

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Senate Steering Committee held on 6 June 2005

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L Bridges (until 11.15am)
Professor Y Carter
Professor R G Dyson
Professor A Easton
Professor J Jones (from 10.45am)
Mr S Lucas
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Professor A Caesar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Estates.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs (from 10.20am), Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for items 466/04-05 and 467/04-05 the University Librarian and the Director of IT Services, for item 468/04-05 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning), for item 469/04-05 the Director of the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth, for item 470/04-05 the Director of Development and Alumni Relations and the Alumni Projects Officer, for item 471/04-05 the Assistant Registrar (Student Recruitment and Admissions).

457/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2005 be approved.

458/04-05 THES Awards 2005 (minute 456/04-05 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That only two suggestions for nominations for the Times Higher Awards had been received since the last meeting of the Steering Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the submission of further suggestions for nominees for the Times Higher Awards be encouraged, particularly in the category of Young Researcher of the Year.

459/04-05 National Student Survey

REPORTED: (by Professor Whitby)

That the institutional response rates to the National Student Survey at the Universities of Oxford and Durham were 23% and 50% respectively and that details of the overall response rate at the University of Bristol were currently awaited.

460/04-05 Post-Qualification Applications

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Academic Registrar on the joint meeting of the Russell Group and the '94 Group held on 3 June noting that there was evidence of a lack of consensus between the schools and the HE sector in regard to current PQA proposals.

- 461/04-05 NHSI
- RECEIVED:
- A copy of a press release on the appointment of Dame Yve Buckland as the new Chair of the NHS Institute, now rebranded as the NHS Institute of Innovation and Improvement (NHSI) (SC.299/04-05).
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That the appointment of the Chief Executive of the NHSI was expected to be announced within the next two-week period.
- 462/04-05 Strategic Science Provision (minute 396/04-05 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That he had received a response from the President of Universities UK to his letter on the Science and Technology Committee's proposal for a 'hub and spoke' model of University provision indicating that UUK would strongly oppose the adoption of this proposal.
- 463/04-05 Academic Resourcing Issues
- RECEIVED:
- A report on the current work of the Academic Resourcing Committee relating to the five-year planning process for non-devolved departments and the further development of the new approach to resource allocation within the University (SC.298/04-05) together with an oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
- That advertisements had been placed for the initial tranche of eleven posts associated with the Systems Biology initiative.
- 464/04-05 White Paper on Skills (minute 358/04-05 refers)
- CONSIDERED:
- The University's draft response to the Government's Skills White Paper (SC.296/04-05) together with an oral report from Professor Whitby.
- RESOLVED:
- That the draft University response to the Skills White Paper be approved as set out in paper SC.296/04-05 for submission to UUK by 10 June and to the DfES by 24 June subject to amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.
- 465/04-05 Rewarding and Developing Staff in HE: Evaluation
- RECEIVED:
- Circular letter number 14/2005 from the HEFCE on the publication of an evaluation report on the HEFCE's initiative for Rewarding and Developing Staff in HE (SC.300/04-05).

466/04-05 Library Update

RECEIVED:

A report providing an update on local and national developments relating to Library issues, including the operation of the Learning Grid, the progress of Library refurbishment, the forthcoming journal subscriptions review and the recent RCUK position statement on the dissemination of and access to outputs of research (SC.295/04-05) together with an oral report from the University Librarian.

467/04-05 IT Update

CONSIDERED:

A report providing an update on current developments relating to IT within the University, including web services, the email replacement exercise and collaborative work with departments (SC.292/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of IT Services.

RESOLVED:

That the issue of the provision of material to students in electronic rather than hard copy format be raised at the meeting of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee on 8 June.

468/04-05 The Times League Tables 2005

CONSIDERED:

An analysis of the University's performance in the University League Tables recently published by *The Times* newspaper (SC.291/04-05) together with an oral report from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Student and Academic Affairs review the University's current policy of accepting the use of HESA data on University staff-student ratios by league table compilers and potential means of addressing anomalies in the data drawn from the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey with a view to maximising the University's performance within these league table indicators.
- (b) That the Committee support the strategy of the Careers Service securing access to all first-year students via the core academic curriculum as endorsed by the Undergraduate Curriculum Review in 2003.

469/04-05 National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth: Update

RECEIVED:

(a) A report providing an update on current and projected developments in the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY), including major achievements to date, information on ongoing projects and programmes and current issues being faced within the Academy (SC.294/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of NAGTY.

(b) The Spring edition 8 of the NAGTY house magazine "Aspire" (tabled at the meeting).

REPORTED: (by the Director of NAGTY)

That NAGTY would be hosting the conference of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Youth in Summer 2007.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its thanks to the Director of NAGTY for her report and its congratulations on the significant growth and success of NAGTY.

470/04-05 40th Anniversary Open Campus Day

RECEIVED:

A report on the 40th Anniversary Open Campus Day held on 7 May 2005 (SC.287/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of Development and Alumni Relations noting that the event had been an overall success and had been successful in raising the profile of the University both internally and externally.

REPORTED: (by the Alumni Projects Officer)

That the final gala concert for the University's 40th Anniversary celebrations would be held in the area to the front of the Zeeman Building on 23 June from 7pm.

471/04-05 Aimhigher Programme (minute 453/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft response to the HEFCE consultation document "Aimhigher: funding for 2006-08 and future of the programme" (SC.289/04-05) together with an oral report from the Assistant Registrar (Student Recruitment and Admissions).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the HEFCE Aimhigher consultation be approved as set out in paper SC.289/04-05 for submission to UUK by 10 June and to the DfES by 27 June.

472/04-05 Senate Business

RESOLVED:

- (a) That it was the view of the Committee that the Safety Committee Report to the Senate raised a number of management issues and that it was not appropriate for this report to be brought forward for consideration by the Senate and the Council at their meetings in the Summer Term.
- (b) That the Registrar and the Director of Personnel address the issues raised in the Safety Committee Report.
- (c) That Equal Opportunities and Health and Safety issues be included in the Steering Committee Schedule of Policy Items from the academic year 2005/06.
- (d) That the remaining comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 15 June 2005 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

473/04-05 Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence (minute 416/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

Case summaries for successful candidates in the 2005 Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence (WATE) together with information on the use of awards by previous WATE recipients (SC.288/04-05).