

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 24 November 2008

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor S Bassnett,
Professor L Bridges,
Professor S Bruzzi,
Professor K Lamberts,
Professor R Lindley,
Professor R Higgott,
Professor M Smith,
Mr S Thomson,
Professor M Underwood (from item 163/08-09),
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Professor H Thomas

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance, Director of Estates, Head of Governance Support Services, Acting Executive Officer (Vice-Chancellor's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Senior Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling) for item 165/08-09

156/08-09 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2008 be approved, subject to the following amendments (additions underlined and deletions ~~struck through~~):

139/08-09

That the Registrar, the University Librarian and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine) identify ~~a~~ potential members for a working group on how the University might maximise its use of the research archive and bibliometrics for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.

145/08-09

That, whilst the University acknowledged the request, it was the Committee's view that it was not within the remit of DIUS to ~~impose~~ propose such practices ~~on~~ to universities.

157/08-09 Warwick Research Archive Project and Bibliometrics (minute 139/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the Registrar, University Librarian and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine) were identifying potential members of a working group on how the University might maximise its use of the research archive and bibliometrics, noting that potential members would be considered at next week's meeting of the Steering Committee.
- (b) That the WRAP demonstration received at the Committee's meeting on 17 November 2008 would be presented at the Heads of Department Forum on 25 November 2008.

- 158/08-09 National HE Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Programme (minute 146/08-09 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That the University would prepare a response which would be received by the Committee for information once submitted.
- 159/08-09 Chinese State Visit
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- (a) That the visit by delegates from the Chinese government and universities to the University and Westwood School held on 18 November 2008 was very successful.
- (b) That he wished to extend his thanks to all involved, in particular Ros Roke, for their contributions.
- 160/08-09 Santander Universities Network
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That the University had joined the Santander Universities Network on 20 November 2008, noting that under this agreement, Santander Universities would provide £75,000 each year for three years to fund postgraduate scholarships, a research grant fund, Visiting Fellows in the Institute of Advanced Study and community projects.
- 161/08-09 Appointment of new HEFCE Chief Executive
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That Sir Alan Langlands, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dundee, had been appointed as the new Chief Executive of HEFCE, taking up the post on 1 April 2009.
- 162/08-09 HEFCE Circular 31/2008: National Student Survey 2008
- RECEIVED:
- A HEFCE circular letter providing information to institutions on the arrangements for the 2009 National Student Survey, together with guidance on its promotion within the institution (SC.122/08-09).
- 163/08-09 UUK I-Note I/08/101: Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs) – Questions and Answers
- RECEIVED:
- An update from UUK highlighting a number of common questions and answers concerning AHSCs (SC.116/08-09).
- REPORTED: (by the Acting Dean of Warwick Medical School)
- That the information from UUK encouraged bids from institutions which demonstrated potential and promise and/or served the local community, together with a new emphasis on applied health research, noting that these aspects had not been highlighted in previous documentation.
- RESOLVED:
- That the Committee receive updated information on the progress of any bid by Warwick Medical School as soon as it becomes available.

164/08-09 UUK I-Note I/08/104: Health Innovation and Education Clusters (HEICs)

CONSIDERED:

Information from UUK announcing the Department of Health consultation event on HEICs to be held on 5 December 2008 in Birmingham (SC.126/08-09).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee receive updated information on the progress of any bid by Warwick Medical School as it becomes available following the consultation event on 5 December 2008.

165/08-09 Policy Update: Accommodation and Capital

RECEIVED:

A report from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling) and the Director of Estates providing information on recent capital developments and on the use of the University's 2008-2011 HEFCE Capital Investment Framework (CIF) funds (SC.124/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Senior Assistant Registrar)

(a) That the University had received £40.28m of funding from the HEFCE's CIF scheme.

(By the Director of Estates)

(b) That the Lakeside Nursery had been delayed to major flooding which represented damage for the contractor to resolve at their own cost, noting that occupation would now be delayed until the New Year.

(c) That the University's new Tennis Centre had received a Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) "Excellent" award for sustainability, noting that this was the first building in Coventry and the first leisure centre in the UK to receive this accolade.

(d) That the proposed move of the Psychology department from the Humanities Building, contingent on other factors, was not in the current capital plan and would need either CIF funding or internal University financial support.

