

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 1 September 2015

Present: Professor S Croft (Provost (Chair)), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor T Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering and Medicine)), Mr I Leigh (President of the Students' Union), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences)), 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 Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education)), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of Science), Professor C Sparrow, Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (People and Public Engagement)).

In Attendance: Dr G Carden (Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics) (in attendance for item 419/14-15), Ms C English (Administrative Officer, 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)).

NOTES: The Chair welcomed Professor Simon Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Mr Isaac Leigh (President of the Students' Union) and Professor Colin Sparrow (Representative of the Senate) as newly appointed members of the Steering Committee.

412/14-15 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 10 August 2015 be approved.

413/14-15 International Research Funding Success

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That five Warwick academics had been awarded research grants through the São Paulo Researchers in International Collaboration (SPRINT) 2015 call for proposals to the joint Warwick-FAPESP fund; grants intended to further develop existing research collaborations with colleagues at a variety of institutions across the State of São Paulo.
- (b) That congratulations be extended to the recipients of the SPRINT research grants; Dr Rohit Bhagat (WMG), Dr Katherine Denby (Life Sciences), Dr Ross Forman (English), Dr Jo Garde-Hansen (Cultural Policy Studies), and Dr John Walsh (Life Sciences).

414/14-15 European Research Council Advanced Grant Awards

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That congratulations be extended to Professors Mohan Balasubramanian (WMS), Neil O'Connell (Mathematics) and Christopher Woodruff (Economics) who had won European Research Council Advanced Grants, noting that these grants were awarded to exceptional, established research leaders who pursued ground-breaking, high-risk projects which opened new directions in their research fields or other domains.
- (b) That this took the total number of ERC awards made to Warwick academics to 32, since 2007.

415/14-15 Alan Turing Institute

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That the first Director of the Alan Turing Institute had been formally announced as Professor Andrew Blake, who would join the Institute in October 2015, commencing a five year term of appointment.
- (b) That Professor Blake was a Microsoft Distinguished Scientist and Laboratory Director of Microsoft Research UK, an Honorary Professor in Information Engineering at the University of Cambridge, and a leading researcher in computer vision.

416/14-15 Culture and Tourism Awards

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That 'The Story of Children's Television from 1946 to Today' exhibition, running at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum in Coventry, had been shortlisted in the 'Culture Award' and 'Tourism Event of the Year' categories at the Culture and Tourism Awards.
- (b) That the exhibition had been developed by staff at the museum in close collaboration with Warwick's Department of Film and Television Studies, as well as the BBC and Kaleidoscope, the classic television organisation.

417/14-15 *Student Admissions Headlines

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer on the latest Student Admissions data.

418/14-15 *Update on Changes to the USS

CONSIDERED:

A paper updating the Steering Committee on changes to the USS pension scheme with effect from April 2016 (SC.193/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the changes to the USS pension scheme effective from April 2016 be noted.

419/14-15 HEFCE Consultation on Future Changes to the UK Performance Indicators

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining the University's proposed response to a letter received from the HEFCE, inviting comments on proposals about changes to be implemented in the 2016 publications of UKPIs (SC.194/14-15).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics))

- (a) That the University had received a letter from the HEFCE providing updates on three matters; the coverage and scope of the UKPIs, the UKPIs for widening participation and UKPIs for research output.
- (b) That the proposed changes had arisen from a series of actions and decisions taken by the UK Performance Indicators Steering Group following a review in December 2013.
- (c) That the proposals included the publication of possible new UKPIs as 'experimental statistics' before they were confirmed as formal UKPIs, to enable further testing of the proposals.
- (d) That a key proposed change to the Widening Participation indicators included the removal of reference to the National Statistics Social Economic Classifications (NS-SEC), which would appear for the final time in the 2016 publication of the widening participation UKPIs.
- (e) That it was suggested that the University respond to the consultation stating that, whilst it supported the use of experimental measures to better understand performance, it did not support the withdrawal of the NS-SEC measures; that the HEFCE should outline how the UKPIs would fit and remain relevant in the new education and research assessment landscape; and that the development of new research performance indicators should take into consideration the extensive, multi-dimensional assessment of research already undertaken through the REF.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning))

- (f) That in order to ensure data provided by the NS-SEC measure were reliable, work should be undertaken to make the data more robust as opposed to withdrawing the measure.

RESOLVED:

That the University's draft response regarding proposals about changes to be implemented in the 2016 publications of UKPIs be approved.

420/14-15 HEUK Date 2013/14

RECEIVED:

A paper entitled 'Higher Education Statistics for the United Kingdom 2013/14', released by HESA, providing a statistical overview of UK higher education in the 2013/14 academic year, which included data from HESA and other statistics producers including UCAS, the Student Loans Company, OECD and ONS (SC.195/14-15).