

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 3 September 2007

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor Y Carter
Professor R Higgott
Mr J Kirby
Professor S B Palmer
Professor M Smith
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby
- Apologies: Professor L Bridges, Professor A Caesar, Professor M Luntley, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance.
- In Attendance: Director of Communication, Director of Estates (from item 636/06-07), Registrar, University Secretary, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Ms H Sinclair, for item 636/06-07 the Assistant Registrar (Undergraduate Admissions), for item 638/06-07 the Director of the Centre for Scientific Computing.

The Steering Committee welcomed Professors Carter, Smith and Higgott to their first meeting of the Committee in their capacities as Pro-Vice-Chancellors and welcomed Mr Kirby to his first meeting in his capacity as President of the Union of Students.

634/06-07 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2007 be approved.

635/06-07 Strategic Forward Look

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That a discussion on the significant issues facing the University for the coming academic year would be included as an item for discussion by the Steering Committee at a meeting in the next few weeks.

636/06-07 Admissions: October 2007

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing a brief summary of the University's admissions position as at 30 August 2007 (SC.485/06-07) together with a revised table of Undergraduate Overseas students who were holding Unconditional Firm offers from the University (Appendix 2) tabled at the meeting and an oral report from the Assistant Registrar (Undergraduate Admissions).

REPORTED:

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the projected position on the attainment of Home/EU and Overseas student number targets for entry in October 2007 represented an improvement on the comparative position in early September 2006 for entry in October 2006.

(by the Assistant Registrar {Undergraduate Admissions})

- (b) That recruitment of Home/EU students to undergraduate courses in October 2007 was expected to exceed student number targets included in the Financial Plan.
- (c) That the Admissions Office was working closely with the International Office to clarify and quantify the projected position on Overseas Undergraduate student recruitment for October 2007.
- (d) That the Admissions Office was working with Academic Departments and Space Management and Timetabling to address any academic accommodation issues arising from the projected overshoot in undergraduate student recruitment.
- (e) That it was expected that the data presented would be subject to change, particularly for Overseas admissions, and that a further report on the position including a fees forecast would be considered by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 17 September 2007.

(by the Registrar)

- (f) That the Admissions Office was liaising with the Accommodation Office to quantify and address residential accommodation issues arising from the projected overshoot in undergraduate student admissions in October 2007.

RESOLVED:

That steps be taken by the Admissions Office to ensure, as far as practicable, that the University's stated objective of not entering the Clearing System for entry in October 2008 was achieved with:

- (a) no consequential detriment to the attainment of student number targets and;
- (b) no significant diminution in entry standards for those courses where there is a track record of candidates with strong academic portfolios obtaining a place at the University via this route.

637/06-07

Midlands Manufacturing Research Centre

CONSIDERED:

A letter to the Vice-Chancellor from the Executive Vice-President of Rolls Royce Plc concerning the proposed development of the Midlands Manufacturing Research Centre (MMRC), in which the University was invited to become a collaborative partner, together with an outline of the requirements of the MMRC on which the University was invited to comment (SC.483/06-07).

REPORTED:

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That he had attended meetings with representatives of Rolls Royce Plc and Advantage West Midlands to discuss the University's participation in the development of the Midlands Manufacturing Research Centre.

- (b) That the Universities of Birmingham, Nottingham and Loughborough had also been approached by Rolls Royce to consider participation in the development of the MMRC.
- (c) That the University had been invited to present a proposal to Rolls Royce Plc on its proposed contribution to the development of the MMRC at a meeting to be held on 20 September 2007.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science & Medicine) take forward internal discussions on the University's potential participation in the Midlands Manufacturing Research Centre.
- (b) That the Registrar identify a member of his staff to assist the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science & Medicine) to develop the University's proposals for participation in the Midlands Manufacturing Research Centre with a view to submitting a response to Rolls Royce Plc by the deadline of 14 September 2007.

638/06-07

Bid to Host Centre Européen de Calcul Atomique et Moléculaire (CECAM)

CONSIDERED:

A proposal from the Director of the Centre for Scientific Computing to submit a University bid to host the Centre Européen de Calcul Atomique et Moléculaire (CECAM) (SC.482/06-07).

REPORTED:

(by the Director of the Centre for Scientific Computing)

- (a) That the CECAM Council call for proposals for an upgraded CECAM contained a requirement for the host institution to provide accommodation for the Centre, this being the only direct costs to the University associated with hosting the Centre.
- (b) That a number of other European Universities could be expected to develop strong bids to host CECAM and that any bid from the University would need to demonstrate that stated objectives could be delivered to the timetable set out by the CECAM Council.

(by the Director of Estates)

- (c) That the University was investigating the purchase of Argent House on the University of Warwick Science Park to accommodate the Estates Office, in lieu of new build, and to accommodate jobs.ac.uk, an IT server room in lieu of conversion of teaching space and potentially to accommodate CECAM.

