

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 4 June 2007

- Present: Professor S B Palmer (Chair)
Professor L Bridges
Professor S Bassnett
Professor Y Carter
Mr B Duggan
Professor J Jones
Professor M Luntley
Professor H Thomas
- Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor A Caesar, Professor R Lindley, Professor M Smith,
Professor M Whitby.
- In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Director of Finance,
Registrar, University Secretary, Vice Chancellor's Executive Officer, Ms H
Sinclair, for items 532/06-07 and 533/06-07, the Head of Student Admissions and
Widening Participation, for item 534/06-07 the Senior Assistant Registrar (RAE
Section), for item 535/06-07 the Director of Personnel Services and the Assistant
Director of Personnel, for items 532/06-07 to 545/06-07 the Director: Warwick
International.
- 526/06-07 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2007 be approved.
- 527/06-07 Council of Wellingborough School (minute 523/06-07 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the University Secretary)
- That no alternative nominations had been received for a representative of the
University for appointment to the Council of Wellingborough School.
- RESOLVED:
- That Professor Thomas be reappointed as the representative of the University to the
Council of Wellingborough School.
- 528/06-07 Times Higher Education Supplement Awards
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice Chancellor)
- That the Vice-Chancellor had indicated that he hoped that the University would
submit entries in as many categories as possible for the 2007 THES Awards.
- RESOLVED:
- (a) That suggestions for entries in the 2007 Times Higher Awards be forwarded to
the Director of Communication as soon as possible in order that nominations
could be prepared prior to the closing date of 29 June.
- (b) That details of the categories of the Times Higher Awards be forwarded to all
members of the committee for information.

529/06-07

Green Belt Development

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

- (a) That the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government had recently approved an application by the University of York to develop on a new campus site within the green belt.
- (b) That this decision might assist the University's case for the Estates Masterplan planning application currently being considered by Coventry City and Warwick District Councils, noting that the Secretary of State's Planning Inspector's comments in respect of the York application highlighted the need to demonstrate exceptional circumstances, not simply the availability of undeveloped land.

530/06-07

Graduate Issues

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on graduate issues covering issues including increasing the postgraduate research student population, effectiveness of the Graduate School, review of regulation and guidance on Higher Doctorates, student academic complaints procedure, partnership funding for PGR scholarships together with an annex tabled at the meeting containing a survey of regulations governing the award of higher doctorates at Russell Group universities (SC.354/06-07) and an oral report from the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies.

REPORTED:

(by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (a) That the University's review of regulation and guidance on higher doctorates had been deferred to the meeting of the Board of Graduate Studies in the autumn term.

(by the Dean of the Warwick Business School)

- (b) That the Warwick Business School was willing to act as a pilot for 'split site' PhDs.

RESOLVED:

That the University's arrangements for the award of Higher Doctorates be included as an item for discussion at a meeting of the Steering Committee in the very near future at which the Vice Chancellor was present.

531/06-07

Faculty Issues

- (a) Faculty of Medicine

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Chair of the Faculty of Medicine (SC.349/06-07) on current developments and issues of concern within the Faculty of Medicine including the Significant Event Review on the conduct and outcomes of the 2007 Phase 1 Assessment and subsequent Qualifying Examination for the MBChB, visits from the General Medical Council, the General Dental Council review of implant dentistry, Science Cities developments, Medical Research

Council awards, Institute of Clinical Excellence Restructuring, the proposed establishment of a new Associate Dean role and an update on the implementation of recommendations arising from the recent Strategic Departmental Review of the Warwick Medical School.

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

- (i) That the Significant Event Review be referred to the Academic Quality Standards Committee for consideration at its next meeting.
- (ii) That the outline bid in Translational Medicine would be resubmitted to Advantage West Midlands during the next week as part of the Science Cities initiative.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Dean of the Medical School bring forward detailed proposals for the revised structure of the School to incorporate the proposed Associate Dean role for external affairs for consideration by the Steering Committee.
- (ii) That the arrangements for approval of non-accredited CPD programmes be reviewed by the Academic Registrar to determine whether they should continue to be considered and approved by the Board of Graduate Studies or whether alternative approval mechanisms should be introduced for such courses.

(b) Faculty of Science

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the report from the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science be deferred until the next meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 11 June when the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science would be present (SC.350/06-07).

(c) Faculty of Social Studies

RECEIVED:

A report on current developments and issues of concern within the Faculty of Social Studies including academic accommodation provision, an update on ESRC Research Centre bids, information gathering and communication between the University centrally and between departments within the Faculty, succession planning and the next scheduled meeting of the Faculty Advisory Board (SC.351/06-07) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies.

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That steps were being taken by the International Office to identify what, if any, implications there might be for the University arising from the decision of the University of New South Wales to close its Singapore campus in the context of other areas of the University which were developing academic activities in Singapore.

