

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 26 September 2016

- Present: Professor Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President (Chair)), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor D Leadley (Academic Member of the Senate), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President), Mr L Pilot (President of the Students' Union), Ms R Sandby-Thomas (Registrar), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of Science).
- Apologies: Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)), Professor C Ennew (Provost), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Affairs)), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)), Professor L Young (Academic Vice-President).
- In Attendance: Ms S Black (Assistant Registrar (Governance) (Assistant Secretary)), Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Mrs P Glover (Secretary to Council), Ms J Horsburgh (Strategy Director (Secretary)), Mr I Rowley (Director of Development, Communications and External Affairs), Ms C Wightman (Administrative Officer (Governance)), Ms R Wooldridge Smith (Deputy Academic Registrar).

24/16-17 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2016 be approved.

25/16-17 Conflicts of Interest

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That, should any members or attendees of the Steering Committee have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education Code of Governance (2014).

NOTE: No declarations were made.

26/16-17 Warwick International Foundation Programme (minute 4/16-17 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That of the 225 students on the Warwick International Foundation Programme (WIFP) in 2016/17, 136 were enrolled on the Business Studies and Economics course; 28 students on Science and Engineering; 26 on Maths and Economics; 22 on Social Science and 13 students on Law.

27/16-17 Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That Professor Christopher Hughes, currently Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences, had been appointed as the new Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) with effect from 1 November 2016.
- (b) That he wished to congratulate Professor Hughes on his appointment on behalf of the Committee.

28/16-17 Campus Open Day

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the third open day of the 2017 recruitment cycle had taken place on Saturday 24 September 2016, noting that the day had been successful and well-attended, with many positive messages received on social media relating to the event.

RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Committee be extended to those members of staff who had assisted with the open day.

29/16-17 *Pay Offer

RECEIVED:

An oral update by the Chair on the Living Wage.

30/16-17 University Rankings

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That the University had been ranked 82nd in the world in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2016/17, down from 80th in the previous year, noting that this was in the context of increasingly strong performances comparatively.
- (b) That Warwick had been ranked 7th best university in the UK in the Sunday Times' Good University Guide published on 25 September 2016.
- (c) That the ranking of British universities was noted as having been affected by the increase in rankings of institutions in Asia, noting also that a correlation existed between investment in universities and improved ranking performance.

31/16-17 *Conservative Party Conference

RECEIVED:

An oral update by the Chair on the Conservative Party Conference.

32/16-17 In Memoriam: Paul Bolton

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the University was deeply saddened by the news that Paul Bolton, a former Academic Registrar at Warwick, had passed away on 27 August 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the sincere condolences of the Steering Committee be extended to the Bolton family.

33/16-17 In Memoriam: Donald Ranvaud

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the University was deeply saddened by the news that Donald Ranvaud, a Warwick Graduand and former lecturer with a notable career as a British Film Producer and journalist, had passed away on 5 September 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the sincere condolences of the Steering Committee be extended to the Ranvaud family.

34/16-17 Professor David Hutchins

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That Professor David Hutchins from the School of Engineering had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, in recognition of his outstanding and continuing contributions to the profession.

35/16-17 Coventry and Warwickshire Tourism and Culture Awards

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That Warwick Conferences had been shortlisted for the Business Tourism Award and the Customer Service Award.
- (b) That Warwick Arts Centre had been shortlisted for three awards (the Cultural Award, the Culture Education Award and the Best Live Music / Arts / Theatre Award).
- (c) That the University had also been shortlisted for the Tourism Event Award (along with other partners) for the Warwickshire stage of the Aviva Women's Cycle Tour.

36/16-17 *Injunction Open Letter

CONSIDERED:

An oral update in relation to an open letter received from Warwick for Free Education relating to the High Court injunction against occupation and sit-in style protests at the University (SC.11/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That a meeting to discuss the open letter regarding the injunction be arranged between the SU, the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and the Trades Unions in November 2016, with an update to be brought back to the Committee in due course.

