

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 2 October 2006

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Mr B Duggan
Professor J Jones
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor M Smith
Professor H Thomas (from 10.30am)
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Professor R Lindley.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Deputy Registrar, University Secretary, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 6/06-07 the Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling).

1/06-07 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2006 be approved.

2/06-07 UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) (minutes 660/05-06 and 745/05-06 refer)

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the expressions of interest submitted by the University for UKIERI major awards had been unsuccessful, noting that 15 applications had been shortlisted to proceed to the next stage of the bidding process and that it was anticipated that 5 awards would be made under this strand of the initiative.
- (b) That, subsequent to the proposals submitted by the University for UKIERI major awards, six proposals for UKIERI standard awards and two applications for UKIERI Research Fellowships had been submitted, the outcome of which was currently awaited.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar contact the UKIERI award selection panel to seek feedback on the UKIERI Major Awards selection process and the panel's consideration of the expressions of interest submitted by the University.

3/06-07 Academic Staff Titles (minute 723/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the use of the title Associate Professor (Reader) in the context of the new nomenclature for academic staff titles approved by the Senate and the Council in the Spring Term 2005/06.

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That detailed information and guidance on the University's policy on the use of the new nomenclature for academic staff titles had now been circulated to all members of academic

staff.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That all members of staff holding the title of Reader be permitted to utilise the title of Associate Professor (Reader) for the academic year 2006/07 if they expressed a wish to adopt this title, on the understanding that this policy would be reviewed in 12 months and that any members of staff adopting the title of Associate Professor (Reader) would continue to be addressed as Dr/Mr/Ms etc. as resolved at the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 18 September.
- (b) That the Acting Director of Personnel develop a standard convention for the academic staff titles to be used in University job advertisements.

4/06-07

Staff Annual Review and Professional Development

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University would be taking steps to bring forward the implementation of the new Annual Review and Professional Development process for all members of staff to be introduced as part of the University's new pay and grading arrangements.

5/06-07

Staff Load Models

RESOLVED:

That all Heads of academic departments be contacted to request detailed information on the load models adopted within each department for the allocation of staff time and responsibility to teaching, research and administrative duties with a view to capturing and consolidating practice across the University, noting that the approach to non-devolved departments would be coordinated by the Academic Resourcing Committee.

6/06-07

Capital Development and Accommodation Planning

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on capital developments and accommodation planning with the University (SC.05/06-07) together with oral reports from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and the Community), the Director of Estates and the Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling).

REPORTED:

(by the Assistant Registrar {Space Management and Timetabling})

- (a) That the HEFCE had approved the University's proposal for the reallocation of funds under Round 3 of the Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF3) for the purchase of additional parallel cluster computing facilities for the Centre for Scientific Computing, noting that the University was still awaiting approval for the reallocation of SRIF3 funds for the refurbishment of laboratory space in the Department of Biological Sciences and the removal of the demolition of the David Lowe building at Wellesbourne from the WHRI SRIF3 project specification.

(by the Director of Estates)

- (b) That the budget for the new Estates Office building was being re-examined in the context of the projected costs for this building and would shortly be brought back to the Budget Steering Group for reconsideration.

(by the Director of Finance)

- (c) That it was expected that the business plan for the new University Nursery would be brought forward for consideration at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on 16 October.

RESOLVED:

That paper SC.05/06-07 be revised and further developed in the light of the issues raised in discussion at the meeting and that firm proposals for capital developments be brought forward for consideration at a meeting of the Steering Committee in the near future.

7/06-07

Senate Business

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 4 October 2006 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

8/06-07

Closure of Department of Physics at Reading

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science)

That the University of Reading had taken the decision to close its Physics department by 2010 following a review which had demonstrated that the department was no longer financially viable within the current HEFCE funding context for laboratory-based sciences.

9/06-07

Influenza Protection

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That the University would shortly be making a press release on the development of a significant new method of protection against the influenza virus by Professor Nigel Dimmock of the Department of Biological Sciences.

10/06-07

Times Higher Awards 2006

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the University had submitted 3 nominations for the 2006 *Times Higher Awards* and that its nomination in the category of Outstanding Support for Overseas Students had been shortlisted to proceed to the final stage of the competition, noting that the University was also a finalist in the polled category of Best Student Experience and that steps were being taken to prepare for possible nominations for the next round of the awards in 2007.

11/06-07

Preventing Student Finance Fraud

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/103 providing HEIs with guidance on the reduction of the incidence of student finance fraud (SC.06/06-07).