

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 19 September 2011

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor S Croft,
Professor M Finn,
Professor C Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor S Swain,
Professor M Taylor,
Professor P Thomas.

Apologies: Professor K Lamberts, Professor P Winstanley, Mr L Bøe.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Finance Director, Director of HR, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Director of Estates, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of Student Careers and Skills (for item 901/10-11).

897/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2011 be approved, subject to the following amendments (deletions ~~struck through~~, additions underlined):

872/10-11 Life Sciences Doctoral Training Bid

- (c) That the University DTP could expect to be awarded 40 to 50 ~~PhDs~~ PhDs overall from the DTP, and that awards were being more selectively restricted to those institutions who could provide appropriate infrastructure to support the research training environment.

(...)

898/10-11 National Student Survey Institutional Results (minute 843/10-11 refers)

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

- (a) That departmental results from the National Student Survey (NSS) were sent to each department, and included the contextual data of five comparable departments from other institutions.
- (b) That all departments were sent letters together with their results, and had been asked to discuss the NSS data internally, and to respond with an action plan by 5 October 2011.
- (c) That the communication with departments were tailored to reflect commendation of performance, satisfactory performance, and in those instances of departments with poor NSS results, confirming the need for relevant Heads and Directors of Study to discuss the departmental plan of action for improvement with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a paper with departmental analysis of the NSS results, be considered by the Steering Committee at a future meeting.
- (b) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience ensure that the good practice outlined in the departmental strategic plans in response to the NSS results be disseminated between departments.

899/10-11

Bluebell Residences

REPORTED: (by the Vice Chancellor)

That members of the Steering Committee would have the opportunity to tour the new Bluebell Residences and MAS Building, with the Director of Estates immediately following the meeting of the Committee.

900/10-11

GTP PGCE Fee

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had taken Chair's Action on behalf of the Steering Committee to approve the Fees Working Group recommendation that an academic fee for the GTP PGCE be charged from 2011/12, in recognition of the additional academic input to the programme and awarding of a PGCE.

901/10-11

DLHE Results

CONSIDERED:

An overview of the University's performance in the 2009/10 Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education survey (DLHE) and proposed actions in relation to the percentage of unemployed Warwick graduates (SC.637/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Student Careers and Skills)

- (a) That the University's DLHE 2009/10 results were mixed, with strong outcomes on some measures and more disappointing outcomes on others.
- (b) That the paper aligned the DLHE 2009/10 results with the anticipated graduate employment information required by the Key Information Set (KIS).
- (c) That the assistance of departments in the promotion of student engagement with Student Careers and Skills was welcomed.
- (d) That further work was to be undertaken with the Student Admissions and Recruitment Office to identify the appropriate competitors to benchmark outcomes.
- (e) That, although action was required in relation to the University's unemployment rates as at the census date of six months after graduation, it was also apparent that the University's graduates secure jobs considered to be at a graduate level and that pay good salaries.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience)

- (f) That other institutions had employed resource intensive methods to assist graduates find employment quickly after graduating, and that there was some evidence that there was a positive uplift in DLHE scores achieved approximately two years after implementation.

(by the Dean of Warwick Business School)

- (g) That institutions who performed well in national employment measures, such as Strathclyde and Aston, had a stronger tradition of work placements within their business courses, and that Warwick Business School was exploring this further.

(by the Director of Development, Communications and Strategy)

- (h) That engagement with graduates could continue should they have opened a WarwickForward email account, a free email forwarding service offered to Warwick alumni that allows graduates to maintain a permanent email address associated with the University.
- (i) That IT Services was expected to provide a University email account for life to all graduates by the end of the 2011 calendar year.

(by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science)

- (j) That the University's employability data for the science subjects could be impacted by the greater level of second class: lower degrees awarded in comparison to the other disciplines, and that she would be exploring the potential reasons for the results further with the Director of Student Careers and Skills.

