

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 21 July 2008

- Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L M Whitby (until item 653/07-08)
Professor R Lindley
Professor H Thomas,
Professor M Smith,
Professor R Higgott,
Professor L Bridges,
Professor S Bassnett,
Professor K Lamberts,
Professor A Caesar,
- Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor Y Carter, Director of Communications and Strategy,
Director of Estates, Mr J Kirby
- In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Administrative Officer (Governance), Head of Governance Support Services
- 643/07-08 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2008 be approved.
- 644/07-08 Equivalent or Lower Qualifications (ELQs) Appeal (minute 620/07-08 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That the HEFCE board had met to discuss appeals from institutions following the grant allocations for 2008/09 which had been affected by the withdrawal of funding for ELQ students but the University had yet to receive information on the outcomes for Warwick.
- RESOLVED:
- That the Academic Registrar contact HEFCE regarding this matter and the outcome be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.
- 645/07-08 Strategic Departmental Review: Biological Sciences (minute 621/07-08 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
- That a meeting of the action group formed to support the Head of Biological Sciences in considering the response to the recommendations in the report, chaired by the Chair of the Faculty of Science and including the Head of Biological Sciences, a senior representative from HR and a senior representative from the Finance Office, would take place on 21 July 2008.
- RESOLVED:
- That subsequent meetings of the action group take place over the summer vacation, with a view to receiving the departmental response to the SDR at a meeting of Steering Committee in September 2008.

646/07-08

Degree Ceremonies

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and Community))

- (a) That the feedback received from visitors to the Degree Ceremonies which took place between 14-18 July 2008 was very positive especially with regards to the celebration of teaching throughout the week.
- (b) That consideration should be given to re-instating the award of the Chancellor's Medal at a ceremony, rather than at the Dinner.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee record its thanks to colleagues who had organised the Degree Congregations, in particular Nick Hull and Yvonne Salter-Wright.
- (b) That the Committee record its thanks to the University gardeners for making the grounds first class for the celebrations.
- (c) That the feedback and recommendations from the Committee be passed to the Degree Congregation team for their consideration.
- (d) That any review of the Degree Congregations cover both the ceremonies and the dinner.

647/07-08

Award of Honorary Degree

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its congratulations to Professor Howard Thomas on being awarded an Honorary Fellowship of Swansea University.

648/07-08

Principles on the Development of Academic Workload Models

CONSIDERED:

A report outlining the general principles for the development of academic workload models, presented to Academic Resourcing Committee at its meeting on 26 June 2008 (SC.490/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and Community))

That the resources and time involved in postgraduate research supervision would increase as student numbers expand in line with the University Strategy and departments should be made aware that the additional work incurred should be incorporated into usual practice through their workload models.

(by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

That whilst noting the resources involved in supervising research students, reference should also be made to guiding students completing dissertations for postgraduate taught courses.

(by the Academic Registrar)

That the discussion of how the data would be collected and reviewed was on-going, noting that potential models would be sourced from existing areas of good practice in the University for wider dissemination and discussion at Faculty level.

RESOLVED:

That an updated paper, incorporating information on data collection and review, be considered by the Committee at a future meeting.

649/07-08

Strategic Departmental Review: History

CONSIDERED:

The review report from the Strategic Departmental Review of History together with a draft action plan with recommendations on which bodies would be appropriate to take forward each of the recommendations (SC.505/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and Community))

That the internal review of Centre for Caribbean Studies proposed within the recommendations should be scheduled imminently as the administrative work for the Centre was being undertaken within the Centre for Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies despite the Centre being based in History.

RESOLVED:

That the Head of the Department of History be invited to provide a departmental response at the meeting of the Committee on 28 July 2008.

650/07-08

Research Review of WHRI

CONSIDERED:

A proposal to conduct a review of research, management and resources within Warwick HRI in place of a full strategic departmental review (SC.495/07-08).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal for a review of research, management and resources within WHRI be approved as defined in SC.495/07-08.
- (b) That, noting the urgency of the review, an update detailing prospective panel members and timeframes be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

651/07-08

Review of the Language Centre

CONSIDERED:

A proposal to conduct a review of the Language Centre, noting that the activities of the Centre fall outwith the scope of the current strategic departmental review process or ASDAR review programme (SC.496/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Faculty of Arts)

That there was a need to undertake the review quickly to provide support to the Director of the Language Centre.

