

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 31 May 2016

Present: Professor T Jones (Provost, (Chair)), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Mr I Leigh (President of the Students' Union), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science), Mr K Sloan (Registrar and Chief Operating Officer, (Secretary)), Professor C Sparrow (Academic Member of the Senate), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Affairs)), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)).

Apologies: Professor Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education)), Professor P Winstanley (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor L Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources)).

In Attendance: Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Ms C English (Administrative Officer (Governance) (Assistant Secretary)), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar).

NOTE: The Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine is listed twice above; Professor A Clarke was appointed Faculty Chair from 1 May 2016, and Professor P Winstanley remains in post until 31 May 2016 to allow for a one-month handover period.

288/15-16 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2016 be approved.

289/15-16 Approval of Electrical Safety Policy (minute 276/15-16 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That the Steering Committee had considered and approved by correspondence the updated Electrical Safety Policy, noting the following:

- (a) The change to Core Principles 1 and 2, which had been amended following a review of the arrangements relating to Live Working.
- (b) The change to Core Principle 5, which included a line stating that all work on fixed wiring installations must only be carried out by Estates staff or Estates approved contractors, noting that all previous wording referring to departments permitting their own staff or contractors to work on fixed installations had been removed.

290/15-16 University Rankings

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the University of Warwick had been ranked as one of the world's top 100 universities in the 2016 Times Higher Education (THE) World Reputation Rankings, being placed in the band 81st to 90th position.

- (b) That the THE ranking followed soon after the QS World University Rankings by Subject which declared 10 subjects at Warwick to be in the world's top 50 and a total of 20 subjects in the top 100.
- (c) That on Monday, 23 May 2016 the Guardian had also ranked the University of Warwick in the top ten UK Universities in its University Guide 2017 with an overall ranking of 9th place; Warwick had 14 subjects ranked in the top ten, the highest placed courses being Accounting and Finance (WBS) and Media and Film (Film and Television Studies) which were both ranked in second place.
- (d) That Warwick was also ranked in the top 10 in the UK, and the leading university in the West Midlands, in the latest UK University league table published by "The Complete University Guide" on 25 April 2016, noting that the University was ranked eighth, maintaining its record of having never finished outside of the UK's top ten universities in this table.

291/15-16 Royal Society of Chemistry

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That the University had won three prestigious prizes from the Royal Society of Chemistry; the Gibson Fawcett Award which recognises original and independent contributions to materials chemistry, the Marlow Award which recognises the most meritorious contributions to physical chemistry, and the Ronald Belcher Award which recognises work on an analytical topic by a current post-graduate student at a British or Irish University.

RESOLVED:

That the award winners be congratulated on their successes.

292/15-16 Appointment of Registrar

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (a) That Rachel Sandby-Thomas CB had been appointed as the University's next Registrar following extraordinary meetings of the Senate and the Council on 26 May 2016.
- (b) That Rachel was currently Shadow Chief Executive Officer of the Government's Institute for Apprenticeships and had held a range of roles in Government service.
- (c) That the University would welcome Rachel to her new role in advance of the 2016/17 academic year.

293/15-16 Senate Business

CONSIDERED:

The items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 8 June 2016.

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the strategic item for discussion at the meeting of the Senate to be held on 8 June 2016 was the Government White Paper and Teaching Excellence Framework.

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (b) That, since consideration by the Steering Committee at its meeting held on 11 April 2016, the intended name for the proposed new academic department to house the Divisions of Liberal Arts and Global Sustainable Development had been amended to the School for Cross-Faculty Studies, the establishment of which would be considered by the Senate at the meeting to be held on 8 June 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 8 June 2016 be approved, as set out in the papers circulated for consideration by Senate Steering.

294/15-16 *Data Futures

RECEIVED:

A presentation on the Higher Education Data and Information Improvement Programme (HEDIIP) and the HESA Data Futures Project (SC.127/15-16 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the presentation on the Higher Education Data and Information Improvement Programme (HEDIIP) and the HESA Data Futures Project as set out in SC.127/15-16 {restricted}, be noted.

295/15-16 Gender Statement of Intent

RECEIVED:

A paper detailing the proposed Gender Statement of Intent, which embodies a set of values and actions regarding the advancement of gender equality for women in academia at Warwick (SC.128/15-16).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research))

- (a) That the Statement of Intent was produced as an outcome of the two-day Women in Academia Workshop in February 2016, led by University of Warwick Pro-Chancellor and Vice-Chair of Council, Viki Cooke, and attended by 20 female participants from across the University, working in different areas of academia and at different levels.
- (b) That the University was requested to commit to a strategy and implementation plan including setting a measurable objective on Equality and Diversity that would be embedded into all six goals of the University Strategic Plan, that Equality and Diversity would appear as an “above the line” agenda item at all relevant University committees, including Senate and Council, that a five-year plan for the achievement of gender equality in the Warwick academy would be published within a year of the date of this statement and that existing data on gender in the academy would be published and enhanced data collected to ensure transparency in all matters related to gender, with due respect to data protection and confidentiality.

- (c) That it was proposed that a Task Force be established to develop the strategy and to take a multi-faceted approach to implementation, with financial support to meet and develop this work on behalf of the University community and ensure that its members are credited with this important role as part of their career progression.
- (d) That this Task Force would be in addition to and in parallel with the LGBTUA+ Task Force, ensuring no duplication with one another or the Equality and Diversity Committee, but working collaboratively with these other bodies to share methodology where appropriate.

(by the Group Finance Director)

- (e) That it was inaccurate to state that there was a “striking imbalance” in gender at almost every level of the academy, noting that there were significant discrepancies between faculties.

(by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (f) That a wider review of the terms of reference of the Equality and Diversity Committee was required, noting that simply making all Equality and Diversity reports above the line would not change the way in which the content was viewed.
- (g) That similar but sometimes reversed gender imbalances also existed in non-academic areas of the University, and the proposed Statement of Intent was just one of several related areas of work.

(by the Academic Representative of the Senate)

- (h) That the existing data on gender in the academy should be presented in a simple and concise manner to make an impact in the academic environment.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Affairs))

- (i) That it was important that the Task Force was comprised of individuals who formed a body representative of the wider academic community and was empowered to enable change.

(by the Provost)

- (j) That the final two points of the strategy and implementation plan moved away from diversity more broadly and focused very specifically on gender.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the content of the Gender Statement of Intent, produced as an outcome of the Women in Academia Workshop in February 2016 as set-out in SC.128/15-16, be noted.
- (b) That the final two points of the strategy and implementation plan be reworded to make reference to diversity more generally and not simply gender.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Vice-Chancellor and President declare his support for the Gender Statement of Intent and enable the actions requested therein following the rewording of the final two points of the strategy and implementation plan as detailed above.

296/15-16

Consumer Rights Compliance Self-Assessment Survey

REPORTED:

That the University had submitted a factual response to the online self-assessment survey developed by UUK on consumer rights standards, by the deadline of 25 May 2016, noting that the survey was intended to highlight key considerations for institutions and assist them in evaluating their approach to date.

As at 2 June 2016