

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 17 December 2014

Present: Professor N Thrift (Vice-Chancellor and President (Chair)), Professor Stuart Croft (Provost), Professor M Freely (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor T Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering & Medicine)), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education and Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences)), Professor M Taylor (Dean of the Warwick Business School), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (People and Public Engagement)), Ms C Turhan (President of the Students' Union), Professor P Winstanley (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor L Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources)).

Apologies: Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)).

In Attendance: Ms C Ahearne (Executive Officer, Vice-Chancellor's Office), Ms S Black (Assistant Registrar, Governance (Assistant Secretary)), Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Dr Giles Carden (Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics, for item 116/14-15), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Ms J Horsburgh (Deputy Registrar), Ms G McGrattan (Director of Human Resources), Mr I Rowley (Director of Development, Communication and External Affairs), (Mr K Sloan (Registrar and Chief Operating Officer (Secretary))).

112/14-15 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2014 be approved.

113/14-15 Staff Network Day

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

That the Staff Network Day had taken place successfully on Monday 15 December 2014 with a reduced programme focused on a plenary session and Q&A, together with the Dragons' Den event.

114/14-15 *Student Protest and Occupation

RECEIVED:

An oral update from the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer.

115/14-15 *The Alan Turing Institute (minute 34/14-15 refers)

RECEIVED:

An oral update from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering & Medicine).

CONSIDERED:

The results of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (SC.55/14-15 {restricted}, tabled) together with a presentation by the Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics, noting that the information presented was strictly embargoed till after midnight on the evening of Wednesday 17 December 2014.

REPORTED: (by Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics)

- (a) That Warwick had been ranked as the 7th highest university in the 2014 rankings, repeating its successful 7th place position in the last exercise in 2008.
- (b) That Warwick's overall GPA had increased from 2.8 to 3.22 since 2008.
- (c) That further analysis of the intensity rankings would be carried out in due course, noting that issues had been raised with the potential unreliability of certain data used in the calculation of this particular metric.
- (d) That a number of the overall rankings would be published by the Times Higher Education on Thursday 18 December 2014.

(by the Vice-Chancellor and President)

- (e) That the University had seen significant increases in the amount of its research deemed to be in the top 2 research categories of 4* and 3*.
- (f) That around half of the UoAs had been ranked in the top 10, which was a significant achievement.
- (g) That the ranking exercise would inform the distribution of public funds for research until the next ranking exercise in 2020, noting that the results indicated that the University should retain its financial position in terms of QR, subject to the methodology used by HEFCE for the allocation of funding.
- (h) That while there were some notable department successes, the University's performance was also strong overall.
- (i) That the impact agenda remained an area of particular focus for the future.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering & Medicine))

- (j) That the results for Warwick in terms of publications were extremely positive.
- (k) That the RAPG process had undoubtedly contributed positively to the significant increases in the amount of research at Warwick deemed to be in the top 2 research categories of 4* and 3*.
- (l) That along with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences) he would be contacting Heads of Department to announce the results, under embargo as stated previously.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics, Provost, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering & Medicine) and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences) be thanked for their role in the analysis and dissemination of the REF 2014 results.
- (b) That the thanks of the Committee be extended to staff across the institution who had contributed directly or indirectly to the extremely positive REF outcome for Warwick, namely but not exclusively: Heads of Department, the Faculty Chairs, Directors of Research, Directors of Teaching, members of academic/ research staff and those in administrative roles supporting research and the REF process.

As at 14 January 2015