

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 29 June 2009

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor S Bassnett,
Professor L Bridges,
Professor S Bruzzi,
Professor R Lindley,
Professor M Smith,
Professor H Thomas,
Mr S Thomson,
Professor M Whitby.

Apologies: Professor R Higgott, Professor K Lamberts, Professor M Underwood.

In Attendance: Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Finance Director, Head of Governance Support Services, Administrative Officer (Governance), Assistant Registrar for Information Security, Risk Management and Business Continuity (for item 673/08-09)

665/08-09 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June be approved.

665/08-09 Health Innovation and Education Cluster (minute 645/08-09 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University's expression of interest for a Health Innovation and Education Cluster (HIEC) submitted to the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority by the deadline of 24 June 2009 (SC.515/08-09).

667/08-09 Charity Regulation Update (minute 651/08-09 refers)

RECEIVED:

Information from Universities UK regarding the updated guidance on the HEFCE charity regulation (SC.524/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University was not required to take any action in response to new guidance relating to solicitation statements at present as none of the paid officers of the University fundraised for the University through the means of a public charitable collection, noting that the position would be reconsidered should the arrangements change.

668/08-09 IUSS: Creation of a New Science and Technology Committee (minute 649/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University had written to the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Select Committee in support of the creation of a body to provide scrutiny informing policy regarding science and technology.

- (b) That a Science and Technology Select Committee would be established with effect from 1 October 2009.

669/08-09

USS Pension Review

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That USS, (the Universities Superannuation Scheme Limited) had asked the University to circulate to all staff who are members of the USS scheme, a briefing on the start of a review of the future operation of the USS scheme.
- (b) That representatives of both USS members and employers had begun to work together in a Joint Review Group (JRG) to review how USS could cope with the pressures that it, like many other pension schemes, was currently facing, including the effect of the current economic downturn, and the increased longevity of the scheme's members.
- (c) That the University would post any news received from USS for its members concerning the progress of the Joint Review Group discussions on insite.

670/08-09

Pascal Lamy Open Lecture

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That Pascal Lamy, Director-General of the World Trade Organisation, would lead a public lecture on Wednesday 15 July, focusing on 'The Role of the Multilateral Trading System in the Recent Crisis, chaired by Warwick's Chancellor, and Director of the CBI, Richard Lambert, with a response from Martin Wolf CBE, Associate Editor and Chief Economics Commentator for the Financial Times and Honorary Graduan of the University.
- (b) That the event would take place between 5.30pm and 7pm in Lecture Theatre 0.1, Mathematics and Statistics, Zeeman Building, noting that registration details were available on Insite.

671/08-09

Meeting of the Russell Group

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That he had attended a meeting of the Russell Group on 25 June 2009 and that the impact that the UK Border Agency, together with new Points Based Immigration System (PBS), had had on universities had been discussed.
- (b) That, while the number of rejected applicants was reducing by 10% each month, the Group heard reports that in the first month of the PBS being in place, the Ambassador in Beijing had rejected 60% of visa applications.
- (c) That Malcom Grant, Provost and President of UCL and Chair of the Russell Group, was meeting with Lord Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills, to discuss issues around immigration and its impact on international recruitment.
- (d) That it had been proposed to increase the Russell Group subscription by £10k but that the rationale for such an increase in the current financial climate had yet to be clarified.

672/08-09 New Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its congratulations to Professor Christina Hughes, Department of Sociology, who had been appointed the first Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences with effect from the 2009/10 academic year.

673/08-09 Major Bid Proposal: Mathematics and Statistics DTC

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft full proposal to the EPSRC's call for up to two centres of doctoral training in Mathematical Sciences (SC.531/08-09).

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

- (a) That the outline bid previously considered by the Steering Committee had been successful and that the full proposal set out in SC.531/08-09 was due for submission to the EPSRC by 15 July 2009.
- (b) That the proposal would be considered against submissions from five other short listed institutions.

(By the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (c) That the reference to PhD students training focused on academic places only and that this should be expanded to include senior appointments outside of academia, including those in business and industry.
- (d) That the proposal focused on the Mathematics and Statistics strategy and that it should include more emphasis on the Centre's potential contribution to the objectives of the University Strategy.

(by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (e) That Warwick had already been awarded an EPSRC DTC and that the proposal in its current form did not state clearly state the benefits of multiple centres or how the bid was different and unique.

RESOLVED:

That the draft proposal for a centre of doctoral training in Mathematical Science be approved as set out in SC.531/08-09, subject to the amendments discussed at the meeting, noting that the final bid would be circulated to members of the Committee before the submission date.

674/08-09 University Information Security Policies

CONSIDERED:

The University Information Security Policy and its sub-policies on data retention and on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (SC.518/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the single University Information Policy sought to combine a number of other policies which had been developed over recent years.
- (b) That the establishment of a University Information Policy was important to support those departments which handled government department data, noting that the scrutiny of the management of public data was increasingly stringent.
- (c) That the policy and its implementation was designed to be dynamic given that the requirements were evolving and that the Assistant Registrar (Information Security, Risk Management and Business Continuity) would continue to act as a consultant to departments to help implement an appropriate local monitoring system.
- (d) That the University would focus on the safe disposal of data and corporate records in 2009/10.

RESOLVED:

That the University Information Security Policy and its sub-policies be approved on behalf of the Senate as set out in SC.518/08-09, noting that the plans for implementation and auditing to ensure compliance would be developed in consultation with departments, including IT Service.

