

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 13 July 2015

- Present: Professor R Ball (Chair of the Faculty of Science), Professor S Croft (Provost (Chair)), Professor M Freely (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education)), Professor T Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering and Medicine)), Professor M Taylor (Dean of the Warwick Business School), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (People and Public Engagement)), Ms C Turhan (President of the Students' Union), Professor P Winstanley (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Professor L Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources)).
- Apologies: Professor Sir Nigel Thrift (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences)).
- In Attendance: Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Ms J Horsburgh (Deputy Registrar), Dr E Hough (Assistant Registrar, Governance (Assistant Secretary)), Ms G McGrattan (Director of Human Resources), Mr I Rowley (Director of Development, Communication and External Affairs), Mr K Sloan (Registrar and Chief Operating Officer (Secretary)).

356/14-15 Apologies and Conflicts of Interest

357/14-15 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 29 June 2015 be approved.

358/14-15 Update on the events on Campus in December 2014

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That in the previous week, a court case had been held concerning three individuals involved in the incident that took place on campus on 3 December 2014.
- (b) That at the hearing, two of those individuals, which included one Warwick student, were found guilty of public order offences, noting that the individual who was not a Warwick student was also convicted for an assault on a security officer.
- (c) That Student Support had extended offers of support to the student concerned, as well as to those members of staff and students involved in giving evidence, noting that the University's focus would remain on working closely with the Students' Union and all students and staff to ensure a spirit of co-operation between protesters and University staff

359/14-15 Budget – 8 July 2015

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the 8 July budget had seen a number of important developments for higher education, noting in particular:
 - (i) That from 2017/18, the student fee cap would be linked to inflation for those institutions who could show that they offered high quality teaching, noting that this would likely mean the introduction of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).
 - (ii) That from 2016/17, maintenance grants would be replaced with loans to be paid back at the £21K earnings threshold, noting in addition, that maintenance loans would be increased so that the maximum available would be £8,200 per year.
 - (iii) That an apprenticeship levy would be introduced on all large employers, noting that this would likely also apply to universities.
 - (iv) That the government would correct an anomaly in the R&D tax credits legislation so that from 1 August 2015 universities and charities would be unable to claim the R&D Expenditure Credit (RDEC), in line with the original intention of the policy.
 - (v) That new Regius Professorships would be created, noting that there would likely be bids from Warwick as well as: Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, Huddersfield, York, Birmingham, Keele, Coventry, Manchester, Liverpool, Lancaster and Chester

360/14-15 Chair of the Council

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That at its meeting of 8 July 2015, the University Council approved the appointment of Sir David Normington to the role of Chair of Council, to take over from the current Chair, Sir George Cox, from 1 August 2017.
- (b) That the Council had also appointed Ms Viki Cooke as second Pro-Chancellor, with immediate effect and for a period co-terminus with her role as Vice-Chair of the Council, noting that the demands of the ceremonial duties of the Chancellor's office were such that two Pro-Chancellors were required on an ongoing basis.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Steering Committee be extended to both Sir David Normington and Ms Viki Cooke.

361/14-15 Revised Socially Responsible Investment Policy (SRIP)

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That at its meeting on 8 July, the Council considered and approved a revised Socially Responsible Investment policy (SRIP).
- (b) That the Council had also considered a proposal from the Students' Union in relation to fossil free investment.
- (c) That the Council had resolved that the University should review annually the availability, financial viability and appropriateness of fossil free index-related funds for its investments in equities, noting that should these conditions be met, the University would then commit to replace the existing funds with investments in fossil free index-related funds, in line with the SRIP criterion of corporate behaviour leading to environmental degradation.

RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Steering Committee be extended to Ms Cat Turhan and Mr Rob Ankcorn of the Students' Union, in recognition of their contribution to the development of the investment proposal.

362/14-15 Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That the University has achieved a final response rate of 42% in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), noting that this was a significant improvement on the 2014 rate of 36% and an excellent result overall.
- (b) That the University had also achieved an excellent response rate of 58% for the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES).

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education))

- (c) That the University's response rate for PTES was well above the sector average of 30%, noting that this was also true for the response rate for PRES, where the sector average was 40%.

