

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 21 March 2011

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor S Bruzzi,
Professor C Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor K Lamberts,
Professor M Taylor (from item 512/10-11),
Professor P Winstanley,
Mr D Stevens.

Apologies: Professor A Caesar, Professor R Higgott.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Finance Director, Director of HR, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Director of Estates, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Acting Head of Governance Support Services, Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of Warwick Arts Centre (for item 515/10-11), Director of Research Support Services (for item 516/10-11), Professor M Finn (for item 519/10-11), Professor J McCarthy (for item 519/10-11), Director of Fundraising (for item 519/10-11), Associate Director of Development (for item 519/10-11), Associate Director (Development Services) (for item 519/10-11), Development Executive (for item 519/10-11).

509/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2011 be approved.

510/10-11 Liberating the NHS: Developing the Healthcare Work Force (minute 482/10-11 referred)

REPORTED (by the Vice-Chancellor):

That the definition of LEP in the context of the "Liberating the NHS" document was "Local Education Provider".

511/10-11 HEFCE Recurrent Grant for 2011-12 (minute 396/10-11 referred)

RECEIVED:

A letter from the HEFCE providing details of the University's recurrent grant allocation for 2011/12, and further information on the Teaching Capital Investment Fund (SC.373/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Finance Director)

(a) That the settlement was better than had been forecast in the latest version of the Five Year Plan.

(by the Academic Registrar)

(b) That undergraduate student intakes would need to be carefully managed for 2011 entry to ensure that the University was not penalized for either failing to meet its targets for additional student numbers or for over-recruitment against its Student Number Control Limit.

512/10-11 Home Affairs Committee Report on Student Immigration (minute 330/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

A report from the Director of the International Office in reference to the Home Affairs Select Committee report on Student Visas (SC.377/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the timescale for further information from the UKBA with regard to student Tier 4 visas was not clear.

513/10-11 Technology Innovation Centres

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That WMG was to be a partner in the Government's first Technology and Innovation Centre (TIC) in High Value Manufacturing, although it was not yet clear what resources would be available.

514/10-11 City of New York University Proposal

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the city of New York was looking to establish a new university focusing on the applied sciences.
- (b) That the University had submitted an outline expression of interest, noting that it had been the only British institution to do so.

515/10-11 Warwick Arts Centre Annual Report

RECEIVED:

The Warwick Arts Centre Annual Report and Accounts for 2009/10, together with an oral report from the Director of the Warwick Arts Centre (SC.361/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That congratulations were extended to the staff of the Arts Centre for their hard work in the activities outlined in the Annual Report.

(by the Director of the Warwick Arts Centre)

- (b) That the positive year-on-year results should be read in the context of the reduced activity in 2008/09 due to the refurbishment of the Butterworth Hall.
- (c) That the Arts Centre was contributing to the University's achievement of the Vision 2015 strategy, through attracting new donors, undertaking educational programmes in local schools and colleges, and enhancing the student experience through the activities of the Music Centre and the use of the Arts Centre by the Students' Union and International societies.
- (d) That record box office income was achieved in 2009/10, together with increased attendance numbers.
- (e) That the Arts Centre had been granted a £1.3 million award from the Arts Council, under the "Transform" initiative.

(by the Registrar)

- (f) That an ASDAR of the Arts Centre had been undertaken in 2010, which had informed the strategy outlined in the Transform bid.
- (g) That, despite cuts in resources, Coventry City Council had committed to providing £25,000 in funding to the Arts Centre for 2011/12, reflecting the value placed on the work of the Centre.

(by the Director of Development, Communications and Strategy)

- (h) That there had been a significant increase in donations towards the cost of the Butterworth Hall refurbishment and there was now the opportunity to build on that philanthropic support.

516/10-11 Wolfson Neurology Initiative Research Proposal

CONSIDERED:

A research proposal for a Wolfson Institute of Neurotechnology (SC.371/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Research Support Services)

- (a) That the proposal was a response to a call from the Wolfson Foundation relating to research into neurological disease.
- (b) That there would be significant competition for the funds available.
- (c) That there would be longer term legacy costs associated with the bid.