(by the Deputy Registrar)

- (k) That there was to be further discussion with regard to a pilot study of internal graduate employment data from 3 years after graduation, for comparison with DLHE data.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Student Careers and Skills produce a table for DLHE 2009/10 unemployment data at subject level, to aid departments in their interpretation of the DLHE outcomes.
- (b) That the Director of Student Careers and Skills produce departmental information for future Open Day presentations, with a view to the University putting forward accessible and relevant information, in addition to that required in the Key Information Set (KIS).

902/10-11

QAA Expertise Database

CONSIDERED:

A letter from the Director of Research, Development and Partnerships at the QAA, with an invitation to nominate individuals to contribute their expertise in the development of the Quality Code (SC.638/10-11).

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

- (a) That departments had been asked to identify individuals for nomination to the QAA Expertise Database.

(by the Registrar)

- (b) That it was questionable as to whether it was appropriate to submit nominations, given that the University did not originally support the creation of the QAA Expertise Database.

RESOLVED:

That the list of potential nominees to the QAA Expertise Database be considered by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience, with a view to ascertaining and recommending to the Steering Committee whether the University should submit any nominations, prior to the nomination deadline of 15 October 2011.

903/10-11

Social Mobility and Child Poverty Review

CONSIDERED:

A policy briefing setting out UUK's future direction in terms of support for the higher education sector in relation to social mobility (SC.640/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Access, Widening Participation and Development)

- (a) That a recent article in the Times Higher discussed widening participation in the context of the European Union.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (b) That, while the University may not feel it fruitful to respond to the questions specifically, the University may wish to reiterate its position that OFFA does not need further powers to support Widening Participation.

RESOLVED:

That the University not respond to the questions within Alan Milburn's "call for evidence" on the higher education sector's activities to widen participation as set out in Annex A of paper SC.640/10-11, but that the University write a brief letter to the UUK to summarise a small number of points the University could usefully emphasise at this stage.

904/10-11

JISC Systematic Review of JANET(UK)

CONSIDERED:

An email from Capita Consulting, summarising the commissioning of three reviews by JISC to provide guidance on different aspects of the Wilson Review's recommendations, together with the Key Lines of Enquiry Document for the JISC Systematic Review of JANET(UK) (SC.641/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the JISC Systematic Review of JANET(UK) aimed to address whether JANET(UK) continued to offer value for money and whether it could meet current and future network related needs of the sector.
- (b) That should other institutions withdraw from JANET(UK) to use private providers, then the cost of JANET(UK) would likely increase for the remaining users.

RESOLVED:

That the University Librarian and Director of IT Services draft a response as soon as possible to the JISC Systematic Review of JANET(UK), and that this be considered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor prior to sending.

905/10-11 Appointments to Committees of the Senate

RESOLVED:

Fitness to Practise Committee Panel (MA S/W, Diplomas in Specialist Social Work and Person-Centered Counselling and Psychotherapy and PGCE)

That, following Penny Feldon stepping down due to her relocation to Scotland, the recommendation from the Acting Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning that Tessa Roxborough, BACP accredited counsellor, serve as one of six practitioners in the field of Person Centred (Rogerian) Counselling and Psychotherapy on the Fitness to Practise Committee Panel (MA Social Work, Diplomas in Specialist Social Work and Person-Centered Counselling and Psychotherapy and PGCE) be approved on behalf of the Senate.

906/10-11 Russell Group Response to the White Paper (minute 874/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft Russell Group response to the Consultation on the Government's White Paper "*Students at the Heart of the System*" (SC.642/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the Russell Group response as set out in SC.642/10-11 had most likely been further amended following comments received, but that members' further comments could be communicated.

RESOLVED:

That the key points of emphasis made in the Russell Group's response to the Consultation on the Government's White Paper "*Students at the Heart of the System*", be supported.

907/10-11 CPD Social Work Programme

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the School of Health and Social Studies had made a prudent decision not to tender for a CPD Social Work Programme.
- (b) That a report on the strategic direction of the School of Health and Social Studies would be considered by the Steering Committee at a future meeting.

908/10-11 Life Sciences Doctoral Training Bid (minute 872/10-11 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That the School of Life Sciences had submitted its application to BBSRC for a Doctoral Training Partnership by the deadline of 15 September 2011, with significant revisions, as requested by the Steering Committee, being made to the bid documentation.