37/16-17

*Report from Budget Steering Group - Financial Performance Q4 2015/16

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Budget Steering Group (BSG) on the University's Financial Performance in Quarter 4 2015/16 (SC.12/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report from the Budget Steering Group on the University's Financial Performance in Q4 2015/16 (SC.12/16-17 {restricted}) be noted.
- (b) That those departments which had significantly increased their financial performance be congratulated through ARC.

38/16-17

Senate Business

CONSIDERED:

The items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 5 October 2016.

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the Academic Freedom Policy and Statement on Freedom of Expression for the University of Warwick in California had been tabled at the current meeting, noting that this would form part of the three-part California pack to the Senate on 5 October.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (b) That a proposal was being put forward to establish 'Warwick Foundation Studies' as an academic department within the Faculty of Social Sciences, noting that if approved, Ordinance 7, on the Constitution of the Boards of the Faculties would require revision.
- (c) That with respect to proposed amendments to Regulation 28 Covering Intellectual Property Rights, minor revisions were being proposed to ensure compliance with consumer protection law, noting that the University's Legal Adviser had been invited to review the regulation more substantively.

(by the Chair of the Faculty of Arts)

- (d) That the new 'Warwick Foundation Studies' department was proposed to be situated within the Faculty of Social Sciences in view of the large majority of its students being enrolled on courses within the Social Sciences.

(by the Strategy Director)

- (e) That a revision was being proposed to the structure of the report from the Steering Committee to the Senate, noting that henceforth one report would go forward which fully reflected the agenda items relevant to the remit of the Senate with the Senate being invited to renew the minutes applicable to other items online.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal to simplify the report from the Steering Committee to the Senate be approved.
- (b) That the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 5 October 2016 be approved, subject to the amendments detailed above, as requested by the Steering Committee.

39/16-17 *Home/EU Undergraduate (UG) Tuition Fees for 2017

CONSIDERED:

A report setting out a series of recommendations regarding the University's approach to fees for home/EU undergraduates from 2017 (SC.13/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the matter be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 27 September 2016, prior to Council on 20 October 2016.

40/16-17 *Terms and Conditions for Full Time Undergraduate Programmes

CONSIDERED:

A report setting out a series of proposed additions to the Terms and Conditions for offers made to undergraduate applicants (SC.14/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed changes to the Terms and Conditions for offers made to undergraduate applicants be approved, subject to the outcome of discussion around tuition fees for 2017 and what should be said in offer letters pending Council's consideration of the wider issue at the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes on 27 September 2016

41/16-17 Sports Hub Proposal

RECEIVED:

A presentation on the new Sports Hub proposal (SC.20/16-17).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

- (a) That the proposals had been two years in development, noting that final planning permission had been received on 23 September 2016 from Warwick District Council.

- (b) That the Estates Department was aiming to be in contract with the developers by the end of 2016, with a view to commencing construction in early 2017 and achieving project completion by the start of the 2018/19 academic year.
- (c) That on finalisation of planning approval, the University would make an application for a new licence, as per ecological requirements.
- (d) That the development of detailed designs, followed by market testing would provide increased clarity around costs, noting that the project was currently within budget.
- (e) That the Estates Department was undertaking related work to ensure improved public transport connectivity between the main University campus and the proposed Sports Hub.
- (f) That a number of additional spokes would be delivered in parallel with the Sports Hub project, including multi-purpose pitches across the University, outdoor gym equipment, together with investment in 'trim trails' around the campus as well as the University's Boat Club in Barford.

42/16-17 *Warwick Medical School Proposed Collaboration

CONSIDERED:

A report setting out a proposed collaboration with Warwick Medical School (WMS) to establish a new private medical school (SC.15/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the proposal for WMS to progress discussions regarding the proposed collaboration, enabling a more detailed proposal to be developed for further consideration by the University, be approved.

43/16-17 *Proposed Amendments to Regulation 29

CONSIDERED:

A report setting out a proposed reworking of Regulation 29, together with supporting External Speakers Procedures (SC.16/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the revised Regulation 29 and supporting External Speakers Procedures be approved as set out in paper SC.16/16-17 {restricted}.

RECOMMENDED:

That the revised Regulation 29 and supporting External Speakers Procedures be recommended to the Senate.

As at 6 October 2016