

# THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

## Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 21 September 2009

Present: Vice-Chancellor,  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor S Bruzzi,  
Professor A Caesar,  
Professor R Higgott,  
Professor K Lamberts,  
Professor R Lindley (from item 870/08-09),  
Professor M Smith,  
Professor M Underwood,  
Professor M Whitby,  
Mr A Bradley

Apologies: Professor H Thomas

In Attendance: Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Finance Director, Director of Strategy, Communication and Strategy, Executive Officer (Vice-Chancellor's Office), Head of Governance Support Services, Administrative Officer (Governance), Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning (for item 869/08-09)

861/08-09 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2009 be approved.

862/08-09 Health Innovation and Education Cluster (HIEC) (minute 836/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University's proposal for a Health and Innovation Cluster (HIEC) had been shortlisted to receive an invitation to tender to the Department of Health, noting that two further bids had been put forward from the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority.
- (b) That a fuller update would be received at the next meeting of the Committee following a tender process meeting held on 17 September.

863/08-09 DCSF Science and Learning Consultation (minute 776/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That following the consideration of the consultation document from the Department of Children, Schools and Families at the meeting of the Committee held on 27 July 2009, the University decided to contribute to a combined Russell Group response as opposed to submitting an individual response and that the final Russell Group response had been submitted by the deadline of 18 September 2009 and would be received for information at a future meeting.

864/08-09 JISC Strategy 2009-2012 Consultation (minute 812/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University would not be submitting a response to the JISC 2009-2012 consultation considered at the 27 July 2009 meeting.

865/08-09 Times Higher Education 'University of the Year' Shortlist (minute 833/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(a) That the University had been shortlisted for the Times Higher Education 'University of the Year' award alongside the following institutions:

- (i) Bournemouth University
- (ii) University of Nottingham
- (iii) Queen Mary, University of London
- (iv) Teesside University
- (v) University of Winchester

(b) That the winner would be announced at the Awards evening on 15 October 2009.

(By the Registrar)

(c) That the University had not been shortlisted in the other categories under which entries had been submitted.

866/08-09 International Programme in Leadership and Management in Higher Education (IPLMHE) (minute 841/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

(a) That the inaugural IPLMHE had concluded on 18 September 2009 and that it had been a great success.

(b) That he wished to extend his thanks to those colleagues who had participated in sessions or meetings with the delegates.

867/08-09 E-Note E/09/08: Mobility of Young People (minute 853/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the University would be preparing a response to the European Commission Green Paper for a new strategy to promote the learning mobility of young people and that the draft response would be considered by the Committee at a future meeting prior to submission by the deadline of 15 December 2009.

867/08-09 New Roles for Pro-Vice-Chancellors

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(a) That the roles and responsibilities for the Pro-Vice-Chancellors had been announced in his recent message to colleagues on 15 September 2009.

(b) That Professor Ann Caesar had joined the team as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) as stated at the previous meeting, Professors Richard Higgott and Mark Smith would retain their Research focus with Professor Smith additionally taking on

the role of Deputy Chair of Academic Staff Committee and that Professor Michael Whitby would chair the Academic Resourcing Committee.

868/08-09 Monash - Warwick Strategic Alliance

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That he had visited Monash University in Australia to sign a strategic alliance between Warwick and Monash which sought to deepen the relationship between the institutions.
- (b) That the remote communication infrastructure at Monash was very impressive and that it might allow Warwick to benefit from other scientific facilities at Monash as part of the alliance.
- (c) That as a result of his recent visit and the partnership between the universities, the Australian Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Carr, would be visiting the University on 15 October 2009.

869/08-09 The Future Funding and Direction for the Centre for Lifelong Learning

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning outlining proposals for the future funding and direction for the Centre for Lifelong Learning following the Government's withdrawal of funding for students studying for an equivalent or lower qualification (ELQ) (SC.657/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning)

- (a) That since the withdrawal of funding for ELQ students, the Centre had evaluated the impact on its portfolio.
- (b) That the withdrawal of funding had impacted primarily on the 10 week Open Studies courses, in that only 40 percent of last year's students were now fundable.

(By the Vice-Chancellor)

- (c) That the Centre formed a key component of the University's widening participation activities and continued to make a significant contribution to Warwick's engagement with the local community and that these activities should be continued in a more sustainable form.

