

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 10 October 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 Palmer
Professor M Smith
Ms K Stark
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Estates, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 35/05-06 the Project Manager and the Finance Project Director of the Singapore Feasibility Study and the Director of Communication; for items 38/05-06 and 39/05-06 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality).

34/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2005 be approved.

35/05-06 Warwick in Asia

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A copy of a letter from the Economic Development Board of Singapore (EDB) in response to the University's letter on academic freedom and campus governance and on issues relating to the funding of indirect costs of research (SC.38/05-06, tabled at the meeting).
- (b) Oral reports from the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs and Equal Opportunities) and the Finance Project Manager of the Singapore Feasibility Study on the progress of discussions with the EDB and the Singapore Government during their visit to Singapore in the week commencing 3 October 2005.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the Chairman of the EDB would be visiting the University the same day for further negotiations in regard to the proposed new Singapore campus.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the motion to be put before the Senate at its meeting on 12 October 2005 be as set out in the final Singapore Feasibility Study Report, on the understanding that there would be additional provisions to this motion in the form of financial contingencies relating to indirect cost recovery for research and the phasing of loans from the EDB.

- (b) That it was the view of the Committee that, should the Economic Development Board of Singapore and the Singapore Government provide positive reassurance to the University in regard to research funding and the recovery of indirect costs of research, there would be a case for supporting the motion contained in the final Feasibility Study Report.
- (c) That information on the financial model for the proposed new University campus be made available to members of the Senate.
- (d) That Professors Bassnett, Bridges and Smith meet with the Chairman of the EDB to discuss the University's concerns in regard to the issues raised at the meeting.

36/05-06 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions

CONSIDERED:

University data on home and overseas undergraduate and postgraduate intake projections against budget plan as at 4 October 2005 (SC.19/05-06) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar, in consultation with relevant colleagues, review the current arrangements for processing postgraduate admissions within the University with a view to bringing forward proposals for revised arrangements for consideration by the Steering Committee in due course.

37/05-06 Islamic Prayer Hall

CONSIDERED:

A proposal for the release of £320k from University funds for the refurbishment of vacant space within the former Senate House building for use as an Islamic Prayer Hall (SC.20/05-06).

RECOMMENDED:

That the sum of £320k be released for the refurbishment of space within the former Senate House for use as an Islamic Prayer Hall.

38/05-06 Standards Framework for Supporting Teaching and Learning (minute 667/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft institutional response to the consultation by UUK, SCOP and the four UK funding bodies on proposals for a standards framework for teaching and supporting student learning in higher education (SC.29/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the draft institutional response to the consultation by UUK, SCOP and the four UK funding bodies be approved for submission by the deadline of 20 October subject to minor amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.

39/05-06 Quality Enhancement of Teaching and Learning

RECEIVED:

A press release from the HEFCE on funding streams and funding allocations for the quality enhancement of teaching and learning for the period 2006/07 to 2008/09 (SC.34/05-06).

- 40/05-06 Post-Qualification Applications
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That an article published in *The Times* on 8 October had reported the alleged misrepresentation by the Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning and the DfES of statistical data from the UCAS study 'Estimating the Reliability of Predicted Grades' to support the proposals contained in the consultation paper 'Improving the Higher Education Applications Process'.
- 41/05-06 Medical School Issues
- RECEIVED:
- (a) HEFCE Circular letter 25/2005 inviting institutions to submit expressions of interest in bidding for a total of 100 additional Home and EU medical student numbers in England for the period 2006-08 and to scope the capacity for further increases in medical student intakes from 2008/09 onwards (SC.33/05-06).
- (b) A paper on the quality assurance of basic medical education (QABME) review of the Warwick Medical School to be carried out by the General Medical Council during 2005/06 (SC.32/05-06).
- REPORTED: (by the Dean of the Warwick Medical School)
- That the Warwick Medical School and Leicester Medical School would be submitting expressions of interest for 25 and 21 additional medical students respectively, with a view to these bids being proportionally scaled down should the proposed additional numbers not be secured in full.
- RESOLVED:
- That the proposal that the Warwick Medical School submit an expression of interest for 25 additional medical student places be endorsed noting that these additional places would move the WMS towards full capacity in terms of student numbers.
- 42/05-06 Warwick Medical School Devolved Budget: Year End Report
- CONSIDERED:
- The out-turn statement from the Warwick Medical School for the financial year 2004/05 (SC.35/05-06), together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Medical School.
- RESOLVED:
- That the year-end out-turn statement for the Warwick Medical School Devolved Budget for the financial year 2004/05 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.35/05-06.
- 43/05-06 Warwick Business School Devolved Budget: Year End Report
- CONSIDERED:
- The out-turn statement from the Warwick Business School for the financial year 2004/05 (SC.36/05-06), together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Business School.

RESOLVED:

That the year-end out-turn statement for the Warwick Business School Devolved Budget for the financial year 2004/05 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.36/05-06.

44/05-06 Academic Resourcing Committee: Year End Report

CONSIDERED:

The out-turn statement for non-devolved departmental budgets under the remit of the Academic Resourcing Committee for the financial year 2004/05 (SC.28/05-06) together with an oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED:

That the year-end out-turn statement for non-devolved departmental budgets for the financial year 2004/05 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.28/05-06.

45/05-06 Steering Committee Business

RESOLVED:

That all remaining items on the agenda for the meeting be deferred for consideration at the next meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 17 October 2005.

cec\ns\shared\steer-share\ Mins 05-06\stg10-10-05
14/10/05