363/14-15 Institute of Physics Prize

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That Professor Valery Nakariakov had been awarded the Payne-Gaposchkin medal and prize from the Institute of Physics for his leadership and major contribution to the discovery of magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) activity of the solar corona.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Steering Committee be extended to Professor Nakariakov.

364/14-15 Queen's Young Leader Award

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That postgraduate student Nkechikwu Azinge had been recognised as a Queen's Young Leader in the inaugural awards at Buckingham Palace.
- (b) That the awards had been presented by Her Majesty the Queen, to 60 exceptional young people from across the Commonwealth, who were taking the lead in their communities and using their skills to transform lives.
- (c) That Ms Azinge had been recognized for her work in setting up the Sickle Cell Aid Foundation (SCAF) in Nigeria in 2010, to help people with the hereditary blood disorder, Sickle Cell Anaemia.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Steering Committee be extended to Ms Azinge for this exceptional achievement.

365/14-15 Representative of the Assembly to the Senate

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

That following a call for nominations, Mrs Shirley Crookes, Head of Student Support, had been appointed as a representative of the Assembly to the Senate.

366/14-15 In Memoriam: Krysia Saul

REPORTED:

That the University has been saddened to learn of the death of Mrs Krysia Saul, research manager for Warwick and Coventry Primary Care Research between 2000 and 2011.

RESOLVED: (by the Provost)

That the condolences of the Steering Committee be extended to Mrs Saul's family and friends.

367/14-15 *Warwick Institute for the Science of Cities

CONSIDERED:

A report updating the Committee on Urban Science activities at the University (SC.171/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the update on the urban science activities be noted.
- (b) That the business plan for the research hub bid be presented to the Financial and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

368/14-15 *New Model in Technology and Engineering (NMiTE)

CONSIDERED:

A paper informing the Committee about proposals from the New Model in Engineering and Technology, to establish a new university in the Hereford area (SC.172/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That an update be brought to the Committee in October, noting that this should provide a clear articulation of the potential costs and benefits of further engagement, and that quarterly reports be provided thereafter.
- (b) That the University should proceed with investigating options for validating NMiTE's degrees, taking account of all risks and quality assurance processes.
- (c) That further consideration be given to an appropriate model for the University to further engage with the initiative.

369/14-15 Institutional Response to the Wakeham Review

CONSIDERED:

A report on the institutional response to the Wakeham Review (SC.173/14-15).

REPORTED: (by the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality))

- (a) That HEFCE had commissioned an independent review into graduate skills and employability in STEM subjects.
- (b) That due to the timing coinciding with the examinations period, it had not been possible to bring the final subject responses before the Committee.
- (c) That a separate review into accreditation for Computer Science was underway, noting that colleagues in the department were working with Teaching Quality to produce a response.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the approach to the development of an institutional response to the survey be noted.
- (b) That the proposal that both the Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Teaching and Learning, and Science, Engineering and Medicine) approve responses on behalf of the Steering Committee for submission by the deadline, to an evidence gathering survey for the Wakeham Review of STEM Degree Provision and Graduate Employability be approved.

370/14-15 Any Other Business

RESOLVED:

That in the event that this would be her last Steering Committee, that the sincere thanks and appreciation of the Steering Committee be extended to Ms Cat Turhan for her engagement and hard work over the past year in her role as President of the Students' Union.

371/14-15 Law Commission Consultation on Charity Law

RECEIVED:

An update on the University's response to the Law Commission's consultation on a range of changes to charity law. The proposals, which affect both registered and exempt charities, were intended to reduce the administrative and financial burden caused by inefficient and unduly complex law. Several proposals referred specifically to higher education (e.g., possible replacement of the Universities and College Estates Act 1925); others related to exempt charities. There were also proposals to simplify processes for charities created by Act of Parliament or under Royal Charter. The University of Warwick's response to the consultation is as follows:

The University of Warwick is pleased to contribute to the Law Commission's consultation on Charity Law. Given the complex and multi-faceted nature of the subject area, we confine our comments to section 4 of the consultation which deals with the issue of amending governing documents for Charities incorporated by Statute or Royal Charter. We support the commentary as outlined in the Pinsent Mason's submission, most notably any recommendations which make it easier to amend governing instruments and which reduce the number of items that would require Privy Council approval. As such, we are supportive of further guidance and definition of items that can be amended locally without recourse to the Privy Council