

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 28 March 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 P Winstanley,
Mr D Stevens.

Apologies: Professor M Taylor.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Finance Director, Director of HR, Director of Estates, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Acting Head of Governance Support Services, the Assistant Director (Student Experience and Planning) (for item 541/10-11).

533/10-11 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2011 be approved.

534/10-11 HE STEM Midlands & East Anglia – Development of Regional Action Plan for Higher Level Skills (minute 170/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

A report from the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science on the recent success in securing funding for two projects under the National Higher Education STEM Programme (Midlands and East Anglia) SC.382/10-11).

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

That the two project proposals would be funded although queries raised by the awarding body relating to the longer term embedding of the activities would need to be addressed through the normal planning processes.

535/10-11 Social Work Reform Board report (minute 291/10-11 refers)

CONSIDERED:

An email from the Director of Post Qualifying Programmes in Child Care with regard to the University's response to the Social Work Reform Board consultation (SC.384/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(a) That an electronic version of the draft response to the Social Work Reform Board consultation had been made available to members of the Committee.

(by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences)

- (b) That the proposed changes to Masters level Social Work training and particularly to post qualification training would impact on the provision offered by the University, but that the School of Health and Social Studies considered itself to be well placed to respond to the changes.
- (c) That no announcements had yet been made as to whether the bursary for students on the MA in Social Work would continue.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar and the Deputy Registrar review the proposed response to the consultation of the Social Work Reform Board for submission by the deadline of 31 March 2011.

536/10-11 Wolfson Neurology Initiative Research Proposal (minute 516/10-11 refers)

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

- (a) That, following discussions at the meeting of the Steering Committee on 21 March, those elements of the proposal relating to capital expenditure and PhD stipends had been amended.
- (b) That, were the proposal to be successful, a bid for accommodation to house the activity would need to be made to the Capital Planning and Accommodation Review Group.

537/10-11 Universities Week Campaign (minute 320/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

A letter from Universities UK with an outline of the 2011 Universities Week Campaign (SC.378/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That departments would be contacted to assess whether any planned events might align with the Universities Week Campaign.
- (b) That a supplement had been booked in the CBI magazine, which would be published during the same week.

538/10-11 HEFCE Consultation on Public Information about HE (minute 436/10-11 refers)

RECEIVED:

A letter from Professor Janet Beer in response to the Vice-Chancellor's letter regarding Key Information Sets (KIS) (SC.380/10-11).

539/10-11 PULSE 2011

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the annual PULSE survey would be commencing on 28 March 2011 and staff were encouraged to participate.

- 540/10-11 Tuition Fees 2012
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That the Council had approved the proposal that a standard fee of £9000 be charged to Home/EU students for full-time undergraduate courses from 2012/13, with approval of tuition fees and the financial support arrangements for specific courses and areas being delegated to Steering Committee, within defined parameters.
- 541/10-11 Changes to the Student Immigration System
- RECEIVED:
- A report from the International Office regarding the Home Secretary's recent announcement of major reforms of Tier 4 of the Points Based System (SC.381/10-11).
- REPORTED: (by the Assistant Director (Student Experience and Planning))
- (a) That concessions had been made following the consultation on the proposed changes and that it was not therefore anticipated that the reforms would have as severe an impact on overseas students as had been expected, although detailed proposals were yet to be published.
- (by the Chair of the Faculty of Medicine)
- (b) That it was still unclear how the proposals would apply to overseas students on the graduate entry MBChB.
- (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- (c) That he had discussed the reforms with Jeremy Oppenheim, Regional Director of the UKBA and it was clear that a number of operational details were to still be considered fully.
- 542/10-11 National Scholarship Programme: Provisional Allocations for 2012/13
- CONSIDERED:
- A letter from the Chief Executive of the HEFCE setting out the provisional allocations for the first year of the National Scholarship Programme in 2012/13 (SC.385/10-11).
- REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)
- That the provisional allocation to the University, for which matched funding would have to be identified, was £435k.
- RESOLVED:
- That the Academic Registrar's Office undertake further analysis of the basis for the allocations.
- 543/10-11 Communications on Student Finance Reform
- RECEIVED:
- A letter from BIS outlining plans for communicating the student finance reforms to students beginning higher education from 2012/13 (SC.379/10-11).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That work would be ongoing within the University to inform prospective students and parents of the nature and extent of the student support package available from 2012/13.

(by the President of the Students' Union):

- (b) That the information leaflet produced by BIS for prospective students was not appropriately targeted and it was hoped that future communications would be more relevant to the primary audience.

544/10-11

Competition Law

RECEIVED:

A Universities UK note summarising the implications of competition law in the context of the new funding environment (SC.387/10-11), noting in particular the potential application of the legislation to the use of data for benchmarking.

545/10-11

Membership of the Committee

REPORTED:

That this would be the final meeting attended by Professor Higgott in his capacity as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Arts and Social Sciences).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its sincere thanks and best wishes to Professor Higgott for his contribution to the work of the Committee and the University in the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Arts and Social Sciences).

JFB/KG/steersshare/minutes/201011/Mar11/28Mar11