

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 5 December 2005

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Professor J Jones
Professor R Lindley
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor M Smith
Ms K Stark
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Director of Academic and Student Affairs.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for items 173/05-06 and 174/05-06 the Director of Operations and Planning, for item 178/05-06 the Head of the Department of Physics and Professor P Thomas, for item 179/05-06 the Director of NAGTY, for item 182/05-06 Professor R Ball, the Head of the Department of Mathematics and the Research Development Manager (Chemistry, Maths, Statistics), Research Support Services.

168/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2005 be approved subject to amendment to minute 159/05-06 as follows: (amendments underlined, deletions struck through)

WBS Quarter-End Report

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the first quarter statement for the Warwick Business School Devolved Budget for the financial year ~~2004/05~~ 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.99/05-06.
- (b) That a report be made to the Steering Committee for consideration on the proposed recruitment plans for ~~development of~~ the MBA and MPA programmes once proposals have been drawn up by WBS.

169/05-06 EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards

RECEIVED:

Notification from the EPSRC (SC.115/05-06) that the following expressions of interest submitted by the University in Round 2 of the EPSRC Science and Innovation Award Scheme had been successful:

- (a) Mathematics and Computer Science Interface (Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science and the Warwick Business School)
- (b) Plasma Physics (Department of Physics and UKAEA Culham Science Laboratory).

170/05-06 US Business College in UK

RECEIVED:

A copy of an article from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on the acquisition of Holborn College, London, by Kaplan Inc.(SC.113/05-06) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar, with support from relevant colleagues in the Academic Office, monitor the position in regard to Kaplan Inc. and developments in the business college sector within the UK.

171/05-06 Russell Group and UUK

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That a press release would shortly be published by the Russell Group on its appointment of a Director-General for the Group and its intentions in regard to continued participation with Universities UK.

172/05-06 WMS Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The first quarter statement from the Warwick Medical School for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.118/05-06) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Medical School.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the first quarter statement for the Warwick Medical School Devolved Budget for the financial year 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.118/05-06.
- (b) That the Dean of the Warwick Medical School discuss with the Vice-Chancellor the proposed internal restructuring of the Warwick Medical School with a view to bringing forward detailed proposals for the revised organisational and management structure for the School for approval by the Steering Committee at a future meeting.

173/05-06 Academic Resourcing Committee: Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The first quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets under the remit of the Academic Resourcing Committee for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.108/05-06) together with oral reports from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Operations and Planning.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Operations and Planning)

- (a) That the Academic Activities Sub-Committee would be considering the position of all independently-funded courses in the coming week, including those from the Warwick Medical School and the Warwick Business School.
- (b) That mechanisms for addressing issues relating to the accuracy of quarter-end forecasting would be considered by the Academic Resourcing Committee during the course of the current academic year.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the first quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets for the financial year 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.108/05-06.

- (b) That detailed analyses of operating surpluses for all non-devolved departments be circulated to members of the Committee for information and included in future financial statements for non-devolved departmental budgets under the remit of the Academic Resourcing Committee.

174/05-06 Additional Student Numbers (ASNs) Development Funding

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the HEFCE providing notification of the University's allocation of development funding to accompany its allocation of managed growth ASNs (SC.116/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Operations and Planning)

That the University had received ASN development funding for the Post-Compulsory Education and Training programme within the Centre for Lifelong Learning although its bid for ASNs in this area had been unsuccessful.

RESOLVED:

That the University's allocation of £11,625 in additional student number development funding be allocated in whole to postgraduate taught courses within Warwick HRI (Plant Biosciences for Crop Production; Enterprise in Horticulture).

175/05-06 Community Affairs

RECEIVED:

The third Quarterly Digest of Regional Issues produced by the Community Relations Manager (SC.111/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That steps were being taken to improve the central co-ordination of dissemination of information on the University's regional activities.

176/05-06 Safety Issues

RECEIVED:

A report prepared by the University Safety Officer on strategic developments in matters relating to health and safety within the University (SC.111/05-06) together with an oral report from the Registrar.

177/05-06 CETLs: Bids for Additional Capital Funding

CONSIDERED:

The draft University submission to the HEFCE for the release of its indicative allocations of additional capital funding for the CAPITAL Centre and the Reinvention Centre for Undergraduate Education (SC.107/05-06) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning).

RESOLVED:

That, in view of the fact that the availability of additional capital CETL funding had been unexpected and that it had been necessary to draw up proposals for the use of the University's provisional additional funding allocations within a very short timescale, the draft University submission to the HEFCE for the release of the University's additional CETL capital funding be approved as set out in paper SC.107/05-06, on the understanding:

- (a) That the key issues raised at the meeting in relation to space requirements for the CAPITAL Centre and the Reinvention Centre would be examined and resolved by the Director of Estates prior to submission of the University's application to the HEFCE.
- (b) That a Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Shakespeare Institute of the University of Birmingham for the use of space in the Shakespeare Institute would be prepared, in consultation with the Acting Director of Finance and the University's legal adviser, for consideration by the Steering Committee in due course.