(By the Registrar)

- (d) That the decision to discontinue the 10 week Open Studies programmes from 2010/11 was difficult evidenced by feedback at a recent Coventry Ambassadors meeting held in the Arts Centre where the University was, somewhat unfairly, criticised for not taking an active enough role locally in Coventry.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal regarding the future funding and direction for the Centre for Lifelong Learning, in particular the withdrawal of the 10 week Open Studies courses from 2010/11, be approved as set out in SC.657/08-09.

Report of the Fees Working Group

## CONSIDERED:

A report from the Fees Working Group setting out proposals for a fee structure for visiting students (SC.660/08-09).

## REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the report for consideration by the Committee followed a consultation and evidence gathering process, noting that further recommendations from the Fees Working Group including proposals for fee levels for 2010/11 would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

## (By the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (b) That under the new Points-Based Immigration system, it was no longer possible to host visiting postgraduate research students as researchers.
- (c) That the proposals constituted a one-year pilot and would be monitored and reviewed in time for any revisions to take effect by the beginning of the 2010-11 academic year.

## (By the Academic Registrar)

- (d) That a higher level of transparency and consistency was required to satisfy the UK Border Agency conditions for the provision of student visas.
- (e) That consultation had demonstrated a range of views within departments, with some wishing to maintain maximum flexibility in terms of arrangements for visiting students but others supporting greater standardisation.
- (f) That currently a visiting student would incur the same Central Service Charge as a fully registered student but that if the University moved towards a different level of service for students based on the proposed pro rata fee structure, the Central Service Charge to the department might be reviewed.

## (By the Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies)

- (g) That the proposed approach to charge fees for all types of visiting students might raise difficulties for those subject to exchange agreements and to project/grant based arrangements for students.

## (By the Pro Vice Chancellor Research (Science and Medicine))

- (h) That direct costs for some visiting students were not always incorporated into research grant applications and consideration needed to be given as to whether fees for these students should be applied in these cases.

## (By the Chair of the Faculty of Science)

- (i) That the fee arrangements for visiting undergraduate students should also be reviewed in line with these proposals.

## RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee approve in principle the proposals set out in SC.660/08-09, noting that further work was required in line with the discussion at the meeting.

871/08-09 The Sunday Times University Guide 2010

RECEIVED:

The Midlands digest from the recently published Sunday Times University Guide 2010, together with the rankings of the Top 20 institutions within the league table (SC.659/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the University ranked 6<sup>th</sup> overall and continued to lead the Midlands universities.
- (b) That further analysis of the Sunday Times and other league tables would be considered at a future meeting.

871/08-09 Government Review of Higher Education Funding Agencies

RECEIVED:

An article from the Times Higher Education on the Government review of all higher education funding agencies announced by Lord Mandelson on 14 September 2009 (SC.655/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the review was effectively a review of the support for higher education and would encompass consideration of the dual support mechanism.

872/08-09 Notification of Independent Review of HEFCE

RECEIVED:

A letter from HEFCE notifying that the review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council had been initiated and that Oakleigh Consulting Ltd had been appointed to undertake the background research, noting that the final report would be published in spring 2010 (SC.656/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That Oakleigh Consulting Ltd had written to the University and wanted to visit those offices which had experience of engaging directly with HEFCE and its funding procedures and that the University was agreeable to such a visit.

873/08-09 UKRIO – Final Code of Practice for Research

RECEIVED:

The final version of the UK Research Integrity Office's (UKRIO) Code of Practice for Research (SC.651/08-09).

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

That the University Research Ethics Committee would be considering the Code of Practice and its implications for Warwick at its next meeting.

874/08-09 OECD Report: 'Education at a Glance'

RECEIVED:

An article from the BBC highlighting the findings of an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, together with the key findings from the report itself (SC.649/08-09).

875/08-09 UCEA Update 09/094 - UCEA Board Changes

RECEIVED:

Announcement from Universities and Colleges Employers Association changes to the Board for 2009/10, including the appointment of Professor Keith Burnett, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sheffield, as the next UCEA Chair (SC.650/08-09)

876/08-09 I/2009/085: UUK Facts and Figures – The Creative Sector

RECEIVED:

Information for members of the publication of a special edition of Universities UK's Facts and Figures card, which this year covered the Creative Sector (SC.652/08-09).

877/08-09 HEFCE 2009/28: Performance in Higher Education Estates

RECEIVED:

A report from HEFCE detailing the progress and findings of Estate Management Statistics during 2008 (SC.653/08-09).

YSW/jf/steersshare/minutes2008-09/Sept09/21 Sept09