

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 11 April 2005

Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Easton
Professor J Jones
Mr S Lucas
Professor M Luntley
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor A Caesar, Professor Y Carter, Professor R G Dyson, Registrar, Ms N Snodgrass.

In Attendance: Acting Director of Finance, Academic Registrar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt.

351/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2005 be approved, subject to the addition of Professor Luntley in the list of those persons offering their apologies for the meeting and the further amendment of minute 318/04-05 as follows: (amendments underlined, deletions struck through)

RESOLVED:

- (b) That approval of ~~the proposed~~ any future proposed collaborative partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal ~~be deferred pending~~ be dependent upon production of a robust academic case for consideration and approval by the appropriate University bodies and the preparation of a business plan for approval by the University Finance Director.

352/04-05 NILSI

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That, following approval by the Council on 16 March of the strategy for academic engagement between the University and NILSI and the public announcement made by NILSI on 30 March, NILSI had indicated that it wished to occupy two floors of space in Senate House.

353/04-05 Budget 2005

RECEIVED:

A copy of UUK Information Note 1/05/38 summarising the measures in the 2005 Budget relating to higher education (SC.223/04-05).

REPORTED: (by the Acting Finance Director)

That it was expected that significant additional costs would be incurred by the University associated with anticipated changes to the rates and methodology for calculation of partial VAT exemption and that confirmation of the calculation of partial exemption for the University was expected in the coming week.

354/04-05 Allocation of Additional Student Places and Funds 2006-08

RECEIVED:

HEFCE Circular 2005/14 setting out the new HEFCE methodology for the allocation of student places and funds (SC.224/04-05).

REPORTED:

That the Academic Resourcing Committee was reviewing the new methodology and would be co-ordinating the preparation of any future bid from the University and that this would be an item for discussion with the University's Regional Consultant during his forthcoming visit to the University.

355/04-05 National Languages Strategy in Higher Education

RESOLVED:

That consideration of this item be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee when the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts would be present.

356/04-05 Regional Consortium for Postgraduate Education in Physics

CONSIDERED:

A proposal for the establishment of a Midlands Universities Physics Research Consortium to facilitate increased coordination of research and graduate level teaching (SC.234/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal be welcomed and supported.
- (b) That Professor Smith be asked to take forward discussions with the HEFCE on potential funding for the initiative and that those discussions highlight the need to ensure that all consortium members, in particular staff in their departments of Physics, are committed fully to the project.

357/04-05 2005 HE Business and Community Interaction Survey

RECEIVED:

HEFCE circular letter 06/2005 setting out the arrangements for the annual HE-BCI survey (SC.228/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the University survey response be prepared by the Industrial Development Officer, Research Support Services, in consultation with the Registrar, Professor Jones, Professor Dyson and the Director of Communication, for consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 9 May.

358/04-05 White Paper on Skills

CONSIDERED:

UUK information note on the Government's Skills White Paper and its implications for the University (SC.220/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That Professor Whitby prepare the University consultation response to the White Paper in consultation with Professor Dyson and Professor Hagen for consideration by the Committee prior to submission to UUK.

359/04-05 Staff Attitude Survey

REPORTED (by the Director of Communication):

That the University would be conducting a staff attitude survey as set out in paper (SC.232/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Communication convey the points raised at the meeting to the Director of Personnel, in particular those relating to the timing of the survey and the possibility of conducting two levels of survey.

360/04-05 QAA China Audit

CONSIDERED:

Proposed responses to the QAA detailing each of the University's collaborative partnerships with institutions in China (SC.227/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed responses for each of the University's thirteen collaborative arrangements be approved as set out in paper (SC.227/04-05) and submitted to the QAA.

361/04-05 National Student Survey and TQI website

RECEIVED:

HEFCE Circular 08/2005: Update on the National Student Survey and outcomes of consultation on TQI Subject Structure (SC.233/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Professor Whitby prepare the University's response to the call for feedback on the proposed scope of the National Student Survey (NSS) for consideration by the Committee prior to submission to the HEFCE.
- (b) That details of the University's submission rate to NSS be circulated for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.

362/04-05 UUK Manifesto for Higher Education

RECEIVED:

A copy of the UUK Manifesto for Higher Education (SC.229/04-05).

363/04-05 Working Party on UUK Structures

RECEIVED:

UUK I note 1/05/21 on the establishment of a UUK Working Party on UUK Structures (SC.225/04-05).

364/04-05 Higher Education Access Committee

RESOLVED:

That Ms L Munro replace Ms Y Salter-Wright as one of the two University representatives on the Higher Education Access Committee.

365/04-05 AHRC Chair and Board Members

RECEIVED:

UUK I note 1/05/43 reporting on the announcement of the Chair and Board Members of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (SC.222/04-05).

366/04-05 Sustainable Development in Higher Education

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft response to HEFCE consultation paper 2005/01 on Sustainable Development in Higher Education (SC.231/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the University's response to the HEFCE Circular be approved as set out in paper (SC.231/04-05).

367/04-05 Annual Monitoring Statements

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the HEFCE revised approach to the AMS process together with the HEFCE's acknowledgement of receipt of the University's response (SC.226/04-05).