

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 20 December 2010

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor K Lamberts,
Professor P Winstanley,
Mr D Stevens.

Apologies: Professor A Caesar, Professor S Bruzzi, Professor R Higgott, Professor C Hughes,
Professor T Jones, Professor M Taylor, Director of Estates.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Finance Director, Director of HR,
Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Executive Officer (VC's
Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of Research Support Services
(for items 260/10-11 to 261/10-11), Mr A Curtis, Principal Fellow, WMG (for item
260/10-11), Project Director - Low Carbon Vehicle Technology Project (for item
260/10-11), Project Manager - Low Carbon Vehicle Technology Project (for item
260/10-11).

254/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2010 be approved.

255/10-11 UUK: Government review of Prevent strategy (minute 217/10-11 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That the University had decided not to respond directly to the consultation on the
Government's review of the Prevent Strategy.

256/10-11 Leverhulme Awards

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had received notification of the award of four Leverhulme Major Research
Fellowships, and that congratulations were extended to those colleagues.

257/10-11 Teach First ITT allocations bid (minute 208/10-11 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had received confidential notification that its bid for the Teach First
provider contract for the Midlands region had been successful.

258/10-11 HEFCE budget letter

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the BIS letter to HEFCE concerning funding for 2011/12 (and part of 2010/11) was
expected to be received today, noting press reports of reduction in funding of approximately
6%, and that the letter would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

259/10-11

White Paper: 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for Public Health in England'

REPORTED: (by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

- (a) That the Government White paper on the future of public health entitled 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for Public Health in England' had been published and consultation would end on 8 March 2011.
- (b) That several major changes were outlined in the White paper, including the creation of Public Health England, a new body with a ring-fenced budget of about £4 billion that would be responsible for working with local authorities and driving improvement in public health.
- (c) That Warwick Medical School was well placed to respond to the White paper, given its expertise in the areas of prevention and wellbeing.

260/10-11

Advanced Materials and Process Technologies Project (AMPTP) and LOw CARbon vehicle Technology Embedding project (LOCATE)

CONSIDERED:

Major research proposals for the Advanced Materials and Process Technologies Project (AMPTP) (SC.182/10-11) and the LOw CARbon vehicle Technology Embedding project (LOCATE) (SC.183/10-11).

REPORTED: (by Mr A Curtis (Principal Fellow, WMG))

- (a) That AMPTP followed two major projects part funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which had created an experienced project management team within WMG.
- (b) That AMPTP held strategic importance for the University with potential for stronger relationships with industry partners such as Jaguar Land Rover.
- (c) That the funding rules allowed the option for ERDF funded equipment to be used for further research purposes once depreciated.
- (d) That partners would benefit from intellectual property and exploitation outcomes.

(by the Project Manager - Low Carbon Vehicle Technology Project)

- (e) That AMPTP and LOCATE were complementary projects, which would provide facilities for major industry partners that could only currently be accessed in mainland Europe or North America.
- (f) That three awareness events would run at the start of the project to begin building relationships with SMEs in the West Midlands region.

(by the Project Director - Low Carbon Vehicle Technology Project)

- (g) That the robust processes used on the Low Carbon Vehicle Technology Project to ensure appropriate governance relating to the funding rules by partners, would be applied to both AMPTP and LOCATE.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the outline proposals for both the Advanced Materials and Process Technologies Project (AMPTP) and the LOW CARbon vehicle Technology Embedding project (LOCATE) as set out in SC.182/10-11 and SC.183/10-11, be submitted before the deadline of 12 noon on 22 December 2010.
- (b) That further due diligence be undertaken with the Finance Director and Director of RSS, given the significant risk to the University arising from ERDF funding, noting that the University was concerned about further extending reliance on this funding stream.
- (c) That the full applications for both the Advanced Materials and Process Technologies Project (AMPTP) and the LOW CARbon vehicle Technology Embedding project (LOCATE), be considered at a future meeting of the Committee before the deadlines in May and June 2011 respectively.

261/10-11 THES Research Council Success Rates

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Director of Research Support Services regarding Research Council Funding, including THES Annual Review of Research Council Funding Success Rates (SC.191/10-11).

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

That the University was not achieving a sufficient market share of Research Council funding, given the deterioration in funding success rates experienced in 2009/10.

RESOLVED:

That departments be requested to apply robust processes to improve the quality of submissions to the Research Councils, and be encouraged to increase the number of applications, especially for large grants.

262/10-11 Improving the quality of research grant proposals

CONSIDERED:

A proposed letter from the Pro-Vice-Chancellors for Research to Heads of Departments, regarding the improvement of the quality of research grant proposals (SC.186/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the suggested processes for improvement of the quality of research grant proposals would also enhance collegiality and provide opportunities to support early career researchers.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed letter regarding the improvement of the quality of research grant proposals be sent from the Pro-Vice-Chancellors for Research to Heads of Departments.

263/10-11 OIA Pathway Report - second round of consultation

CONSIDERED:

Notification from the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) of the launch of the second round of consultation on developments of the OIA Scheme (SC.185/10-11).

RESOLVED:

That a response to the second round of OIA Pathway consultation be drafted by the Senior Assistant Registrar (Governance, Risk and Continuity), to be considered by the Committee at a future meeting, prior to the deadline of 14 February 2011.

264/10-11 Vetting and Barring scheme

RECEIVED:

Communications from the UCEA and UUK regarding a consultation on a review of the Government's Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) (SC.190/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That a response to the VBS review consultation was not submitted prior to the deadline of 22 November 2010, as the University welcomed the review and the basis of its instigation.

265/10-11 OFFA guidance – timing of access agreements

CONSIDERED:

Draft guidance from the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) with expectations of access agreements for 2012-13 and beyond (SC.194/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That there would be limited time between receipt of OFFA's final guidance in mid-February and the University's submission of access agreements for 2012-13 at the end of March 2011.
- (b) That the University's prospectus had gone to print before OFFA's suggested wording regarding tuition fee information for prospective 2012-13 students had been received, although a similar and relevant message had been included in the prospectus.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar would liaise with the Student Admissions and Recruitment Office to ensure the latest tuition fee information for prospective students be included on the University website.

266/10-11 UKBA consultation on the Student Immigration System

RECEIVED:

A note from UUK containing their views on the UKBA's consultation on the Student Immigration System (minute 241/10-11 refers) (SC.184/10-11).

267/10-11 University response to UUK Consultation: HE Exports and Government Support

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the UUK's survey on HE international and exports activity (minute 214/10-11 refers) (SC.189/10-11).

268/10-11 UUK invite to Healthcare Science briefing event

RECEIVED:

An invitation to a UUK briefing event for Higher Education on Healthcare Science on 14 January 2011(SC.192/10-11).

JFB/KP/steersshare/minutes/201011/Dec10/20Dec10