that it was difficult to achieve the criteria for inclusion in the index, and that the index counts were influenced by the size of the Science and Medicine base of a University, of which Warwick's was comparatively small.
- (h) That the extensive work undertaken by Student Careers and Skills in recent years was resulting in significant improvements in Warwick's position in relation to the Russell Group average in graduate employment.
- (i) That the format of future Academic Statistics Yearbooks would be given consideration by Strategic Planning and Analytics, noting the desirability of aligning it with the refreshed University strategy.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (j) That the Academic Statistics Yearbook was an extremely informative document, providing a useful "health-check" for the University.

63/13-14

HEFCE Recurrent Grant

RECEIVED:

A paper outlining changes to initial recurrent funding allocations for the 2013/14 academic year and adjusted recurrent teaching funding allocations for the 2012/13 academic year, plus proposed changes to the method and processes for the allocation of the teaching grant from 2015/16 (SC.35/13-14).

REPORTED: (by the Senior Assistant Registrar (Strategic Planning and Analytics))

- (a) That there had been a modest positive adjustment to the 2013/14 initial teaching grant allocation, taking the overall initial allocation to £23,528,759.
- (b) That HEFCE had confirmed that there would be no adjustment to the 2012/13 teaching funding allocations, with the overall recurrent grant remaining at £68.1million.
- (c) That HEFCE had proposed that from 2015/16, allocations would no longer be subject to the three-stage recalculation process as applied from 2012/13 to 2014/15, but would instead be informed by student numbers from the previous year.
- (d) That the new proposals would fund all students in 2015/16 as new-regime, with a top-up grant being provided for old-regime students remaining in study until 2017/18.
- (e) That the proposals were intended to simplify the process for the allocation of the teaching grant, and that given the small number of old-regime students likely to be studying at Warwick by 2015/16, the impact of the top-up element for the University was likely to be minimal.

64/13-14

Membership of Senate Committees

RESOLVED:

That the appointments to committees of the Senate be approved, as set out in paper SC.38/13-14.

JH/CS/Steering/Minutes/2013-2014/11-18-2013