

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 23 January 2017

- Present: Professor Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President (Chair)), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor C Ennew (Provost), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor C Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)), Mr L Pilot (President of the Students' Union), Ms R Sandby-Thomas (Registrar), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of Science), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement)), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)), Professor L Young (Academic Vice-President).
- Apologies: Professor D Leadley (Academic Member of the Senate), Professor M Nudds (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President).
- In Attendance: Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Mrs P Glover (Secretary to Council), Ms J Horsburgh (Strategy Director (Secretary)), Mr P Johnstone (Head of Analytics, for item SC.75/16-17), Professor D Lamburn (Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), for item SC.72/16-17), Ms G McGrattan (Director, People Group), Mr J Phillips (Director of Health and Safety, for item SC.73/16-17), Professor G Van der Velden (Academic Director, Warwick International Higher Education Academy, for item SC.72/16-17), Mrs C Wightman (Administrative Officer (Governance) (Assistant Secretary)), Ms R Wooldridge Smith (Deputy Academic Registrar).

173/16-17 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2017 be approved subject to the agreed amendments.

174/16-17 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).

(by the President of the Students' Union)

That he wished to declare a conflict in relation to agendum 4, the Teaching Excellence Framework draft submission, given the Students' Union position on opposing the TEF.

175/16-17 Degree Congregations on 18, 19 and 20 January 2017

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the degree ceremonies that had taken place during the previous week had been extremely well-organised.

RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Committee be extended to all colleagues involved in the organisation of the ceremonies.

176/16-17 City-Wide Cultural Strategy Approved by Coventry City Council

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That the University would be working with the City Council, Coventry University and key regional partners to implement the new 'Coventry Cultural Strategy 2017-2027': a vision for Coventry to become a culturally attractive, vibrant and prosperous city to live in, work in and enjoy.
- (b) That the strategy, which had been written by Professor Jonothan Neelands in Warwick Business School, with support from colleagues within the University and from Coventry University, set out a ten year vision for the cultural life of Coventry, and proposed five key goals for cultural growth in the city.
- (c) That the Strategy would bolster Coventry's bid to be the UK City of Culture 2021.

177/16-17 Warwick Graduates named most sought after by top employers

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That a survey by High Fliers Research in December 2016 of the latest graduate vacancies and starting salaries at the UK's one hundred best-known and most successful employers, had named the University of Warwick as the university targeted by the largest number of the UK's top graduate employers, noting that this meant that the University attracted the largest number of top graduate recruiters for campus fairs, recruitment presentations or other promotions during 2016-2017.

178/16-17 Capital donation secured for Mathematical Sciences

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That, in December 2016, the Wolfson Foundation had announced that it would make a grant of £2m to fund a new Mathematical Sciences Building at Warwick - the biggest capital donation to the University in its history so far.
- (b) That the Mathematical Sciences building would support the three departments of Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics, noting that the new building would be adjacent to the Zeeman Building and would begin construction in February 2017, supporting the expansion of all three departments by 40% over the next decade.

179/16-17 HEFCE funding success

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That two colleagues from the School of Engineering had won HEFCE funding worth almost £100k for their project 'Developing a student-driven educational model between, beyond and across disciplines', noting that the 18-month project would develop a conceptual model for exploring the ways in which students act as co-producers of learning, and how they might work beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.

180/16-17 Prime Minister's Brexit Speech

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That, in a speech on 17 January, the Prime Minister, Theresa May, had set out her negotiation priorities for the UK to leave the European Union, noting that these included maintaining the common travel area between the UK and Irish Republic and 'control' of migration between the UK and the EU.
- (b) That Mrs May had also spoken about the international strength of the UK's university system and the importance of continuing to collaborate in cutting-edge research and innovation.
- (c) That Parliament would vote on the final deal that was agreed, with negotiations set to begin after notice under Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty was served by the end of March 2017.
- (d) That the Prime Minister would today launch her industrial strategy for the UK, including elements of the research skills agenda.
- (e) That the Higher Education and Research Bill 2016-17 continued its passage through the House of Lords, noting that the government had been refusing to make any concessions in relation to the high volume of proposed amendments.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair's Business section of the Steering Committee schedule would, with immediate effect, routinely include a report entitled 'Government Policy'