RESOLVED:

That the University submit a bid to the CECAM Council to host CECAM on the basis of the proposal set out in paper SC.482/06-07 before the deadline of 15 September 2007, subject to minor amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.

639/06-07

THES Analysis of Research Grant Applications and Awards

RECEIVED:

An analysis by the THES of Research Council awards for the year 2006-07 (SC.474/06-07).

REPORTED:

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That, while the University's success rates in securing research awards as a proportion of applications submitted were relatively good, there was a need to increase the total volume of applications submitted to the Research Councils by University Departments.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Research: Science and Medicine})

- (b) That analysis and categorisation of the data by individual Research Council, which excluded entries where the number of applications was lower than 10, demonstrated that the University was ranked as follows:

	Volume of Awards	Success Rate
Arts and Humanities Research Council	27	23
Economic and Social Research Council	3	14
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	15	6
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	11	11

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Research: Arts and Social Studies})

- (c) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Research) would arrange for this information to constitute part of their regular communications and discussions with Heads of Academic Departments on research activities and outputs.

640/06-07

Review of Science in the Department of Health

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/07/98 on the review of the quality, management and use of natural and social science in the Department of Health (SC.475/06-07).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Research: Science and Medicine})

That discussions had already taken place with the Warwick Medical School on the preparation of a University response to the Review of Science in the Department of Health.

RESOLVED:

That the initial draft University response to the consultation on the review, which was being prepared by the Senior Research Development Manager in the Warwick Medical School, be considered by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the Government Office for Science by 31 October 2007 and, if time permitted, submission to UUK by 19 October 2007.

641/06-07 Newman College of Higher Education: Proposed Name Change

CONSIDERED:

A letter from the Newman College of Higher Education seeking the University's views on the proposed new name of Newman University College (SC.476/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That the University would make no response to the letter from the Newman College of Higher Education given that it was the view of the Steering Committee that it was not a matter on which the University could express an informed opinion.

642/06-07 Chairman of the MRC

RECEIVED:

A copy of a Guardian article dated 31 July 2007 regarding the report by the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee on the appointment of the Chairman of the Medical Research Council together with a copy of the report from the Committee (SC.477/06-07).

643/06-07 Appointment of Chief Scientist

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That John Beddington, Professor of Applied Population Biology at Imperial College, London had been appointed Chief Scientist by the Government.

644/06-07 ESRC Research Centre 2007/08: Centre for Financial Innovation and Public Policy

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Research: Arts & Social Studies})

That a draft University bid for a new ESRC Research Centre was being prepared in the area of Financial Innovation and Public Policy and would be submitted to the ESRC by the deadline of 7 September 2007.

RESOLVED:

That the draft bid be approved by the Vice-Chancellor and the final bid circulated to the Steering Committee for information.

645/06-07 Circulation of Papers to the Steering Committee 13 August 2007

RECEIVED:

The following papers circulated to members of the Committee under separate cover on 13 August 2007:

- (a) UUK Information Note I/07/87: Update on the 14-19 Curriculum
- (b) NAO Report on Retention of Students in HE (Summary)
- (c) UUK Information Note I/07/90: Academic Technology Approval Scheme for International Postgraduate Students
- (d) Learning and Skills and the Government Restructure: Letter from the LSC
- (e) UUK Information Note I/07/88: New Home Office Arrangements for the 'Accreditation' of Private Education Providers
- (f) UUK Information Note I/07/89: The Changing Academic Profession in the UK: Setting the Scene
- (g) HEFCE Guidance on the Strategic Development Fund
- (h) HEFCE Information on Arrangements for the Capital Investment Framework
- (i) Government Response to the Report of the Select Committee on Science and Technology on Research Council Initiatives; 6 June 2007 and 18 July 2007
- (j) Government Response to the Report of the Select Committee on the Cooksey Review; 13 June and 18 July 2007
- (k) UUK Information Note I/07/86: Higher Education-Business and Community Interaction Survey 2006

646/06-07 UK Panel for Research Integrity in Health and Biomedical Sciences

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/07/95 on the Annual Report 2005/06 of the UK Panel for Research Integrity in Health and Biomedical Sciences (SC.484/06-07).

647/06-07 Appointment of Vice Principal, University of Birmingham

RECEIVED:

A press release from the University of Birmingham on the appointment of Professor Michael Sheppard as Vice-Principal of the University to replace Professor Michael Clarke on his retirement in 2008 (SC.478/06-07).

648/06-07 Change of Name of the Council of Deans of Health

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/07/97 on the change of the name of the Council of Deans of UK University Faculties for Nursing and Health Professions to the new name of 'Council of Deans of Health' (SC.479/06-07).

649/06-07 Coventry Business Improvement District Newsletter August 2007

RECEIVED:

The August 2007 Newsletter of Coventry Business Improvement District (SC.480/06-07).

Cec\hs\steer-share\Mins06-07\Sept07\stg03-09-07
05/09/07