178/05-06 Midlands Physics Consortium

CONSIDERED:

The draft bid to the HEFCE prepared by the Departments of Physics of the Universities of Warwick, Birmingham and Nottingham for the establishment of a Midlands Physics Consortium (SC.114/05-06) together with an oral report from the Head of the Department of Physics (Warwick).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft bid be revised along the lines discussed at the meeting and a more detailed financial plan drawn up in consultation with the Acting Director of Finance for consideration at the next meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 12 December.
- (b) That the Department of Physics, in consultation with the Academic Resourcing Committee and the Finance Office, prepare a comprehensive document setting out the extent of future resource commitments the Department would be subject to and the means by which the sustainable future of the Department might be secured for consideration by the Steering Committee at a meeting early in the Spring Term.

179/05-06 National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth: Update

CONSIDERED:

A report providing an update on strategic developments within the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY) and current issues being faced by NAGTY, including the long-term future of the Academy (SC.112/05-06) together with the 2004/05 NAGTY Annual Report and an oral report from the Director of NAGTY.

RESOLVED:

That, in view of the upcoming re-tendering with the DfES for NAGTY in 2007, the Director of NAGTY discuss with the Communications Office and the Academic Office the public profile of NAGTY and the steps which might be taken for the University to improve its engagement with NAGTY's activities.

180/05-06 HEIF3: Invitation and Guidance for Institutional Plans and Competitive Bids

RECEIVED:

A copy of an email from UUK on the publication by the HEFCE and the OST of arrangements for the third round of funding under the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF3) together with the executive summary of HEFCE document 2005/46 inviting the submission of institutional plans and competitive bids for HEIF3 funding (SC.117/05-06).

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

That the preparation of the University's submission to the HEFCE for the release of its formula funding allocation and the University's bid for the competitive funding element of HEIF3 would be co-ordinated by the University's 3rd Mission group.

181/05-06

RCUK Academic Fellowships

CONSIDERED:

A paper prepared by the Research and Information Officer (Research Support Services) providing an update on the development of the University's application for funding under the second round of the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Academic Fellowship Scheme (SC.109/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the details of the financial implications for the University of submitting a significant number of bids for RCUK Academic Fellowships be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee at its next meeting on 12 December 2005 in order that the Committee could determine what number of applications the University should aim to submit.

182/05-06

EPSRC Doctoral Training Centres in Complexity Science: Expression of Interest

CONSIDERED:

A draft expression of interest from the University to the EPSRC for the establishment of a Doctoral Training Centre in Complexity Science (SC.104/05-06) together with oral reports from Professor R Ball and the Head of the Department of Mathematics.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft expression of interest be revised to take into account the key points raised at the meeting and a full financial plan drawn up in consultation with the Finance Office for consideration at the next meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 12 December.
- (b) That the Board of the Faculty of Science, through the Chair of the Board, be asked to assume oversight of the Faculty's overall research strategy and to examine and report to the Steering Committee on how the range of bids for new Faculty research initiatives recently brought forward for consideration would secure the delivery of that strategy.

183/05-06

Second Leverhulme Symposium

RECEIVED:

A copy of the University's final submission to the Leverhulme Trust detailing the University's proposal to host the Second Leverhulme Symposium in 2007 (SC.119/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the University's bid to host the Second Leverhulme Symposium had been included in the final shortlist by the Trust and that the outcome of the bidding process was expected to be announced by the end of the calendar year.

184/05-06 UUK Study of Part-Time Students and Part-Time Study

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/05/160 on the initial findings from Strand 1 of the UUK study into part-time students and part-time study and the progress being made on Strands 2 and 3 of the study (SC.120/05-06).

185/05-06 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions

RESOLVED:

- (a) That consideration of paper SC.98/05-06 on Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions be deferred until the meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 12 December.
- (b) That the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation prepare summary comparative admissions statistics for four-year versus three-year courses for consideration by the Steering Committee at its next meeting.

186/05-06 PhD Fees

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Office review the University's current fee levels for overseas PhD students who were the spouses or partners of employees of the University with a view to bringing forward a University policy for such students.

187/05-06 Submission of Research Bids

RESOLVED:

That members of the Committee note that all bids for research funding with significant resource implications, financial or otherwise, would require prior engagement with the Finance Office, Estates Office and other relevant departments well in advance of the deadlines for submission and prior to bids being brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee.