

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 4 July 2005

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor A Easton
Professor J Jones
Professor I Lauder
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor H Thomas (until item 545/04-05)
- Apologies: Professor L Bridges, Professor A Caesar, Mr S Lucas, Professor M Whitby, Ms K Stark, Director of Estates.
- In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 542/04-05 the Director of Warwick HRI.

538/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2005 be approved.

539/04-05 Vice-Chancellor's Business

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the success of the staff party held on Sunday 3 July for new members of staff which had been attended by around 100 guests from across the University.

540/04-05 HR Strategy

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the meeting held on Friday 1 July with campus Trades' Unions representatives to discuss the progress of the University's implementation of the HR Framework Agreement and noting that information on the ongoing development of proposals for the restructuring of the University's pay and grading arrangements would shortly be available on InSite.

541/04-05 Warwick Business School Five-Year Plan

CONSIDERED:

The five-year financial plan summary for Warwick Business School (WBS) for the period 2004/05 to 2008/09, the executive summary of the School Plan for 2005/06 and a covering statement from the Finance Office (SC.351/04-05) together with an oral report from the Dean of the WBS.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the WBS five-year plan be recommended for approval as set out in paper SC.351/04-05, subject to it being recorded that there was an expectation that there would be at least a 10% year-on-year increase in research grant and contract income over the period of the plan.
- (b) That it be noted that the projected growth in endowment and development income was conservative and that the Business School could be expected to deliver significantly larger sums than those currently contained within the Plan.

- (c) That the proposed arrangements for funding the capital costs of WBS Phase 3a be approved as set out in paper SC.351/04-05 providing £8.7m of the total build costs for WBS; £7.2m direct from WBS reserves using an 'offset mortgage' arrangement and £1.5m in funding from the University, on the understanding that all payments for the offset mortgage would be completed by 2008/09 in order that WBS were in a secure financial position from which to fund the WBS Phase 3b capital development.

542/04-05 Warwick HRI Five-Year Plan

CONSIDERED:

The five-year financial plan for Warwick HRI for the period 2004/05 to 2008/09 (SC.352/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of WHRI.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the WHRI five-year plan be recommended for approval as set out in paper SC.352/04-05.
- (b) That the Committee record its congratulations to WHRI for the significant improvements in the current WHRI five-year plan in comparison to the plan developed on acquisition of WHRI.
- (c) That strategic discussions be conducted in the coming year on the strategy for the academic development of WHRI, including discussion of the balance between teaching and research activities and the development of academic initiatives with other departments, in particular the Warwick Medical School and the Department of Biological Sciences.
- (d) That the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the WHRI Integration Group take forward discussions with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on the continuation of Defra core funding to WHRI beyond 2009/10.

543/04-05 Warwick Medical School Five-Year Plan

CONSIDERED:

The five-year financial plan for Warwick Medical School (WMS) for the period 2004/05 to 2008/09 (SC.353/04-05) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Leicester Warwick Medical Schools.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the WMS five-year plan be recommended for approval as set out in paper SC.353/04-05, noting that the deficits recorded over the planning period needed to be set in the context of the significant increase in the range and scope of the activities and academic development of the WMS.
- (b) That the WMS continue to work with the International Office to develop an attainable strategy for the recruitment of its overseas student number targets.
- (c) That steps be taken to evaluate the demand for graduate-entry medical courses outside the UK, including the potential analysis of international student numbers in medical schools within the United States.
- (d) That steps be taken to identify new income to the WMS, including potential endowment and development income, for the construction of a new capital development to accommodate the expected future expansion of the WMS.

544/04-05 Academic Resourcing Committee: Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The 3rd quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets under the remit of the Academic Resourcing Committee for the financial year 2004/05 (SC.344/04-05) together with oral reports from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Student and Academic Affairs.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 3rd quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets for the financial year 2004/05 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.344/04-05.
- (b) That the five-year financial plan for non-devolved departments be brought forward for consideration at the meeting of the Committee to be held on 18 July.
- (c) That the issues raised at the meeting relating to the Department of Computer Science be noted and examined in conjunction with the five-year financial plan for non-devolved departments at the meeting of the Committee on 18 July.

545/04-05 Warwick in Asia: PA Marketing Analysis

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the PA Consulting Group setting out proposals for Phase 2 of the market analysis strand of the Singapore feasibility study (SC.345/04-05) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee support the use of consumer preference modelling as the basis for Phase 2 of the market analysis strand of the Singapore feasibility study to be conducted by the PA Consulting Group, noting that more detailed and fine-grained analysis would be conducted should a decision be taken in October to proceed with the Singapore project.

546/04-05 International Children's Games

RECEIVED:

A report on arrangements for the 2005 International Children's Games to be held in Coventry from 6 to 11 July (SC.342/04-05).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the University was a Principal Sponsor of the Games and was providing a total of £250k in sponsorship of the Games, largely delivered in-kind through discounted residential accommodation and provision of University sports facilities.

547/04-05 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL)

RECEIVED:

Copies of two letters from the HEFCE providing feedback from the CETL assessment panel on the potential development of the University's two CETLs; the Capital Centre and the Reinvention Centre (SC.350/04-05).

548/04-05 Strategically Important and Vulnerable Subjects

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/05/89 providing a summary of the final report from the HEFCE Chief Executive's Strategically Important Subjects Advisory Group together with a copy of the report and a press release from the HEFCE (SC.349/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the recommendations set out in the final report from the Strategically Important Subjects Advisory Group relating to potential opportunities afforded in the area of land-based studies be discussed at the next meeting of the Warwick HRI Integration Group.
- (b) That the Registrar convey to the HEFCE the University's concerns about proposals for the potential adoption of a more proactive change management role for the HEFCE in addressing issues relating to the provision of strategically important and vulnerable subjects.

549/04-05 Post-Qualification Applications

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Academic Registrar providing an update on recent developments in regard to post-qualification applications (PQA), noting in particular:

- (a) That the PQA consultation document, originally scheduled to be issued in March, was now expected to be issued at the Universities UK Annual Conference to be held in September.
- (b) That while a 'pure' system of PQA would not be introduced until the academic year 2010/11 at the earliest, it was expected that initial PQA proposals, which were likely to be favourable to the University, would be implemented in the academic year 2008/09.

550/04-05 Foundation Degree Framework for the Healthcare Sector

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/05/88 on the Skills for Health consultation on a proposed foundation degree framework for the healthcare sector (SC.348/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar and the Secretary of the Warwick Medical School, in consultation with the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning, prepare a draft institutional response to the Skills for Health consultation for submission to UUK by the deadline of 25 July and to Skills for Health by the deadline of 31 July.

551/04-05 QAA Consultation on Access to Higher Education (minute 484/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft institutional response to the QAA consultation 'Recognising achievement on Access to Higher Education programmes: proposals for a credit framework' (SC.339/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the QAA consultation be approved as set out in paper SC.339/04-05 for submission to the QAA by the deadline of 15 July subject to minor amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.

552/04-05 Royal Society Research Professorships 2005

CONSIDERED:

An invitation from the Royal Society for applications from the University for the 2005 Royal Society Research Professorships (SC.347/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That any suggestions for nominations for the 2005 Royal Society Research Professorships be forwarded to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) with a view to the submission of applications from the University to the Royal Society by the deadline of 31 July.

553/04-05 New Support Element for Charities Research Income

CONSIDERED:

HEFCE Circular Letter 16/2005 on the creation of a new support element for charities research income within the HEFCE's block grant for research from 2006/07 (SC.346/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That paper SC.346/04-05 on the new support element for charities research income be forwarded for information to Professor John Tooke, the Chair of the New Medical Schools' Forum.

554/04-05 THES Awards 2005 (minute 478/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

The list of nominations submitted by the University for the 2005 Times Higher Awards (SC.343/04-05).

REPORTED:

(by the Director of Communication)

(a) That notification of the outcome of the 2005 THES Awards was expected in September.

(by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

(b) That the nominations submitted by the University for the 2005 National Teaching Fellowship Scheme had been unsuccessful.

555/04-05 Academic Complaints Procedure

CONSIDERED:

Proposed revisions to the constitution of the Academic Complaints Committee (SC.341/04-05).

RESOLVED: (on behalf of the Senate)

That the proposed revisions to the constitution of the Academic Complaints Committee be approved as set out in paper SC.341/04-05, subject to the inclusion of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor as one of those persons eligible to be appointed as Chair of the Committee by the Vice-Chancellor.

556/04-05 Meeting of Steering Committee on 11 July

REPORTED: (by the University Secretary)

That the meeting of the Steering Committee on 11 July would be held from 9.00am to 10.00am prior to Degree Congregation.

557/04-05 Extraordinary Meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies

REPORTED: (by Professor Luntley)

That the extraordinary meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies scheduled to be held on 21 September to discuss the final Singapore feasibility study report would proceed as planned.

558/04-05 Appointments to the HEFCE Board

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Dame Patricia Hodgson, Chair of the Higher Education Regulation Review Group, had been appointed as a member of the Board of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

cec\ns\steer-share\Mins 04-05\stg04-07-05
08/07/05