

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 18 October 2010

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

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Finance Director, Director of Estates, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Director of HR, Head of Governance Support Services, Assistant Registrar (Deputy Registrar's Office), Director of Research Support Services (for items 41/10-11 and 42/10-11), Director of Administration (Operations and HR) for WMG (for item 42/10-11), Director of JLR Programmes (for item 42/10-11).

27/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2010 be approved.

28/10-11 Proposal for an EPSRC Centre in Innovative Manufacturing in Lightweight Vehicles (minute 597/09-10 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research {Science and Medicine})

That the bid for an EPSRC Centre in Innovative Manufacturing in Lightweight Vehicles had been submitted to the EPSRC by the deadline of 14 October 2010, noting that there had been four substantive changes to the proposal since consideration by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 14 June 2010, as set out below:

- (a) Professor Dashwood had replaced Professor Young as Principal Investigator;
- (b) The bid now included three academic partnerships, with the University of Cambridge, the University of Liverpool and Coventry University;
- (c) Proposals for a number of new academic posts had been supported by the Academic Resourcing Committee for inclusion in the bid.
- (d) Funding from Advantage West Midlands was no longer included in the bid.

29/10-11 UUK Research Conduct Survey (minute 815/09-10 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University response to the UUK Research Conduct Survey had been submitted to UUK prior to the deadline of 15 October 2010.

- 30/10-11 Advantage West Midlands Project Review 2010 Output (minute 804/09-10 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- Correspondence from the Chief Executive of Advantage West Midlands notifying the University that the Project Review had been completed and that the savings that the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills currently required of AWM had been delivered (SC.25/10-11).
- 31/10-11 USS Pensions Consultation
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- (a) That the University had received the USS Pensions Consultation packs and that distribution to members of the scheme was in progress;
 - (b) That the University would shortly begin a comprehensive communication plan to members of the scheme including emails, information on Insite and the organisation of information sessions;
 - (c) That there was an extremely tight deadline to get information to members of the scheme in time for the consultation commencement date of Wednesday 20 October 2010;
 - (d) That the consultation would run until 22 December 2010.
- 32/10-11 Pension Taxation
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That the University was currently analysing the potential implications of the recently announced proposals for changes to pension taxation.
- 33/10-11 Open Access Week
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- (a) That week commencing 19 October 2010 was International Open Access Week, dedicated to promoting the benefits of using Open Access as a method of disseminating scholarly research.
 - (b) That the Research Exchange would be hosting a number of events to mark the week, including, on Wednesday 20 October 2010, a programme of external speakers and drop-in sessions hosted by WRAP staff.
- 34/10-11 Ian Pearson
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That Ian Pearson, a Warwick graduate and former Economic Secretary to the Treasury and Science Minister, had been appointed Chair of the National Higher Education STEM Programme's Advisory Forum.
- 35/10-11 Professor Bertil Andersson
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That Professor Bertil Andersson had been appointed President of Nanyang Technological University.

36/10-11 Universities That Count (minute 828/09-10 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the 'Universities That Count' corporate responsibility benchmarking programme, in which the University had recently been awarded a Silver standard, had been suspended to facilitate a period of methodological review and that the index would next be open for completion in Autumn 2011.

37/10-11 The Browne Report

RECEIVED:

A copy of the Executive Summary of the Browne Report (SC.18/10-11), together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the Browne Report assumed a cut of 80% in the annual teaching grant as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, to be announced on Wednesday 20 October 2010.
- (b) That the proposed changes to funding in the sector were accompanied by a significant proposed increase in the amount of regulation, much of which was, in his view, inappropriate.

(by the Students' Union President)

- (c) That the Students' Union was hosting a debate on Tuesday 19 October 2010, with panelists including Professor Robin Naylor from the Department of Economics, Aaron Porter, President of the NUS and the Students' Union Education Officer.
- (d) That the inclusion of an additional panelist was possible and any interested parties who wished to volunteer should contact him.

38/10-11 HEFCE Review of JISC

CONSIDERED:

Correspondence from HEFCE inviting the University to submit comments to HEFCE's review of the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC), noting that the deadline for submission of responses was 10 November 2010 (SC.17/10-11)

RESOLVED:

That the Director of IT Services and the Librarian, in liaison with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (Science and Medicine) and the Information Policy and Strategy Committee, compile a response, to be considered by the Steering Committee prior to the deadline for submission of 10 November 2010.

39/10-11 European Commission 'Youth on the Move' Initiative and Consultation on EU Mobility Programmes

CONSIDERED:

Correspondence from Europe Unit of UUK informing the University of the 'Youth on the Move' mobility initiative, and of a consultation on the next-generation EU mobility programmes, noting that the deadline for submission of responses was 30 November 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research (Arts and Social Sciences) and the Director of the International Office compile a response, to be considered by the Steering Committee prior to the deadline for submission of 30 November 2010.

