

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 30 June 2008

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor K Lamberts
Professor L M Whitby
Professor R Lindley (from item 601/07-08),
Professor H Thomas,
Professor M Smith,
Professor R Higgott,
Professor L Bridges,
Professor S Bassnett,
Professor Y Carter,
Mr J Kirby (from item 601/07-08)
- Apologies: Professor A Caesar
- In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Estates, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Administrative Officer (Governance), Senior Assistant Registrar (Governance), Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning (for item 601/07-08), University Librarian (for item 603/07-08), Interim Director of the International Office (for item 604/07-08)
- 599/07-08 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the revised minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2008 circulated at the meeting be approved.
- 600/07-08 Effectiveness Review of the University Council
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That the Chair of Council had confirmed that the relevant section from the Report from the Review Group on the Effectiveness of the University Council should be considered by the Senate prior to being considered by the Council at its meeting of 9 July 2008.
- 601/07-08 Departmental Response to the Strategic Departmental Review (SDR) of the Centre for Lifelong Learning
- RECEIVED:
- The departmental response to the recent Strategic Departmental Review of the Centre for Lifelong Learning (SC.454/07-08).
- REPORTED: (by the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning)
- (a) That the recommendations in the SDR action plan have been actioned by the Centre or were being progressed with other relevant parties as outlined in the recommendations table.
- (b) That the Centre was reviewing its income streams following the Government's withdrawal of funding for students studying for equivalent or lower level qualifications, including marketing strategies to attract students whose funding would not be affected by the change in policy.

602/07-08

Universities UK Letter Regarding Points Based Immigration System

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the International Office and Student Admissions and Recruitment, responding to the request from Universities UK Chief Executive, Baroness Warwick, for institutional support in influencing the current Points Based System proposal (SC.463/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the strong support of the Committee be noted and that the University respond to Universities UK by the deadline of 1 July 2008.

603/07-08

Policy Update: Library Issues

CONSIDERED:

An update from the Library on activities in the area of storage and exchange of research data and other intellectual assets, including a draft proposal to Wolfson/CURL libraries programme to re-configure the physical and technical infrastructure of the Modern Records Centre (SC.456/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approve the MRC proposal in principle on the basis that further work take place between the Library and Finance Office to address the funding gap prior to submission of a final bid in September 2008.

604/07-08

Policy Update: International Issues

RECEIVED:

A paper updating on international student recruitment and institutional relations (SC.458/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Interim Director of the International Office)

- (a) That the University was not performing as well as it could in overseas postgraduate research recruitment compared to other Russell Group institutions.
- (b) That performance could be improved with a number of initiatives, including developing relationship with overseas scholarship bodies, pump-priming relationships with overseas partners and investigating options for split-site PhDs.

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

- (c) That despite the recent RCUK Science Bridges bid with Boston University being unsuccessful, the partnership with Boston University would continue and alternative funds would be sought.

605/07-08

Students' Union International Consultation

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the President of the Students' Union on the consultation with international students and their experiences of studying at Warwick.

REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)

- (a) That the consultation focused on the internationalisation of the student experience at Warwick.
- (b) That, via an integration survey and face-to-face interviews, over 1,000 responses were collated, along with data from the International Student Barometer.

RESOLVED:

That a paper giving further detail of the outcomes of the consultation be received by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 14 July 2008.

606/07-08

HEFCE Consultation on Sustainable Development in Higher Education

CONSIDERED:

Sections taken from a consultation document detailing an updated strategic statement and action plan to support HE's contribution to sustainable development (SC.457/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

That the University had started to consider sustainable development in light of emerging utility costs which saw the University consuming more energy than other Russell Group institutions.

RESOLVED:

That a response to the consultation be prepared by the Registrar, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Estates and submitted prior to the deadline of 5 September 2008.

607/07-08

Proposals to Amend University Governing Instruments Relating to the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to Statute 8 and Ordinance 3 on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors to be considered by the Senate at its meeting on 2 July 2008 with a view to being recommended to the Council for approval at its meeting on 9 July 2008, together with the report from the Working Group on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors (S.53/07-08).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the proposed amendments as set out in S.53/07-08 be considered by the Senate at its meeting on 2 July 2008.
- (b) That the start dates for Heads of Department, Chairs of Faculty and Pro-Vice-Chancellors be reviewed with a view to establishing a start date of 1 September for all positions.

608/07-08

University Response to Consultation on "Prosperous Places: Taking forward the Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration"

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the Sub-National Review consultation (SC.455/07-08).

609/07-08

Letter from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Regarding Scholarship Funding

RECEIVED:

A letter from Jim Murphy MP, Minister for Europe, in response to a letter sent by Jim Cunningham (MP for Coventry South) on behalf of the University, regarding the reduction in FCO scholarships (SC.468/07-08).

KMS/jf/steersshare/minutes200708/June08/30June08