675/08-09

Strategic Departmental Review Report: German Studies

CONSIDERED:

The final report and related action plan from the Strategic Departmental Review for the department of German held between 12 and 14 May 2009 (SC.516/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That, given the poor RAE outcome for the department, the report could have been more engaged in the departmental research performance.
- (b) That, if the University wished Review Panels to probe into certain areas, the Steering Committee would need to provide specific questions in advance of the production of the Departmental Self-Evaluation Document.

(By the Chair of the Faculty of Arts)

- (c) That the provisional action plan placed responsibility for too many of the recommendations on the Head of Department and that this was not perhaps the most effective means of moving forward given their heavy workload.

(By the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (d) That the German Department could learn from the Italian Department with regards to engagement of postgraduate research students in teaching duties.

(By the Deputy Registrar)

- (e) That it should be noted that whilst the action plan might attribute certain tasks to the Head of Department, it was within the Head's gift to delegate further to the most appropriate colleague within the Department and that the action plan would then be revised based on delegations identified within the departmental response.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report of the Strategic Departmental Review of German and related action plan be approved as set out in SC.516/08-09.
- (b) That areas to be further considered by the Head of Department in the drafting of the Departmental Response, as determined by the Committee, be sent to the Head of Governance Support Services.
- (c) That Professor Rob Burns be invited to attend the meeting on 20 July 2009 to present the departmental response to the report and its recommendations.

676/08-09

Strategic Departmental Review Report: Italian Studies

CONSIDERED:

The final report and related action plan from the Strategic Departmental Review for the department of Italian held between 5 and 7 May 2009 (SC.521/08-09).

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

- (a) That the reference in section 7.3 to the Department's budgetary autonomy was inaccurate as ARC departments were not devolved entities in this regard.

(By the Vice-Chancellor)

- (b) That clarity was required on what was meant by 'balance between permanent and non-permanent staff' in section 5.3 with regards to student support mechanisms.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report of the Strategic Departmental Review of Italian and related action plan be approved as set out in SC.521/08-09.
- (b) That Dr Simon Gilson, outgoing Head of Department, and incoming Head of Department Dr Jennifer Burns, be invited to attend the meeting on 20 July 2009 to present the departmental response to the report and its recommendations.

677/08-09

EPSRC: Capital Intensive Proposals

CONSIDERED:

A call from the EPSRC for capital intensive proposals for mid-range facilities (SC.530/08-09).

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

- (a) That EPSRC Framework universities, including Warwick, had received advance notification of this second call for capital intensive proposals due to EPSRC identifying additional opportunities for capital investment in facilities beyond proposals already received in the first call.
- (b) That Warwick had submitted four expressions of interest in response to the first call.
- (c) That he had contacted departments with significant Capital Investment Framework (CIF) spend committed to facilities to endeavour to put forward proposals which, if successful, would allow for CIF monies to be allocated elsewhere.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine) co-ordinate potential expressions of interest with the relevant Heads of Department for submission by the deadline of 9 July 2009.

678/08-09 HEFCE Circular Letter 11/2009 - 2009 National Student Survey: Changes to Publication of Data

RECEIVED:

A letter from HEFCE setting out the mechanisms and timeframes for the publication of the results of the 2009 National Student Survey via the Ipsos MORI and Unistats websites (SC.517/08-09).

679/08-09 Speech by David Lammy MP: 'The Value of Higher Education'

RECEIVED:

A speech delivered by the Minister for Higher Education, David Lammy MP, on the importance of a liberal arts education delivered at the "Value of Higher Education" event at the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) on 24 June 2009 (SC.529/08-09).

690/08-09 Research Fortnight: New Defra Research Agency

RECEIVED:

An article from Research Fortnight published on 17 June 2009 regarding the launch of the Food and Environment Research Agency (SC.520/08-09).

691/08-09 UCEA: Facts and Figures Emphasise the Need to Sustain the Success Sector

RECEIVED:

Information from the University and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) on its latest Facts and Figures briefings which summarised many of the HE sector's continued benefits in relation to pay, conditions and staffing, noting the two documents referenced in the note, titled 'HE staffing' and 'Pay', emphasise some of the many improvements in HE employment matters that had helped develop the sector's success (SC.523/08-09).

692/08-09 HEFCE Circular 12/2009 – Funding Partial Completion

RECEIVED:

A letter from HEFCE describing its approach to funding partial completion through the introduction of the flexible study measure in 2009-10 and its data audit policy (SC.519/08-09).

693/08-09 UUK I-Note I/2009/055: Digital Britain Strategy

CONSIDERED:

An Information Note summarising the implications of the recently published Digital Britain strategy for the HE sector and highlights the issues of concern for Universities UK (SC.532/08-09).

RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Faculty of Arts disseminate the Information Note to the Head of Film and Television Studies to review the nuances contained therein regarding the future of higher education programmes in the areas of Film and Television, and culture.

694/08-09 UUK I-Note I/2009/047: Monitoring Research Concentration and Diversity

RECEIVED:

An Information Note notifying members that Universities UK has published a research report on *Monitoring research concentration and diversity* and summarising the main conclusions of the report (SC.525/08-09).

695/08-09 Meeting of the Steering Committee on 13 July 2009

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the meeting of the Steering Committee scheduled for 13 July 2009 would be held on an 'if required' basis.

696/08-09 Meeting of the Senate on 1 July 2009

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the meeting of the Senate to held on 1 July 2009 would take place in the IMC Lecture Theatre rather than the Council Chamber.

697/08-09 National Teaching Fellowships

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its congratulations to Dr Paul Raffield (School of Law) and Dr Sean Allan (German Studies) for being awarded Higher Education Academy National Teaching Fellowships in recognition of individual excellence in teaching.