

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 10 July 2006

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

Apologies: Professor M Luntley, Mr B Duggan.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar (until item 627/05-06), Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass.

622/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2006 be approved subject to the inclusion of Professor A Caesar in the list of members offering their apologies for the meeting.

623/05-06 2006 AC21 International Forum

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the success of the 2006 AC21 International Forum held at the University from 4 to 7 July 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee record its thanks and congratulations to all those members of staff who had contributed to the success of the AC21 International Forum.

624/05-06 HEFCE/AHRC Expert Group on Research Metrics

RECEIVED:

A news release from the HEFCE on the establishment by the HEFCE and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) of a joint expert group to provide advice on the potential for metrics-based approaches to the assessment of research quality and the allocation of funding for research (SC.408/05-06) together with an oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

625/05-06 DfES Consultation on Reform of Higher Education Research Assessment and Funding: University Working Group

CONSIDERED:

The proposed constitution for the University working group to be established to produce the University's response to the DfES consultation on the reform of higher education research assessment and funding (SC.407/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the constitution of the DfES Consultation Working Group be approved as follows:

Vice-Chancellor
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Chairs of the Faculty Boards
Registrar
Deputy Registrar
Acting Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning) – Secretary

626/05-06

UUK Survey on Residual Impact of Industrial Action

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/71 requesting information from HEIs on the likely scale and nature of any residual impact on students of the recent industrial action over pay and providing information on the actions taken by UUK in relation to the pay dispute (SC.411/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That the University had responded to UUK Information Note I/06/71 indicating that full sets of examination marks had been received by all final-year Boards of Examiners and that all eligible final-year students at Warwick would be graduating according to the normal timetable.
- (b) That confirmation had been received from UNISON, AMICUS and the TGWU that their members had voted to accept the 13.1% staff pay deal reached by the Joint Negotiating Committee for Higher Education Staff and that it was expected that the outcome of national ballots of members of other Trades' Unions would be announced during the week commencing 17 July.

627/05-06

Temporary Amendment to Regulation 8.12

CONSIDERED:

A proposal for the amendment of University Regulation 8.12 on Regulations Governing Appeals Relating to Decisions of Final-Year Undergraduate Boards of Examiners to provide for temporary revisions to the constitution of the preliminary review panels for the Faculties of Social Studies and Science (SC.404/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That the Academic Office would be reviewing Regulation 8.12 over the summer with a view to bringing forward proposals for permanent changes to this Regulation, if appropriate, for consideration at the meeting of the Senate to be held on 4 October 2006.

RESOLVED: (on behalf of the Senate)

- (a) That, for the remainder of the academic year 2005/06 and for the Faculties of Social Studies and Science only, the constitution of the preliminary review panel for final-year undergraduate appeals be amended to permit either the Chair or another member of the Undergraduate Studies Committee of the affected candidate's Faculty to be a member of the review panel.
- (b) That the Deputy Registrar provide the University Secretary with a breakdown of all academic appeals by course and department.

628/05-06

Proposed Revisions to Exemption Arrangements for the PCAPP Programme

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for revisions to the exemption arrangements for the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic and Professional Practice (PCAPP) (SC.415/05-06) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Teaching and Learning})

That the PCAPP programme was applicable to all newly-appointed members of academic staff other than those eligible for exemption.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed revisions to the current exemption arrangements for the PCAPP programme be approved in principle as set out in paper SC.415/05-06 subject to amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.
- (b) That the Acting Director of the Centre for Academic Practice, in consultation with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) and other colleagues as appropriate, undertake the development of a policy and guidelines for the evaluation of academic-related professional experience held by new academic members of staff for consideration by the Steering Committee at a future meeting.

629/05-06

Science Cities National Workshop: Lord Sainsbury's Speech

RECEIVED:

A copy of a letter from the Head of Science City, Advantage West Midlands, providing a copy of the speech delivered by Lord Sainsbury and the presentation delivered by Ilona Blue of HM Treasury at the Science Cities National Workshop held in Manchester on 24 May 2006 (SC.409/05-06) together with an oral report from the Registrar.

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the interim report from the Barker Review of Land Use Planning, which had been published in the previous week, had highlighted the planning difficulties facing Universities and that the Director of Estates would be reviewing this document in the context of the University Development Plan.

630/05-06

Transparency Review 2004/05: Resubmission of Return (minute 558/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper prepared by the Finance Office on the request from the HEFCE that the University review and resubmit its 2004/05 TRAC return and the University's proposed response to the HEFCE (SC.414/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of Finance.

RESOLVED:

That the University's original 2004/05 TRAC return be revalidated for resubmission to the HEFCE and that the draft response to the HEFCE be approved as set out in paper SC.414/05-06 subject to minor amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.

631/05-06

Development Partnerships in Higher Education

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/67 on the call for proposals under the Department for International Development's (DFID) new Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DELPHE) programme and the forthcoming launch of a DfES programme to support partnerships between HEIs in England and in sub-Saharan Africa (SC.413/05-06) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the DELPHE programme would be publicised to all academic departments in the next issue of the Warwick International Newsletter with a view to identifying potential collaborative opportunities with HEIs in DFID's 25 bilateral focus countries.

632/05-06

European Commission Consultation on Transnational Research Co-Operation and Knowledge Transfer

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/06/70 on the European Commission public consultation on transnational research co-operation and knowledge transfer between public research organisations and industry (SC.410/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the Registrar discuss with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Director of Research Support Services whether a draft institutional response to the European Commission consultation document should be prepared for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the European Commission by the deadline of 19 July 2006.

633/05-06

University House: Power Shutdown 5 & 6 August

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Director of Estates on the planned localised power shutdown over the weekend of 4 to 6 August to allow for essential and statutory maintenance work to the University's power system noting that the shutdown would involve the complete closure of University House on 5 and 6 August and that the availability of IT services would also be significantly restricted over this period.

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That notification of the power shutdown would shortly be provided to all members of staff.

634/05-06

Warwick Medical School Inaugural Lecture Series

RECEIVED:

A paper prepared by the Dean of the Warwick Medical School on the introduction of Inaugural Lectures for all professorial staff within the Warwick Medical School from September 2006 (SC.405/05-06).

635/05-06 Update on Teacher Education Issues

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note 1/06/68 on the launch of consultations by the DfES, the Training and Development Agency for Schools and Lifelong Learning UK concerning issues in the area of teacher education and providing updates on the UUK/SCOP review of the unit of resource for initial teacher training and the School Workforce Development Board (SC.412/05-06).

636/05-06 Steering Committee Schedule of Meetings and Policy Items for Discussion

RECEIVED:

The draft Steering Committee schedule of meetings and timetable of policy issues for discussion for the 2006 summer vacation and academic year 2006/07 (SC.406/05-06).

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