

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 6 March 2006

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

Apologies: Professor R Lindley, Professor M Luntley.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 362/05-06 the Acting Manager (Careers Education & Guidance), University Careers Service.

359/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2006 be approved subject to amendment to minute 343(b)/05-06 as follows: (amendments underlined, deletions struck through)

- (b) That the migration of staff from Novell GroupWise to Microsoft ~~Outlook~~ Exchange was anticipated to be complete by the end of the summer term and that additional staff resources would be engaged to expedite the process should this prove necessary.

360/05-06 Quinquennial Review of the Centre for English Language Teacher Education
(minute 346/05-06 refers)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Acting Director of Finance co-ordinate the referral of the Report on the Quinquennial Review of the Centre for English Language Teacher Education to the Academic Activities Sub-Committee of the Academic Resourcing Committee.
- (b) That the full report be referred to the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies.

361/05-06 HEIF3

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University's institutional plan for the use of its formula funding allocation under Round 3 of the Higher Education Innovation Fund would be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee on 13 March prior to submission to the HEFCE by the deadline of 15 March 2006.
- (b) That Bioventures, the Warwick-led collaborative project submitted to the HEFCE under the competitive funding element of HEIF3, had been shortlisted as one of 23 bids eligible to proceed to the final round of considerations and that it was anticipated that 12 bids would receive HEIF3 funding.

362/05-06 Careers Service Update (minute 347/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A report on strategic developments in the Careers Service including the HEIF funded Work Experience Project, campus recruitment fairs, employer events and student engagement, the employability questionnaire circulated to academic departments in the Autumn Term 2005/06 and the development of *Casigma*, together with an update on issues relating to the Service's work with international students and its liaison with the Warwick Medical School (SC.229/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That steps be taken by the International Office and the Careers Service to investigate and address the issues raised in discussion at the meeting in regard to potential visa implications for international students wishing to take a voluntary year out for work experience under the new route approved by the Board of Undergraduate Studies at its meeting on 15 February.
- (b) That the Dean of the Warwick Medical School prepare a brief report on the implications of recent developments in the National Health Service for the Warwick Medical School and the University more widely for consideration at the next meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 13 March 2006.

363/05-06 Senate Business

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 8 March 2006 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

364/05-06 AUT Industrial Action: Responding to the Potential Impact of Non-Co-Operation (minute 358/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper setting out proposed responses by the University to the potential impact of the industrial action to be taken by the AUT from 8 March on examination arrangements for the 2005/06 summer term and summer vacation (SC.234/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of Academic and Student Affairs.

REPORTED: (by the President of the Union of Students)

That the Union Council, at its meeting held on 2 March, had voted to support the AUT's decision to take industrial action over their 2006 pay claim.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the recommendations for action by the University in response to the AUT industrial action to be taken from 8 March be approved as set out in paper SC.234/05-06 (reserved) noting that assessment of the scale of impact of non-co-operation lay primarily with Heads of Departments and that alternative means of deriving this information might be required should the data provided by Heads of Departments be insufficient.
- (b) That the Director of Academic and Student Affairs, in consultation with other relevant colleagues as appropriate, draft proposals for an additional University Regulation analogous to Regulation 12 on Aegrotat qualifications in order to enable the University to graduate students in the summer term 2006 should final degree classifications be temporarily unavailable due to the AUT industrial action, for consideration by the Senate and the Council in the summer term.

- (c) That the Director of Personnel and the Director of Communication arrange for the publication on InSite of further information relating to the principles underpinning the AUT industrial action and providing details of the University's planned expenditure on staffing to 2010/11, including its existing commitment to spending a third of additional fees income arising from the introduction of variable fees in 2006 on staff salaries.

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