

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 19 November 2012

- Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor S Croft,
Professor Christina Hughes,
Professor Christopher Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor S Swain,
Professor M Taylor,
Professor P Winstanley,
Mr N Swain.
- Apologies: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor P Thomas, Deputy Registrar, Group Finance Director.
- In Attendance: Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of HR, Director of Development and External Affairs, Director of Estates, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Director on Management Information and Planning (for item 114/12-13), Assistant Registrar (Governance) – Mr S Mak (for item 115/12-13).
- 108/12-13 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2012 be approved.
- 109/12-13 UK International Baccalaureate World Student Conference
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- (a) That the University will host the first UK International Baccalaureate World Student Conference in August 2013.
- (b) That the Warwick world student conference is entitled 'Utopian Visions: employing the Arts for Social and Political Change' and will give students the opportunity to explore how music, dance, theatre, film, the visual arts, performance and media can be used to commentate on, understand and challenge society and politics.
- 110/12-13 WBS Enterprise Research Centre
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- (a) That Warwick Business School had been awarded the contract to create a new £2.9m Enterprise Research Centre (ERC) to boost the performance of the UK's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in collaboration with Aston University.
- (b) That Warwick will work in collaboration with Aston alongside a consortium of other universities including Strathclyde, Birmingham, De Montfort and Imperial College London.
- (c) That Professor Roper from WBS will be director of the centre with the vision of the ERC becoming the focal point for advice, research and information for SMEs nationwide.

111/12-13 Heart of England in Bloom Environment award

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That Warwick's Estates team had been awarded the Heart of England in Bloom Environment award for their "ongoing holistic approach to supporting, protecting and enriching the biodiversity around the campus".
- (b) That it was the second year running that the Estates team had received an award as part of the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom campaign.

112/12-13 Student Radio Awards

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the 2012 Student Radio Awards took place at the indigO2 on Thursday 08 November, celebrating the very best of student radio.
- (b) That the University's student radio station, Radio Warwick (RaW) had won four awards, including two golds for Best Newcomer and Best Live Event.

113/12-13 Professor Bob Johnston

REPORTED: (by the Vice Chancellor)

- (a) That Bob Johnston, Professor of Operations Management at Warwick Business School died on 12 November 2012.
- (b) That Professor Johnston had made a sustained contribution to the University of Warwick and WBS for over 27 years.

114/12-13 Academic Statistics Yearbook

RECEIVED:

The Academic Statistics Yearbook for the 2012/13 academic year (SC.74/12-13).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Management Information and Planning)

- (a) That the size of the student population had decreased for the first time since 2006.
- (b) That whilst the staff population had increased, our student:staff ratio may not appear as strong as expected as many peer institutions suffered a larger reduction in student population.
- (c) That new metrics had been included in the yearbook at the request of the Council, focusing on under-represented groups at the University.
- (d) That data showed that diversification in the University's research portfolio was helping to reduce the risk to the institution posed by further cuts in research council funding.
- (e) That the University still had a relatively low proportion of Science faculty FTEs compared to non-Science FTEs compared to other Russell Group institutions.
- (f) That the number of articles published in 'Science' and 'Nature' was still significantly lower than the University's 2015 target, although the number of articles in the 'Nature' family of publications had increased.
- (g) That there was a wider on-going effort to provide departments with relevant and current management information to aid in decision making.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (h) That that there was the potential that citation scores were being negatively affected by journal articles that were being inaccurately cited due to incorrect address codes.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar coordinate a communication to academic departments regarding correct address code formats for papers and citations.

115/12-13

HEFCE Annual Monitoring Statement

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft annual monitoring statement for submission to HEFCE (SC.78/12-13).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the annual monitoring statement was one of the suite of documents that the University is required to return to HEFCE on an annual basis.
- (b) That this year, three atypical questions had been added to the return requesting institutions' views on the impacts of the new funding arrangements.

(by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (c) That the use of Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) for the Warwick Collaborative Postgraduate Research Scholarships (WCPRS) Scheme had allowed the University to participate in ten new collaborations, and that highlighting this would strengthen the response.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (d) That the University's responses to the questions regarding the impact of the new funding arrangements needed to be considered carefully.
- (e) That the change in funding arrangements had resulted in reductions in student numbers across a wide range of demographics and had not been limited to just lower-socio economic groups.

(by the Registrar)

- (f) That the University's submission should note that there was a lack of clarity in some areas of the new funding arrangements and that the environment was in a near-constant state of change; the recruitment cycle for 2012 undergraduate entry exhibited a different set of priorities and issues from previous cycles.

RESOLVED:

That the University's draft annual monitoring statement be updated in line with comments from the meeting and that authority be delegated to the Registrar and Group Finance Director to approve the final submission on behalf of the Steering Committee.

116/12-13

Monash-Warwick Alliance

CONSIDERED:

A progress report for Monash-Warwick Alliance activity within 2012 and the associated KPIs (SC.72/12-13).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That a vehicle for long term collaborative activity with Monash was being investigated (i.e. a joint school or centre) to help facilitate joint appointments and other activity between the two Universities.
- (b) That although such a structure may have short term implications regarding REF eligibility, the University should take a longer term view and seek to highlight the necessity of such arrangements to HEFCE and other partners to help shape their long-term strategies.

(by the Dean of the Warwick Medical School)

- (c) That consideration may need to be given to the level of technical support available if it is desired maintain the services allowing for the smooth running of video-conferences and other communications methods with Monash as the usage of these tools expands within the academy.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education (Quality and Standards))

- (d) That there were currently eleven Warwick students due to travel to Monash during 2012/13 and that there was evidence of significant increased demand for future years.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (e) That the Chairs of both Universities' Councils felt that the level of participation in student exchanges between the Universities should be increased significantly.
- (f) That the quality of the joint appointments made by the Alliance to date was extremely good.

(by the Registrar)

- (g) That both Universities needed to be clear on what aspects of their current processes were customary and which were regulatory when attempting to align them, and be willing to be flexible on the customary aspects as demonstrated currently in HR.
- (h) That the structure of the Alliance should be such that it could be easily adapted and expanded to allow for additional compatible institutions in the future.

117/12-13

Membership of Senate Committees

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of Dr John Parkinson (Politics and International Studies) to serve on the Board of Graduate Studies, as one of up to four co-opted members of academic staff subject to the approval of the Senate, be approved.

KS/SS/Steering/Minutes/2012-13/19-11-2012