

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 24 January 2011

Present: Vice-Chancellor,  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor S Bruzzi,  
Professor A Caesar,  
Professor R Higgott  
Professor C Hughes,  
Professor T Jones,  
Professor J Labbe,  
Professor K Lamberts,  
Professor M Taylor,  
Professor P Winstanley,  
Mr D Stevens.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of HR, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Acting Head of Governance Support Services, Director of Research Support Services (for item 338/10-11), Director of Student Services (for item 340/10-11).

329/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2011 be approved subject to the following amendments (deletions ~~struck through~~):

312/10-11 (...)

- (b) That, although the total number of studentships had fallen nationally, the allocation to Warwick had increased from ~~45~~ 16 to 27, reflecting the increased concentration of funding.

(...)

318/10-11 (...)

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That he had written to all ~~faculties~~ relevant Heads of Department regarding the call for nominations to encourage a co-ordinated response to the Royal Society.

330/10-11 UKBA Consultation on the Student Immigration System (minute 274/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A response to the UKBA consultation on the Student Immigration System (SC.232/10-11), revised in light of comments provided by the Warwick Medical School and the Warwick Business School.

RESOLVED:

That the response be approved for submission to the UKBA by the deadline of 31 January 2011.

- 331/10-11      Technology Innovation Centres (minute 308/10-11 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine))
- (a)      That a bid was in preparation by Warwick Manufacturing Group.
- (by the Registrar):
- (b)      That a letter of support had been received from the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 332/10-11      ESRC Postgraduate Training Framework Accreditation (minute 312/10-11 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- Notification by the ESRC of the award of a Doctoral Training Centre (SC.234/10-11).
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
- (a)      That the University had been awarded the third highest allocation of all successful individual institutional bids.
- (b)      That there were some notable omissions from the list of those institutions awarded Doctoral Training Centres.
- 333/10-11      REF Panels (minute 313/10-11 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
- (a)      That eight members of staff had received invitations to serve as members of REF panels and that final names would be reported to the Committee once it had been confirmed that the invitations had been accepted.
- (b)      That two members of staff had been invited to serve as panel secretaries.
- 334/10-11      HEFCE consultation on developing a shared strategy for relationship management between HEFCE and institutional governing bodies (minute 317/10-11 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That he had spoken with the Chair of Council and drafted a response to the consultation for submission to the HEFCE by the deadline of 24 January.
- 335/10-11      Senate Business (minute 322/10-11 refers)
- REPORTED:
- (a)      That the Vice-Chancellor had taken action on behalf of the Senate to confer exceptionally on Professor David VandeLinde the award of Emeritus Vice-Chancellor (United States) for the period to 31 July 2016 in the first instance, in the context of his voluntary role in support of the University in the United States.
- (b)      That the timetable for the setting of tuition fees and financial support arrangements for students from 2012/13, as set out in S.21/10-11, allowed for more extensive discussion with staff and students beyond that being undertaken in most other institutions.

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 26 January 2011 be approved as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting, subject to revisions as agreed in the meeting.

336/10-11

Pay Negotiations

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That Unite, UNISON and the GMB had accepted the proposed pay award, and although the UCU had not accepted, ACAS talks had been adjourned and hence institutions were now in a position to be able to implement the award offered.
- (b) That payment would be made within the February salary payments to staff.

337/10-11

Local Enterprise Partnership

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had attended the first Board meeting of the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership which was chaired by Mr Denys Short (noting that Mr Short was also a member of the Warwick Business School's Advisory Board).

RESOLVED:

That the Dean of the Warwick Medical School and the Registrar discuss further the option of seeking support from the Local Enterprise Partnership for a bid to the National Institute of Health Research.

338/10-11

Research Strategy Update

CONSIDERED:

An update on the implementation of the Research Strategy by the Director of Research Support Services (SC.238/10-11) including the Science City initiative and AWM funding, large and strategic proposals, an RSS operational update and data on research income generation.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Research Support Services)

- (a) That research grant applications for the current year had decreased due in part to a number of funding streams ceasing to operate compared with last year.
- (b) That the rate of applications submitted fluctuated during the course of the academic year and the Committee would receive a further update later in the term on progress.

(by the Vice-Chancellor):

- (c) That he was concerned to see the decrease in applications, particularly given the recent investment in the Faculty of Science.

(By the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine))

- (d) That detailed trend data on research applications and awards by individual was considered by the Research Assessment Planning Group.
- (e) That the quality assurance processes being put in place by departments may decrease the volume of applications.

(By the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Social Sciences and Humanities))

- (f) That success rates had declined slightly in some areas and it was expected that the quality assurance processes referred to would improve success rates, while volume may decline.

(by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science):

- (g) That the restructuring of the Department of Life Sciences would have had a temporary impact on application rates.

(by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (h) That bids made to the European Regional Development Fund by the Warwick Manufacturing Group had not been successful.

RESOLVED:

That an updated report on the volume of applications for the current year be brought to the Committee for consideration prior to the scheduled date for the next Research Strategy update.