- 532/06-07 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions
- CONSIDERED:
- Paper SC.347/06-07 providing an update on undergraduate and postgraduate applications, offers and acceptances for entry in October 2007 as at mid May 2007 together with an oral report from the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation.
- RESOLVED:
- That the Committee note the general improvement in absolute numbers of applications in comparison to previous years and earlier stages of the 2007 admissions cycle and the continuing efforts of the Admissions Office working closely with academic departments to continue to maximise the conversion rate for applications from undergraduate, postgraduate, home and overseas students.
- 533/06-07 Delivery Partnership Improving the Higher Education Applications Process: Consultations
- CONSIDERED:
- A UUK information Note 1/07/63 (paper SC.357/06-07), together with an oral report from the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation, setting out three consultations from the Delivery Partnership on the implementation of changes to the higher education applications process.
- RESOLVED:
- That the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation prepare the University's response to consultations 1 and 3 along the lines discussed at the meeting and that the response be considered by the Steering Committee for approval prior to submission to the SPA by the deadline of 18 June 2007.
- 534/06-07 Guardian League Table 2008
- RECEIVED:
- A paper summarising the University's position in the Guardian League Table and University Guide 2008 (SC.348/06-07) together with an oral report from the Senior Assistant Registrar (RAE Section).
- REPORTED: (by the Senior Assistant Registrar {RAE Section})
- That National Student Survey data would be included in the data used by the compilers of the Guardian League Tables in 2009 and this could be expected to have a positive impact on the University's overall performance.
- 535/06-07 HEFCE Rewarding and Developing Staff
- CONSIDERED:
- The draft University response to the HEFCE to discharge the conditions of the Rewarding and Developing Staff 2 (RDS2) grant allocated to the University to modernise HR practices.

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the HEFCE to discharge the conditions of the Rewarding and Developing Staff 2 (RDS2) grant be approved and submitted to the HEFCE as set out in paper SC.356/06-07.

536/06-07 Accountability for Higher Education Institutions

RECEIVED:

HEFCE paper 2007/11: Accountability for Higher Education Institutions setting out the new regulation and accountability arrangements linked to assessment of institutional risk to be introduced for HEIs with effect from 1 August 2008 (SC.367/06-07).

REPORTED:

That the new HEFCE arrangements for submission of financial monitoring data presented operational difficulties for the University which would require further review by the Director of Finance and negotiation with the HEFCE.

537/06-07 Transparency Review Data Reported for 2005-06

RECEIVED:

HEFCE circular letter number 16/2007 containing data received for 2005-06 for universities under Transparency Review reporting arrangements which indicates an overall deficit of £1,114 million for HEFCE-funded institutions (SC.366/06-07).

538/06-07 UUK International Unit

CONSIDERED:

A paper from UUK setting out the remit of the newly established UUK International Unit (SC.365/06-07).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director: Warwick International be identified as the appropriate person dealing with international issues at the University to be the primary contact for the UUK International Unit.
- (b) That the Committee record its serious reservations regarding the role and remit of the UUK International Unit and the added value it would bring to universities and the HE sector as a whole.

539/06-07 Publishing Research Results

RECEIVED:

A policy briefing from UUK regarding progress in developing a less restricted approach in the HE sector to the publication of research results (SC.361/06-07).

REPORTED (by the University Secretary):

That Intellectual Property Rights had been raised recently as an issue by the Medical School and was expected to be included as an item for discussion in the next report on Library Issues submitted to the Steering Committee.

540/06-07 Annual Report on Good Research Conduct

RECEIVED:

The University's Annual Report for 2007 on good research conduct submitted to Research Councils UK (SC.362/06-07).

541/06-07 Monitoring Research Diversity: Changes Between 2000 and 2005

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/07/58: Monitoring Research Diversity: Changes between 2000 and 2005 (paper SC.363/06-07).

542/06-07 New Home Office Reporting Structures

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note 1/07/61 concerning the new Home Office reporting process for students subject to immigration control (SC.360/06-07).

543/06-07 Notes of Meeting with Lord Sainsbury

RECEIVED:

Notes of the meeting between UUK members and Lord Sainsbury held on 18 May 2007 providing an update on the Sainsbury Review of Science and Innovation to be published in autumn 2007 (SC.364/06-07).

544/06-07 Association of Commonwealth Universities: Acting Secretary General

RECEIVED:

A letter from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) reporting the appointment of Professor John Tarrant as Acting Secretary General of ACU following the resignation of Dr John S. Rowett (SC.359/06-07).

545/06-07 New Trading Name for UKERNA

RECEIVED:

A letter stating that the new trading name of the JNT Trading Association had changed from UKERNA to JANET (UK) with effect from June 2007 (SC358/06-07).