

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 11 June 2007

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

Apologies: Professor H Thomas, Director of Estates.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Communication, Director of Finance, Registrar (until item 552/06-07), University Secretary, Senior Assistant Registrar (Governance), Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Ms H Sinclair, for items 546/06-07 to 548/06-07 the Director of Warwick International, for item 548/06-07 the Assistant Registrar (Under Graduate Admissions), for item 552/06-07 the Acting Director of the Careers Service, for item 554/06-07 the Senior Assistant Registrar for Teaching Quality Assurance.

546/06-07 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2007 be approved.

547/06-07 University Strategy Workshop 18 June 2007

REPORTED:

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That a workshop on the University Strategy and Implementation Plan would take place in the scheduled Steering Committee slot from 10am until 12 noon on Monday 18 June 2007.
- (b) That in addition to members of the Steering Committee, academic and administrative colleagues involved in a substantive way in the delivery of the Strategy would be invited to attend the meeting.

(by the University Secretary)

- (c) That, if necessary, any urgent business would be considered at a re-scheduled meeting of the Steering Committee between 9.30am and 10am on Monday 18 June.

548/06-07 Delivery Partnership Consultations on Improving the Higher Education Applications Process (minute 533/06-07 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to Consultations 1 and 3 of the Delivery Partnership Consultations on Improving the Higher Education Applications Process (SC.372/06-07).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft response to Consultation 1 concerning feedback to applicants of the Delivery Partnership Consultations on Improving the Higher Education Applications Process be approved as set out in paper SC.372/06-07 subject to amendment as discussed at the meeting.
- (b) That the draft response to Consultation 3 concerning models to implement an adjustment period to enable students who achieve higher grades to make a new application in August of the Delivery Partnership Consultations on Improving the Higher Education Applications Process be approved as set out in paper SC.372/06-07.

549/06-07 Update on Faculty of Arts Issues

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on current issues and developments in the Faculty of Arts including the relocation of the Departments of Theatre Studies, Film Studies and the History of Art to Milburn House, the Arts and Humanities Data Service and the Faculty of Arts Advisory Board (SC.374/06-07).

550/06-07 Arts and Humanities Research Council: Regional Meetings

CONSIDERED:

A paper containing proposals from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to trial a series of 'regional' meetings (SC.375/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) together with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and Community Affairs) and the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts prepare the University's response to the AHRC's proposals to trial a series of broad 'regional' meetings along the lines discussed at the meeting for submission prior to the deadline of 29 June 2007.

551/06-07 Update on Faculty of Science Issues

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science and a paper providing an update on current developments and issues of concern in the Faculty of Science (SC.350/06-07) including research incentives and Full Economic Costing (fEC) of research grants, generation of research income from industry and the provision of counselling support for students.

REPORTED:

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Campus and Community Affairs})

That the Director of Campus Affairs was currently undertaking a comprehensive review of counselling support for students and staff.

RESOLVED:

That, at a future meeting of the Steering Committee, guidelines for Heads of Departments regarding Full Economic Costing of grants to include the full costs of academic staff salaries be brought forward for consideration.

552/06-07 Update on Careers Issues

RECEIVED:

An update on current issues and developments in the Careers Service including the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) Survey (SC.368/06-07) together with an oral report from the Acting Director of the Careers Service.

REPORTED: (by the Acting Director of the Careers Service)

That the Higher Education Careers Services Unit (HESCU) had commissioned the Futuretrack research project on graduate career destinations which would enable a more long term picture to be examined than currently obtained.

553/06-07 Times Good University Guide

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the publication of the *Times Good University Guide 2008* had been delayed due to a legal dispute between the past and present publishers regarding the ownership of data and publication was now expected in late summer.

554/06-07 Update on Teaching Quality Issues

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on Teaching Quality Issues including the recommendations of the Assessment Conventions Working Group on the harmonisation of assessment conventions for undergraduate degrees, Distinctiveness in Learning and Teaching at Warwick, the 2008 QAA Institutional Audit, the National Student Survey 2007 and the HEFCE's interim evaluation of Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs) (SC.373/06-07) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning).

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

That Dr Mike Neary had recently resigned to take up a Professorship elsewhere and a new Director of the Reinvention Centre for Undergraduate Research would therefore need to be identified.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That any future changes to University assessment conventions and the undergraduate curriculum which allow students to take extra credit would need to be taken account of in the setting of student fee levels.
- (b) That the outline report on proposed areas for action to develop Distinctiveness in Learning and Teaching at Warwick represented work in progress and, that following wider consultation, final proposals would be considered at a future meeting of the Steering Committee.

555/06-07

Senate Business

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the items of business to be considered at the meeting of the Senate to be held on 20 June 2007 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

556/06-07

Smoking: Impact of the New Legislation on University Policy and Practice

RECEIVED:

A paper setting out the impact on University policy and practice of the new smoking legislation to be introduced with effect from 1 July 2007 as a result of the Health Act 2006 (SC.377/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That the paper be included in the Report from the Health and Safety Executive Committee to the Senate alongside the revised University policy on smoking.

557/06-07

Appointment of new Chief Executive Officer, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

RECEIVED:

A paper reporting the appointment of Professor David Delpy as Chief Executive and Deputy Chair of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (SC.376/06-07).

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