

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 21 May 2012

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor M Finn,
Professor C Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Professor S Swain,
Professor M Taylor,
Professor P Thomas,
Professor P Winstanley,
Mr L Bøe.

Apologies: Professor S Croft, Professor J Labbe.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Finance and Financial Strategy, Director of HR, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Director of Estates, Head of Corporate Governance, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Senior Assistant Registrar (Management Information and Planning) (for item 511/11-12), Strategy Programme Manager (for item 513/11-12), Strategy Officer (for item 513/11-12).

509/11-12 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2012 be approved.

510/11-12 Student Number Controls for 2013-14: Proposals for High Grades and a Core and Margin Exercise

CONSIDERED:

A circular from the HEFCE providing information about how they intend to free more student places from control and make 5000 places available through a core and margin exercise (SC.356/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the HEFCE was proposing to expand the unregulated number of places for AAB+ students to ABB+ students in order to increase the overall margin from 20,000 to 25,000 students.
- (b) That there would be a reduction in the University's student number control target, at a level to be determined.
- (c) That, while the proposals would increase freedom to make offers within the ABB+ category, the University intended to maintain its offer levels at a minimum of AAB+.

RESOLVED:

That the University's draft response to the HEFCE's proposals regarding Student Number Controls for 2013/14, be considered by the Steering Committee prior to the submission deadline of 1 June 2012.

511/11-12

HEFCE Consultation on Student Number Controls and Teaching Funding (minute 412/11-12 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's response to the HEFCE consultation on future arrangements for allocating funding for teaching in universities and colleges and implementing government policy on student number controls (SC.355/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Senior Assistant Registrar (Management Information and Planning))

(a) That the University's response was prepared following attendance at HEFCE events and discussion with Faculty Chairs and the Finance Office.

(by the Registrar)

(b) That the University's response to Question 12 should emphasize up front that there was additional financial burden on campus-based institutions over and above those offering city-centre provision.

(c) That the University's response to Question 11 should highlight the costs associated with blended learning provision, as this would become more prominent in the sector, and supported other agendas such as student mobility.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

(d) That the Warwick's response to Question 12 should indicate that the University strongly disagrees with the proposed approach to contributions to the additional costs of operating for London-based providers.

(e) That the University's response to Question 9 should express concern regarding the proposal to use only TRAC(T) data to inform HEFCE's development of future funding methods for high-cost subjects, noting that TRAC(T) had limitations and that other data should be used to develop a full picture.

(f) That the University's continuing concerns regarding the gradually expanding remit of HEFCE over and above its core function as a funding body should be noted up front in its response to Question 1.

(by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

(g) That he would provide some text in response to Question 7 to address the support of graduate entry students in high-cost subjects, such as Medicine.

RESOLVED:

That the University's response to the HEFCE consultation on future arrangements for allocating funding for teaching in universities and colleges and implementing government policy on student number controls, be approved as set out in SC.355/11-12, subject to the revisions outlined in the meeting, and submitted to the HEFCE prior to the deadline of 25 May 2012.

512/11-12

History Society

REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)

That the University of Warwick History Society was named Best University Society at The 2012 National Placement and Internship Awards.

513/11-12 University 50th Anniversary Celebrations

CONSIDERED:

A presentation from the Director of Development, Communications and Strategy regarding the University's 50th anniversary celebrations.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the celebrations for the University's 50th anniversary would run for a 12 months during the 2015/16 academic year, with a budget of approximately £0.5 million.
- (b) That there would be a focus on original, distinctive, high quality and high impact activity during the celebrations.
- (c) That a senior academic would take a leading role on the 50th anniversary celebrations, with centralised management and support of specific activities, with departments encouraged to supplement these with local activity.

RESOLVED:

That items and suggestions discussed in the meeting be compiled into a firm proposal by the Director of Development, Communications and Strategy and brought back to a future meeting of the Committee for further consideration.

514/11-12 Donor Naming Policy (minute 280/11-12 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University's Donor Naming Policy as recommended by the Building Committee and approved by the Council at its meeting held on 16 May 2012 (BC.12/11-12 EXTRACT (Annex A)).

515/11-12 UUK Consultation on a Draft Research Integrity Concordat (minute 481/11-12 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University and UKRIO responses to the UUK Consultation on a Draft Research Integrity Concordat (SC.357/11-12).

516/11-12 Nuclear Research and Development Advisory Board Review of the UK Nuclear R&D Landscape

RECEIVED:

The Nuclear Research and Development Advisory Board Review of the UK Nuclear R&D Landscape, designed to establish to what extent the academic research programmes of various UK institutions are involved with civil nuclear research, with the aim of capturing the UK academic nuclear fission and fusion research capability (SC.358/11-12).

RESOLVED:

That a draft response to the Nuclear Research and Development Advisory Board Review of the UK Nuclear R&D Landscape be overseen by the Director of Research Support Services and considered at a future meeting of the Steering Committee prior to the deadline of 15 June 2012.

517/11-12

HEFCE Consultation on Philanthropic Support for Higher Education in the UK

REPORTED:

That the University's response to the HEFCE Consultation Philanthropic Support for Higher Education in the UK, would be overseen by the Director of Development, Communication & Strategy, and be considered by the Steering Committee prior to the submission deadline of 31 May 2012.

KMS/KP/steersshare/minutes/201112/May12/21May12