

# THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 6 October 2014

- Present: Professor N Thrift (Vice-Chancellor and President (Chair)), Professor A Coats (Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor T Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor), Professor L Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellor).
- Apologies: Professor Stuart Croft (Provost), Professor M Freely (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts), Professor M Taylor (Dean of the Warwick Business School), Professor P Thomas (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science), Ms C Turhan (President of the Students' Union), Professor P Winstanley (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine).
- In Attendance: Dr Giles Carden (Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics, for item 16/14-15), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Mrs C Henrywood (Assistant Registrar, Governance (Assistant Secretary)), Ms G McGrattan (Director of Human Resources), Mr K Sloan (Registrar and Chief Operating Officer (Secretary)).

1/14-15 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2014 be approved.

2/14-15 \*Proposal to Develop a Pre-University Programme for Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan (minute 345/13-14 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

That the Steering Committee would be advised of the outcome of the bid proposal process in due course.

3/14-15 Enhancing the Governance of Strategy Implementation, Resourcing, Capital Planning and Institutional Performance (minute 341/13-14 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (a) That the paper that was received by the Senate at its meeting that was held on 1 October 2014 did not include any proposed changes to membership and the terms of reference as discussed at the last meeting of the Steering Committee, noting that these changes would be submitted for consideration at the meetings of the Senate and the Council that were to be held on 28 January 2015 and 11 February 2015 respectively.
- (b) That whilst some questions had been raised by members of the Senate as to whether the level of transparency would decrease as a result of the broadening of the remit of the Steering Committee, it was highlighted that the Senate would receive more information under the new governance structure as it would be made aware of some aspects of business that had traditionally only been received by the Council.

- (c) That the proposal was to be considered by the Council at its meeting to be held on 9 October 2014, noting that if the proposal was approved by the Council an implementation plan would be developed during the autumn 2014/15 term ready to be implemented in February 2015, subject to the spring term meetings of the Senate and the Council.
- (d) That, whilst the implementation plan was being developed, where appropriate, business will be directed through the Steering Committee for consideration during the autumn 2014/15 term.

4/14-15 Undergraduates' Arrivals Weekend

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the undergraduates' arrivals weekend had gone well without any significant incidents and that traffic delays had been minimised by the traffic measures that had been put in place.

5/14-15 Campus Movement Plan: Update

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That parts of Gibbet Hill Road had been opened over the weekend, enabling staff, students and visitors to reach the island where Gibbet Hill Road meets Leighfield Road and the entrance to Car Park 2.

6/14-15 Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2014/15

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the University had risen 38 places to 103 in the recently published Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2014/15.

7/14-15 £13M Award for the Midlands Integrative Biosciences Training Partnership (MIBTP)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That, as the lead University in partnership with the University of Birmingham and the University of Leicester, the University had secured an award for the MIBTP to support the Midlands Bioeconomy.
- (b) That this was a significant achievement as an additional 260 PhD research students will be funded over the next five years, with 130 students funded directly by the Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and 130 students match-funded by the three universities.

RESOLVED:

That congratulations be extended to everyone who had been involved in securing this significant award.

8/14-15 Centre for Arts Doctoral Research Excellence (CADRE)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the Faculty of Arts had launched its Centre for Arts Doctoral Research Excellence (CADRE) on 30 September 2014 and that CADRE would be a focus for the Faculty by bringing together excellent PhD development provision from departments across the Faculty.

9/14-15 New Phone App to Improve Student Referencing

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That Global Professional and Academic Development (PAD) at the Centre for Applied Linguistics (CAL) had recently launched a new app, MasterCite, which was aimed at helping students and researchers to improve their referencing to source material and maintain adherence to a consistent style of citation.

10/14-15 Sprint: Women's Development Programme

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That the University will be hosting the Sprint Programme, a programme that had been designed to support the professional development of women undergraduates, over 4 days in November 2014 and January 2015.
- (b) That female undergraduates who wished to participate in the programme should submit a 500-word summary of what they hoped to achieve from it, via a form on the Student Careers and Skills website, by 12 noon on 17 October 2014.

11/14-15 Brazil Fellowship for Professor Richard Walton

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That Professor Richard Walton, Chemistry, had been awarded a 'Special Visiting Researcher' Fellowship as part of the Brazil Government's Science Without Borders initiative.

RESOLVED:

That congratulations be extended to Professor Richard Walton on his award.

12/14-15 Monash Warwick Alliance Support Scheme

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the Monash Warwick Alliance Support Scheme was now open for staff and students to apply for support for collaborative ventures between Monash University and the University of Warwick, noting that the deadline for this round of applications was 10 November 2014.

13/14-15 Cheltenham Festival Partnership

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (a) That the University had entered into an exciting partnership with the organisers of the Cheltenham Festivals that started in October 2014 and will continue into 2015, the University's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.
- (b) That the first Festival was the Literature Festival, which began on 3 October 2014, and the University will be involved with the Jazz, Science, Music and Literature Festivals in 2015, providing the University with the opportunity to engage with the public, reach out to schools and to raise awareness of the University's talented early career researchers and PhD students.

14/14-15 In Memoriam: Mr Peter Tucker

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the University was saddened to hear of the death of Mr Peter Tucker, who was the University's first Head Librarian and was one of the University's earliest appointments.

15/14-15 Launch of Manet Exhibition in the Mead Gallery

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the National Gallery Masterpiece Tour, which includes 'The Execution of Maximilian' by Edouard Manet, opened in the Mead Gallery at the Arts Centre on 4 October 2014, with the painting by Manet forming the centrepiece to a specially curated exhibition of works by some of today's greatest artists from across the world.

16/14-15 \*The University's Performance in The Times/The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015

RECEIVED:

A presentation from Dr Giles Carden, Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics, regarding the University's performance in The Times/The Sunday Times Good University Guide.

17/14-15 \*TATA Advanced Steel Research Hub

CONSIDERED:

A paper regarding the joint proposal to the HEFCE UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF) for 2016/17 between the University and Tata Steel (SC.1/14-15).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the submission of a new proposal to HEFCE UKRPIF be approved.
- (b) That the Steering Committee be kept informed of the progress of the proposal.

18/14-15      \*Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) 2014: Results and Actions

CONSIDERED:

A paper that outlined the results and proposed actions to be taken in response to the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey 2014 (S.2/14-15),

RESOLVED:

That the PTES 2014 be shared with Heads of Departments.

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