

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 9 January 2006

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

Apologies: Professor R Lindley, Professor M Whitby.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Estates, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 224/05-06 the Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling), for item 226/05-06 the Deputy Director of Research Finance and the Research and Information Officer, Research Support Services, for item 233/05-06 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality).

220/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2005 be approved.

221/05-06 National Centre for Involvement (minute 57/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had received notification from the Department of Health that it had been awarded preferred tender status for the establishment and delivery of the National Resource Centre for Patient and Public Involvement.

222/05-06 Renaming of Senate House (minute 210/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the shortlist of suggestions received for the re-naming of the former Senate House building.

RECOMMENDED: (to the Building Committee)

That the former Senate House building be renamed Coventry House.

223/05-06 National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth: Re-Tendering

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the upcoming re-tendering process to be undertaken by the DfES for the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the Registrar would be convening a group comprising a number of members of the Steering Committee to take forward internal discussions on the University's relationship with NAGTY and NAGTY's long-term future with a view to informing the preparation of any University bid tender for NAGTY and would report back on the outcome of these discussions before the end of January.

224/05-06 Accommodation and Capital Projects Update

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on strategic issues relating to the University Development Plan, capital developments and accommodation (SC.144/05-06) together with oral reports from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and the Community), the Director of Estates and the Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling).

REPORTED:

(by the Director of Estates)

(a) That an outline specification for the new Estates Office building had been agreed and that draft design plans were currently under preparation.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and the Community))

(b) That the process of identifying an Islamic Chaplain for the University had commenced and that, prior to a successful appointment being made, control of the Islamic Prayer Hall in the former Senate House building would be the responsibility of the Chaplaincy.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Director of Estates continue to keep the Committee informed of developments on issues relating to car parking within the University and the University's developing Green Travel Plan.

(b) That a report on the possible options for the siting of the Warwick Digital Laboratory be submitted to the Steering Committee for consideration in due course.

(c) That it be noted that should the University's re-tender bid for NAGTY be successful (minute 223/05-06 above refers), consideration would need to be given to the potential need to secure suitable alternative accommodation for NAGTY should the existing provisions made within Millburn House provide insufficient space to accommodate NAGTY beyond 2007.

225/05-06 Wolfson Funding for Library Capital Projects

RECEIVED:

Details of the first call from the Wolfson Foundation for proposals to support capital developments for University libraries in membership of the Consortium of University Research Libraries (SC.150/05-06) noting that the draft University submission to the Foundation would be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee at its next meeting on 16 January 2006.

226/05-06 RCUK Academic Fellowships (minute 202/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The financial case and summary of the revised financial model for the University's application under Round 2 of the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Academic Fellowship Scheme together with a copy of the draft application to RCUK (SC.155/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft University application for funding under the RCUK Academic Fellowship Scheme be approved in principle for submission to RCUK by the deadline of 18 January 2006 subject to approval by the Steering Committee of the full financial model associated with the University's submission.
- (b) That the full financial model for the University's application for RCUK Academic Fellowships be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 16 January 2006.
- (c) That it be noted that consideration was being given to the long-term sustainability of the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation and to the location and future management of the proposed RCUK Fellowships in the ESRC priority area of Globalisation.

227/05-06 New ESRC Placement Fellows Scheme

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) inviting applications for fellowships under the new ESRC Placement Fellows Scheme together with detailed information on the Scheme (SC.145/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), with support from Research Support Services, take forward the preparation of the University's draft application to the ESRC for funding under the new ESRC Placement Fellows Scheme for consideration by the Steering Committee at a future meeting.

228/05-06 Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award 2006: Call for Nominations

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the Royal Society inviting nominations for the Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award 2006 (SC.146/05-06).

REPORTED: (by Professor Smith)

- (a) That the Faculty of Science had considered a number of eligible candidates for the Award and wished to put forward a University nomination for Professor S Chapman from the Department of Physics.
- (b) That steps were being taken by the Faculty of Science to prepare a potential submission for the next round of the Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award scheme in 2007.

RESOLVED:

That the nomination by the University of Professor S Chapman for the Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award 2006 be supported and endorsed by the Committee.

229/05-06 Department of Health Consultation on NHS Research Strategy: Summary of Responses

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/05/170 on the summary of responses received by the Department of Health to its consultation document "Best Research for Best Health: A new National Health Research Strategy" (SC.147/05-06).

230/05-06 Cox Review of Creativity in Business

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/05/172 on the key recommendations for higher education institutions in Sir George Cox's recently-published review of creativity and design in UK business "The Cox Review of Creativity in Business: building on the UK's strengths" (SC.148/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations set out in the Cox Review of particular relevance for Warwick be referred to the Third Leg Steering Group chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) in order that specific action in the areas identified might be undertaken.

231/05-06 HEFCE 2006-11 Strategic Plan (minute 206/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

The draft institutional response to the HEFCE consultation on the draft HEFCE strategic plan for the period 2006-11 together with a copy of HEFCE consultation document 2005/45 (SC.149/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the draft institutional response to the HEFCE consultation on its draft 2006-11 strategic plan be approved for submission to the HEFCE by the deadline of 13 January subject to amendment along the lines discussed at the meeting.

232/05-06 Review of the Future Role of Further Education Colleges

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/05/167 on the recently-published final Report of Sir Andrew Foster's review of further education "Realising the Potential: A Review of the Future Role of Further Education Colleges" (SC.151/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning be invited to give a presentation at a future meeting of the Steering Committee on the implications and opportunities for the University arising from the extension on a national basis of Lifelong Learning Networks.

233/05-06 Operational Description for Institutional Audit: University Response

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the QAA consultation on a revised operational description for institutional audit together with a copy of the consultation document and circular letter number CL14/05 from the QAA (SC.143/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the draft institutional response to the QAA consultation on the revised operational description for institutional audit be approved for submission to the QAA by the deadline of 13 January subject to amendment along the lines discussed at the meeting.

234/05-06 Email Disruption

REPORTED:

That a number of GroupWise Staff Post Office Servers had experienced failures over the Christmas vacation and that this had resulted in a significant number of staff being unable to access their GroupWise email during this period.

RESOLVED:

That a report on the cause of the email disruption experienced over the Christmas vacation period be circulated for the information of members of the Steering Committee.

235/05-06 Higher Education: Meeting International Business Demand

RECEIVED:

The interim Report "Higher Education: Meeting International Business Demand" from the study into the international competitiveness of UK HE launched in May 2005 by the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE) together with a covering letter from the CIHE (SC.152/05-06).

236/05-06 Pre-Budget Report, December 2005

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/05/165 summarising elements of the Chancellor's Pre-Budget Report having a potential impact upon higher education (SC.153/05-06).

237/05-06 Joint Costing and Pricing Steering Group Update

RECEIVED:

HEFCE Circular Letter number 33/2005 on the completion of the Joint Costing and Pricing Steering Group's (JCPSG) programme of activities and the outcome of the external review of the second phase of the JCPSG commissioned by the sponsors of the JCPSG (SC.154/05-06).