(By the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

(e) That consideration have been given in the decision making process to the sustainability of the proposals, noting that business cases would be required for any major proposals before financial resources were approved and released.

(f) That, acknowledging the full economic cost of research, financial planning would also need to include sustainability costs.

(By the Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies)

(g) That it would be beneficial to have the figures set out in the annexes of SC.124/08-09 disaggregated to Faculty level.

(By the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

(h) That the announcement that Government Offices were being encouraged to identify proposals for capital projects, which could be executed quickly, might lead HEFCE to boost the current CIF package.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be approved as set out in SC.124/08-09
- (b) That the Registrar contact the Regional Director of Government Office for the West Midlands for further information on any potential increase in the availability in government capital resources.

166/08-09

Report from the Faculty of Science

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Chair of the Faculty of Science updating the Committee on the progress of the University's Life Sciences Strategy (SC.117/08-09).

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

- (a) That the recent options appraisal and subsequent discussions had narrowed the options from five to two.
- (b) That the introduction of a Faculty-wide Postgraduate Certificate in Transferable Skills in Science had been well received, noting that the Faculty of Medicine had also agreed to offer the Certificate to their students.
- (c) That thanks be recorded to Professor Alison Rodger for her significant work on this project.

(By the Vice-Chancellor)

- (d) That the costs included in SC.117/08-09 were indicative with the development and potential implementation of the project taking place over 8 to 12 years.

(By the Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies)

- (e) That the preferred options potentially had substantial implications for the future expansion of Social Studies.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Chair of the Faculty of Science report back to the Committee in early December on progress of the Life Sciences Strategy.
- (b) That the Committee record its thanks to all colleagues involved in the options appraisal and the development of the Strategy more generally.

167/08-09

Major Research Proposal: Warwick Digital Economy Research Hub

CONSIDERED:

A major research proposal from Professor S Creese (Warwick Manufacturing Group) to EPSRC to establish a large scale hub to address the challenges of the digital economy (SC.127/08-09).

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

That the hub would boost the knowledge transfer activity around the Digital Laboratory, noting that the proposal did not have any significant additional implications for the University in terms of space and cost.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal be submitted by the 26 November 2008 deadline.

168/08-09 Appointment to Senate Committees

RESOLVED:

(a) Membership of the First Year Board of Examiners for 2008/09

That additions to the membership of the First Year Board of Examiners for the Faculty of Science for 2008/09 in accordance with Regulation 9.1 (4) be approved as set out below:

Mathematics	Dr David Wood
	Dr Roger Tribe

(b) Undergraduate Appeals Committee Panel

That additions and amendments to the membership of the Undergraduate Appeals Committee Panel representatives for 2008/09 be approved as set out below:

Faculty of Science

Dr Nasir Rajpoot (Computer Science) in place of Dr Chang-Tsun Li
Dr Sarab Anad (Computer Science) in place of Dr Meurig Beynon
Professor John Rawnsley (Mathematics)
Professor Colin Rourke (Mathematics)

Faculty of Social Studies

Professor Liz Dowler (Sociology) in place of Dr C. Wright
Professor Sarah Dahl (Institute of Education) in place of Dr S. Pather
Dr John Cunliffe (PAIS) in place of Dr S. Kettell
Professor Dennis Leech (Economics)

169/08-09 Senate Business

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 3 December 2008 be approved as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate, noting that the membership of Committees of the Senate (S.10/08-09) would be revised to include the appointments approved in this meeting.

171/08-09 IUSS New Inquiry: Putting science and engineering at the heart of government policy

CONSIDERED:

Correspondence from the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee announcing a new inquiry called 'Putting science and engineering at the heart of government policy' and requesting submissions from universities by the deadline of 12 January 2009 (SC.120/08-09).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine) with the Chair of the Faculty of Science confirm whether the University will respond by the 12 January 2009 deadline at a future meeting of the Committee.

172/08-09 UUK I-Note I/08/103: Delivery Partnership on Admissions Reform Update

RECEIVED:

Information from Universities UK updating on the main changes agreed under the Delivery Partnership on Admissions, particularly in the Art and Design entry routes (SC.119/08-09).

kms/jf/steersshare/minutes2008-09/Nov08/24Nov08