(by the Finance Director)

- (d) That further consideration should be given to the size of the capital element of the bid in order to maximise funding opportunities.

(by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (e) That the costing of research studentships within the proposal needed further clarification.

RESOLVED:

That a revised research proposal for a Wolfson Institute of Neurotechnology be considered by the Steering Committee at a future meeting, prior to the deadline of 8 April 2011, with a number of elements of the proposal to be addressed including the level of capital funding to be requested, costing for postgraduate research studentships and NHS support for the clinical post included in the proposal.

517/10-11 Research Excellence Framework 2014 timetable

RECEIVED:

The timetable for the Research Excellence Framework 2014 (SC.367/10-11).

518/10-11 Modernising Scientific Careers

RECEIVED:

A note from UUK outlining the procurement timetable and curricula for the seven training programmes for healthcare scientists (SC.376/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

- (a) That the developments may relate to the University's activities in the areas of medical physics, life sciences and engineering.
- (b) That Warwick Medical School would not be in a position to lead on developments on the Masters programmes set out in SC.376/10-11, but could collaborate with another department.

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

- (c) That there had been interest from the School of Engineering and the Warwick Manufacturing Group in contributing to training programmes for healthcare scientists and that further discussions would be held with the Department of Physics and the School of Life Sciences.

519/10-11 Development and Alumni Relations Office Update

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That while the University had been relatively successful in raising funds, there was a need to build on early successes in philanthropic support and fundraising, and to distribute the responsibility for development more broadly across the University.
- (b) That summer 2011 would see the launch of a £50m Campaign, prior to the University's 50th Anniversary in 2015.

(by the Director of Development, Communications and Strategy)

- (c) That the University expected to raise £4.25m of philanthropic income in 2010/11, but that a significant incremental increase in fundraising was required to reach £50m by 2015.

NOTE: This was an extended discussion item focussing on strategic approaches to priority fundraising themes. Professor Finn and Professor McCarthy joined the discussion for this extended item.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Development, Communications and Strategy would compile the feedback of the Steering Committee workshops on the five proposed areas of the new Campaign (Health, Life Sciences, Warwick Business School, Responsibility and Scholarship) for report to the Committee at a subsequent meeting.

520/10-11 EC Consultation on Priorities for Modernisation of HE in Europe (minute 498/10-11 referred)

RECEIVED:

The University's response to a Europe Unit questionnaire to assist the development of a sector-wide submission to the European Commission's consultation on policy priorities in the modernisation of higher education, over the next five to ten years (SC.365/10-11).

521/10-11 HEFCE Update on Matched Funding Scheme for Voluntary Giving

RECEIVED:

A letter from the HEFCE providing an update on the matched funding scheme for voluntary giving after its first two years of operation (SC.363/10-11).

- 522/10-11 Evaluation of Health and Safety Guidance for the Placement of Higher Education Students
- RECEIVED:
- The University's response to UCEA regarding the UCEA Health and Safety Guidance for the Placement of Higher Education Students issued in August 2009 (SC.364/10-11).
- 523/10-11 UUK: OFFA Guidance on Access Agreements for 2012/13 (minute 480/10-11 referred)
- RECEIVED:
- A note from the UUK on the recent guidance received from OFFA on Access Agreements for 2012/13 (SC.366/10-11).
- 524/10-11 Legacy of the Aimhigher Programme
- RECEIVED:
- A letter from HEFCE asking institutions to consider the expertise gained from the Aimhigher Programme when developing the new Access Agreement (SC.372/10-11).
- 525/10-11 National Audit Office report 'Regulating financial sustainability in higher education'
- RECEIVED:
- The executive summary of the National Audit Office report 'Regulating financial sustainability in higher education', with a cover note from the Chief Executive of HEFCE (SC.375/10-11).
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That the University was in receipt of a number of financial sustainability reports and that a paper would be prepared for the consideration of the Steering Committee in due course.

JFB/KP/steersshare/minutes/201011/Mar11/21Mar11