

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 18 July 2011

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor S Bruzzi,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor M Finn,
Professor C Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor K Lamberts,
Mr D Stevens.

Apologies: Professor M Taylor, Professor P Winstanley.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of HR, Director of Estates, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Assistant Registrar (Governance), Administrative Officer (Governance), Mr L Bøe, Director of Research Support Services (for item 791/10-11), Acting Director of the Institute of Education (for item 792/10-11).

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Mr Leo Bøe, incoming President of the Students' Union, to the meeting as an observer. The Committee also extended its thanks to the outgoing President of the Students' Union, Mr D Stevens, for his contribution to the Students' Union and University during his period of office.

787/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2011 be approved.

788/10-11 OFFA Confirmation of Access Agreements for 2012/13 (minute 776/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

A press release from OFFA, confirming the approval of 139 Access Agreements, including that of the University (SC.567/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That OFFA had announced the approval of 139 access agreements, including that of Warwick, on 12 July 2011.
- (b) That the data available on the access agreements for Russell and 94 Group Universities showed that Warwick was in the mid-range for its fee level, after fee waivers had been accounted for.

789/10-11 HEFCE Consultation on Teaching Funding and Student Number Controls (minute 775/10-11 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That a group would convene over the summer to coordinate the University's response to the HEFCE's consultation on teaching funding and student number controls, for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to the submission deadline of 2 September 2011.

- (b) That HEFCE had published 'Modelling of institutional impact of AAB proposal that included data on the proportion of students with AAB grades at institutions, using 09/10 HESA data.
- (c) That the data placed the University in the top 8 institutions, with 82% of UK domicile students with known entry grades who obtained AAB+ grades.

790/10-11 UK India Research and Education Initiative (UKIERI) Invitation for Bids

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That an expression of interest in response to the UK India Research and Education Initiative's (UKIERI) invitation for proposals had been drafted in collaboration with the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education, and also involving the School of Oriental and African Studies and Loughborough University, to be submitted before the deadline of 21 July 2011.

791/10-11 UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO)

CONSIDERED:

A letter from the UKRIO inviting the University to subscribe to UKRIO, together with a summary business plan, and an update report from the Director of Research Support Services (SC.562/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Research Support Services)

- (a) That having access to the UKRIO services would be valuable should a serious accusation of scientific misconduct arise, noting such a situation had not arisen previously at the University.
- (b) That further investigation to clarify the range of provision included in the UKRIO subscription cost would assist in decision making.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (Science and Medicine))

- (c) That several Russell Group Pro-Vice-Chancellors had found the UKRIO helpful in providing an external perspective on the investigation of cases of alleged research misconduct.

(by the Registrar)

- (d) That the University had recently revised its own Code of Conduct for the Investigation of Research Misconduct and introduced a Research Code of Practice, drawing on UKRIO Guidance.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Research Support Services undertake further investigation into the provision under the UKRIO subscription, and report back to Steering Committee in due course.

792/10-11 Response to the green paper: Training our Next Generation of Outstanding Teachers

CONSIDERED:

A draft response to the Government Green Paper "Training our Next Generation of Outstanding Teachers" (SC.563/10-11).

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

- (a) That partnerships with schools would be of increasing importance to the delivery of Initial Teacher Training.
- (b) That the paper equated outstanding teachers with highly qualified graduates, and that the Institute of Education was in line with proposals by only accepting graduates with at least a 2:2 degree.
- (c) That the "Schools Direct" initiative would not allow for a stable and planned approach to teacher training provision, given uncertainty of commissioning and issues of critical mass.
- (d) That the TDA had not yet given consideration to whether the Graduate Training Programme (GTP) would carry a University award or how they would be funded.
- (e) That expansion of the Teach First programme was not expected to grow beyond 10% of initial teacher education places.

(by the Registrar)

- (f) That the Teach First Summer Institute had begun on campus, and that it was also important for the University to maintain its status as the lead regional provider for the Midlands.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar work with the Institute of Education on the final response to the Government Green Paper "Training our Next Generation of Outstanding Teachers" prior to submission by 29 July 2011.

793/10-11

REF 2014: Assessment Framework and Guidance on Submissions

RESOLVED:

A report setting out the general framework for assessment in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) and guidance on making submissions to the 2014 REF (SC.568/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That a consultation regarding the REF subject panel criteria was expected shortly, with a response due by 5 October 2011.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (Science and Medicine))

- (b) That the greater emphasis on equality and diversity was demonstrated by the requirement for each institution to develop, document and apply a code of practice on the fair and transparent selection of staff for their REF submissions.
- (c) That Category B and D staff could no longer be submitted to the REF.
- (d) That only staff in post on the census date of 31 October 2013 could be selected by the institution to be included in the submission.

RESOLVED:

That the Management Information and Planning Office draft a paper regarding the general framework for assessment in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) and guidance on making submissions to the 2014 REF to be considered by the Steering Committee on 22 August 2011.

794/10-11 The Higher Education Copyright Licence 2011-2014

CONSIDERED:

A UUK paper on the interim agreement for the Higher Education Copyright Licence for the period 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012 (SC.561/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the current Higher Education Copyright Licence would be continued for the period 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012, as agreement over the terms and cost of a new three-year licence had not been reached.

795/10-11 Modernising Scientific Careers (minute 648/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

A UUK note providing details of successful bidders in the Modernising Scientific Careers Master tender process (SC.560/10-11).

796/10-11 "Degree of Success - University Chances by Individual School"

RECEIVED:

A report from the Sutton Trust to accompany the first publication of statistics for higher education destinations for individual schools with sixth forms and colleges in England (SC.564/10-11).

JFB/KP/steersshare/minutes/201011/Jul11/18Jul11