181/16-17 *Teaching Excellence Framework Draft Submission

CONSIDERED:

A paper (SC.72/16-17) outlining the University's draft response to the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That further clarification on the University successes on graduate employment would be beneficial.
- (b) That colleagues should submit any additional comments by email as soon as possible after the meeting of the Steering Committee, noting that the Director of the Warwick International Higher Education Academy needed to have finalised the submission by the end of 24 January 2017.

- (c) That the recommendation that the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) be ~~remitted to~~ should approve, on behalf of the Steering Committee, any further version of the draft submission produced subsequent to the meeting of the Committee to incorporate any changes requested at the meeting and any final changes that may occur on editing or late facts, to enable submission by noon on 26 January 2017, be approved. (Revisions agreed at Steering Committee meeting on 20 February 2017).
- (d) That, subject to the above point (a), the University's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) draft submission be approved for submission on behalf of the Senate and the Council.
- (e) That the thanks of the Steering Committee to all colleagues who contributed to the paper be recorded, noting that the small number of revisions proposed by the Committee showed the extent of the work that had gone into the preparation of the draft submission.

182/16-17 Senate Business

CONSIDERED:

The items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 1 February 2017.

REPORTED: (By the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement))

- (a) That, in respect of the strategic item for discussion - *California – there had been an in-depth review by lawyers of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for UWIC.
- (b) That, in respect of the Warwick in California Graduate School, agreement had been reached with Roseville City Council in California on the sale of a property to the University Development Foundation which would enable the University to house its California Graduate School.
- (c) That any comments that Committee members might have in relation to the Warwick in California Graduate School should be passed to the Project Director, Ms Ailsa Chambers.

RESOLVED:

That the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 1 February 2017 be approved.

183/16-17 *Health and Safety Update

RECEIVED:

An update on Health and Safety by the Director of Health and Safety (SC.73/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Health and Safety should bring back to a meeting of the Steering Committee in the future more detailed information around each of the Health and Safety risks that were currently red and which were unlikely to become amber in the medium term, noting that the Committee wished to understand what lay beneath the headline risks with a view to identifying where it had a strategic role to play in terms of challenging, and assisting with change.
- (b) That the Steering Committee, which had approved the Health and Safety Policy, should have sight of the completion rates for the QuEMIS Hazards Module system.
- (c) That the Health and Safety Update be noted.

184/16-17 *Equality and Diversity Update

RECEIVED:

An update on Equality and Diversity by the Provost (SC.74/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the thanks of the Steering Committee be extended to colleagues supporting the considerable efforts with the Equality and Diversity agenda.
- (b) That the Equality and Diversity Update be noted.

185/16-17 *Academic Statistics Yearbook 2016/17 and Draft Key Performance Indicators

RECEIVED:

A report on the key points in the Academic Statistics Yearbook 2016/17 and the draft KPIs being presented to the Council (SC.75/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the thanks of the Committee be extended to colleagues involved in the preparation of the Yearbook and the draft KPIs.
- (b) That the contents of the Academic Statistics Yearbook for 2016/17 and the draft KPIs being presented to the Council be noted.

186/16-17 *Report from Budget Steering Group to Finance and General Purposes Committee on the University's Q1 2016/17 Financial Performance

RECEIVED:

A report from the Budget Steering Group (BSG) to Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC) on the University's Q1 2016/17 Financial Performance (SC.76/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the report from BSG to FGPC be noted.

187/16-17 *Report from the Fees Working Group

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Fees Working Group seeking approval from the Steering Committee on the fees to be applied for the 2017/18 intake on the Warwick Business School (WBS) Executive MBA (London) programme (SC.76/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation for fee levels on the Warwick Business School Executive MBA (London) programme for 2017/18 be approved as set out in the paper.

As at 20 February 2017.