(by the Deputy Registrar)

That it was desirable for the University to move away from ad-hoc format reviews which do not conform to any existing formal review process as this would lead to difficulties in comparing reviews over time.

RESOLVED:

That a more detailed proposal for a review of the Language Centre, including potential panel members, be submitted to the Committee at the next meeting, noting that the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and Community) had expressed her interest in participating.

652/07-08

Warwick Medical School: Academic Health Science Centre Update

RECEIVED:

An update on the University's progress in establishing an Academic Health Science Centre with the support of NHS West Midlands (SC.494/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the University was preparing a proposal for a Health Innovation and Education Cluster as this appeared to be the most appropriate option given the recent Darzi review and related reports. The working title was however 'Warwick Academic Health Partnership' reflecting the broader ambitions of the School.

653/07-08

Concordat on Contract Research Staff Career Management

RECEIVED:

A report and I-Note (I/08/054) from Universities UK setting out seven principles for the career management and employment conditions for researchers in HEIs on fixed-term or similar contracts (SC.498/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Arts and Social Studies))

That the Concordat was in line with the University's own approach and that discussions were underway with the Director of the Learning and Development Centre to publicise the opportunities available to contract research colleagues.

654/07-08

Europe Note E/08/03: EUA Diversity Survey

CONSIDERED:

Information on a EUA project on diversity in higher education seeking input from English HEIs via an online survey (SC.497/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Registrar assess the scope of the survey and whether the University would be able to respond and prior to the closing date for submissions of 8 August 2008.

655/07-08

UUK I-Note I/08/60: FCO Review of Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

CONSIDERED:

A UUK Information Note on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office review of the ATAS following its implementation in Autumn 2007 (SC.500/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That initial feedback from departments and the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment had been generally positive.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar compile a response to the consultation for submission by the deadline of 23 July 2008.

656/07-08

Campus Road Works

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the road works on Gibbet Hill would restart on 28 July 2008 with restricted access for traffic to the campus.
- (b) That clear communication of all diversions and timeframes would be published on Insite.

657/07-08

BBC Article Regarding Degree Standards Following the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee Session

RECEIVED:

An article published on the BBC website regarding degree standards at universities as discussed at the recent Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee session (SC.506/07-08).

658/07-08

UUK I-Note I/08/062: UUK Response to the DIUS 'Higher Education at Work' Consultation

RECEIVED:

Information from Universities UK announcing the submission of UUK's response to the DIUS consultation on higher level skills (SC.501/07-08).

659/07-08

UUK I-Note I/08/58: Admissions – The HE Sector's Plans for Reform

RECEIVED:

A summary report of the main conclusions from the recent policy briefing on admissions by Universities UK (SC.502/07-08).

660/07-08

Europe Note E/08/04: New Team of Bologna Experts Announced

RECEIVED:

A Europe Note informing of the new team of UK Bologna Experts for 2008/09, administered by the British Council (SC.499/07-08).

661/07-08

UUK I-Note I/08/059: Copyright Licence for the UK HE Sector

RECEIVED:

The outline terms of a comprehensive copyright licence which will come into effect from 1 August 2008, permitting photocopying, preparation of course packs and scanning for the HE sector (SC.491/07-08).

662/07-08

CIHE Paper on Higher Education in Colleges

RECEIVED:

A paper from the Council for Industry and Higher Education exploring the role of colleges in higher education, as well as comparing the UK and US systems (SC.493/07-08).

663/07-08

Advantage West Midlands (AWM) 2007/08 Annual Review

RECEIVED:

A letter from the Chief Executive of AWM, thanking the University for its support over the year and detailing the projects currently being undertaken within the region, together with a copy of the 2007/08 Annual Review (SC.503/07-08).

664/07-08

Speech by West Midlands Minister, Liam Byrne MP, on Regional Achievements 'One Year On'

RECEIVED:

A speech delivered by Liam Byrne MP, West Midlands Minister, on the achievements within the region since his appointment a year ago and highlighting future initiatives (SC.504/07-08).

KMS/jf/steersshare/minutes200708/July08/21July08