40/10-11

Appointments to Committees of the Senate

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That further nominations or appointments from the Students' Union for representatives on Senate and Council committees were required.
- (b) That ballots would be circulated today via email for the election of a member of the Assembly to serve on the Senate.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the appointment of Dr David Leadley of the Department of Physics to the Graduate Appeals Committee, on the recommendation of the Board of the Faculty of Science, be approved on behalf of the Senate.
- (b) That the appointment of Dr Jim Robinson of the Department of Physics and Dr Amanda Dowd of WMG to the Investigating Committee into Cases of Suspected Cheating Panel, on the recommendation of the Board of the Faculty of Science, be approved on behalf of the Senate.

41/10-11

Research Strategy Update

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (Science and Medicine), the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research (Arts and Social Sciences) and the Director of Research Support Services updating on developments including the Science City Initiative and AWM Funding, Large and Strategic Proposals, Fellowships, RSS Operational Update, Research KPI's, Research Income Generation and Research involving the use of Human Tissue (SC.24/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Research Support Services)

- (a) That the value of awards received in 2009/10 had exceeded £100m.
- (b) That the contract for the International Institute for Product and Service Innovation, worth just in excess of £6m, had been signed the previous week.
- (c) That Warwick had achieved a 100% success rate in the recent major applications to Framework 7, noting that the successful proposals had been led by Politics and International Studies, the Department of Sociology and Warwick Medical School respectively.
- (d) That the recent Human Tissue Authority inspection had gone well, noting that there remained some issues of compliance that were currently being progressed by the University's Designated Individual under the licence, Professor John Davey.

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

- (e) That there was a risk that future reductions in available research funding could result in reduced success, noting that in some areas applications rates had recently been seen to fall.

(by the Dean of the Warwick Medical School)

- (f) That the Warwick Medical School was monitoring closely the research within the School that involved the use of human tissue and that it was clear that any such research needed to comply with statutory requirements.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellors for Research should continue to liaise with Heads of Department noting that, although the University was performing well in terms of research, it was important that application rates remained high in order to respond to future funding constraints.

42/10-11

WMG Advanced Technology Centre

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Director of Administration (Operations and HR) for WMG concerning the proposal to locate Jaguar Land Rover's Advanced Technology Group in WMG.

REPORTED: (by the Director of JLR Programmes)

- (a) That the proposal, which would involve collaborative research between Warwick academics and JLR/partner researchers, was closely aligned with current government strategy.
- (b) That it was anticipated that 160 JLR/partner staff would be located within the Digilab and the International Automotive Research Centre by the end of the 2010/11 academic year.
- (c) That it was anticipated that there would be a positive impact on the existing activity in Digilab and the International Automotive Research Centre in terms of the sharing of expertise and cross-fertilisation of ideas.
- (d) That there may be opportunities for the additional research capacity to contribute positively to the next REF submission, for example through secondments.

(by the Dean of the Warwick Medical School)

- (e) That the Warwick Medical School would be interested in further collaboration with WMG, noting the current collaboration with the Institute of Digital Health.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee welcomed the proposals contained within paper SC.23/10-11.

43/10-11

QAA Consultation on the Proposed Successor to Institutional Audit

CONSIDERED:

Correspondence from the QAA informing the University of a consultation on the proposed successor to Institutional Audit (SC.19/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Education and Student Experience})

- (a) That she had strong reservations regarding the timing of the consultation and of the strategies that lay behind it.
- (b) That the document would be considered by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee at its next meeting.

(by the Registrar)

- (c) That the proposed new process for reviewing quality and standards was a further example of increases in the regulatory burden placed upon universities, and links to the recommendations in the Browne report were evident.

(by the Students' Union President)

- (d) That, in the light of the Browne Report, a system of checks and balances was required to ensure that universities did not overcharge students based on the perceived brand premium of their institution.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (e) That the proposals reflected broader issues surrounding threats to institutional autonomy, and that this should be strongly resisted.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) co-ordinate the drafting of a robust response to the consultation, to be considered by the Steering Committee prior to the deadline for submission of 26 November 2010.

44/10-11

Improving Public Information

RECEIVED:

An email sent to the Registrar by the Chair of the Higher Education Public Information Steering Group, Professor Janet Beer, concerning the Staffordshire / Oakleigh report and informing him of a forthcoming HEFCE consultation on the improvement of public information (SC.20/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That Professor Beer was also Chair of the Student Charter Working Group, and that this could also create significant added burden in regulatory terms.

45/10-11

University Response to the UCEA Consultation on the Single Equality Duty

RECEIVED:

The University response to the recent UCEA Consultation on the Single Equality Duty (SC.26/10-11).

46/10-11

"Financing a Private Sector Recovery" Consultation

RECEIVED:

The Connect Midlands response to BIS on the "Financing a Private Sector Recovery" Consultation (SC.27/10-11).

47/10-11

Employers Pension Forum briefing on the Independent Public Service Pension Commission's interim report

RECEIVED:

A press release and briefing from the EPF on the Independent Public Service Pension Commission's interim report (SC.28/10-11).

48/10-11 UKIERI Consultation Responses

RECEIVED:

The University and WMG responses to the recent consultation on the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (SC.30/10-11).

49/10-11 Public Bodies Reform

RECEIVED:

The list published by the government of proposed changes to quangos (SC.31/10-11).

NO/GB/steersshare/minutes/2010-11/Oct10/18Oct10