339/10-11

Fees Working Group Report

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Fees Working Group relating to non-standard fees for postgraduate taught courses in the Warwick Business School, the Department of Politics and International Studies and the Department of Psychology for 2011/12 and fees for visiting research students (SC.239/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the Steering Committee had considered proposals for non-standard postgraduate taught fees for the majority of departments at its meeting on 14 December 2010.
- (b) That the Warwick Business School was significantly revising its fees and financial support structure for postgraduate taught courses to reflect better the prestige and quality of its offering, noting that this involved significant increases in fees for some courses.
- (c) That the proposals by the Warwick Business School were the result of extensive market research and had been the subject of significant discussion both within the School and at the Fees Working Group.
- (d) That the fee level increases proposed by the Department of Politics and International Studies were considered to be sustainable.

(By the President of the Students' Union):

- (e) That he had concerns in relation to the increase in postgraduate fees given the likely increase in undergraduate fees and lack of clarity over the use of the additional funds.

(by the Vice-Chancellor):

- (f) That this would be the subject of further discussion in relation to undergraduate fees in the coming weeks.

- (g) That the same principles in relation to fee setting could not be applied both to postgraduate taught courses and to undergraduate courses, given the differential in personal circumstances of students and in sources of student support.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed non-standard fees for 2011/12 for postgraduate taught courses in the Warwick Business School, the Department of Politics and International Studies and the Department of Psychology be approved as set out in SC.239/10-11.
- (b) That the proposed amendments to the policy on the capping of numbers of visiting students be approved, to clarify that the cap only applies to those students who do not pay fees.
- (c) That the proposal that the period for which a visiting student can attend the University without incurring fees increase from 8 to 10 weeks, as set out in SC.239/10-11, be approved.
- (d) That the proposal that visiting postgraduate research students from institutions with which the University has a formal partnership be considered outside the cap be approved, subject to revisions agreed in the meeting to reflect the fact that the institutions with which the University has a formal partnership may change over time.

340/10-11

Westwood Trust School and Academy Status

CONSIDERED:

A report by the Director of Student Services on Westwood Trust School and Academy Status (SC.243.10-11)

REPORTED: (by the Director of Student Support Services)

- (a) That the school was looking to apply for academy status in order to continue its overall development through increased flexibility to seek alternative sources of funding that academy status would bring, in light of financial pressures on public sources of funding.
- (b) That the school was well managed and constituted an important element of the University's relationship with the local area.

(by the Deputy Registrar):

- (c) That the Steering Committee had previously resolved that the University would not engage with schools as an academy sponsor but that the nature of the support required for academy schools had since changed.
- (d) That the relationship with other trust schools in partnership with the University was changing and a paper would be brought to a subsequent meeting of the Committee to report on current arrangements and future issues to consider with regards to the University's relationship with its partner schools.

RESOLVED:

That the University support Westwood School in its proposal to become an academy school in this instance, noting that the principles underlying the University's relationship with trust and academy schools would need to be revisited in due course.

- 341/10-11 HEFCE Student Number Control Limits
- RECEIVED:
- HEFCE Circular Letter 02/2011 on Student Number Control Limits for 2011/12 (SC.240/10-11).
- REPORTED (by the Registrar):
- That the University's provisional limits would be published in the week commencing 31 January 2011.
- 342/10-11 National Teaching Fellowship Scheme 2011: Call for Nominations
- RECEIVED:
- The call for nominations for the National Teaching Fellowship Scheme 2011.
- REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education and Student Experience))
- That application packs for NTSF awards were being prepared for three previous WATE winners.
- 343/10-11 One World Week
- REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)
- (a) That One World Week would be held in the week commencing 31 January 2011 and constituted an example of the significant voluntary efforts made by the University's students in contributing to the life of the University.
- (b) That some eminent individuals had accepted invitations to contribute to the event.
- RESOLVED:
- That the support of senior staff for One World Week was encouraged.
- 344/10-11 The Higher Education Academy (HEA) Consultation on UK Professional Standards Framework (minute 279/10-11 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- The University's response to the HEA Consultation on UK Professional Standards Framework (SC.237/10-11).
- 345/10-11 Home Affairs Committee's inquiry (minute 274/10-11 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- The University's response to the Home Affairs Committee's inquiry into the impact of proposed restrictions on Tier 4 Migration (SC.233/10-11).
- 346/10-11 RCUK "Concordat for engaging the public with research" (minute 243/10-11 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- A letter from RCUK containing a reminder of the launch of the new research funders' "Concordat for engaging the public with research" on 7 December 2010 (SC.241/10-11).

347/10-11 UUK Consultation: HE Exports and Government Support (minute 267/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

A note from UUK extending the deadline for responses to the UUK's survey on HE international and exports activity to 21 January 2011 (SC.247/10-11). Please note the University responded within the original deadline of 13 December 2010 (SC.189/10-11, previously circulated).

348/10-11 Academy of Medical Sciences report: A new pathway for the regulation and governance of health research (minute 765/09-10 refers)

RECEIVED:

The Executive Summary of the Academy of Medical Sciences' report: A new pathway for the regulation and governance of health research (SC.248/10-11). Please note the full report can be located at <http://www.acmedsci.ac.uk/p47.html>.

JFB/KP/steersshare/minutes/201011/Jan11/24Jan11