

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 12 December 2005

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor A Caesar (until item 197/05-06)
Professor J Jones (from 10.30am)
Professor R Lindley
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor M Whitby
- Apologies: Professor L Bridges, Professor Y Carter, Professor I Lauder, Professor M Smith, Professor H Thomas, Director of Communication.
- 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 items 196/05-06 and 197/05-06 the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation, for item 197/05-06 the Head of Student Recruitment and Marketing, for item 200/05-06 the Director of the Science Park, for item 201/05-06 the Head of the Department of Physics, for items 201/05-06 and 202/05-06 the Deputy Director of Research Finance, Research Support Services, for item 203/05-06 Professor R Ball, the Head of the Department of Mathematics and the Research Development Manager (Chemistry, Maths, Statistics), Research Support Services.
- 191/05-06 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2005 be approved.
- 192/05-06 European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (minute 639/04-05 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the University Secretary)
- That the Vice-Chancellor had submitted the University's comments on the European Commission's proposals for a European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning to the Universities UK Teaching Quality and Lifelong Learning Strategy Group (TQLLSG).
- RESOLVED:
- That the University's response to the TQLLSG on the European Commission's proposals for a European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning be endorsed for submission to the European Commission by the deadline of end-December 2005.
- 193/05-06 Key Performance Indicators
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That he would be tabling a paper on institutional key performance indicators, including retention figures and a research intensity measure, as part of the Report from the Strategy Committee to be considered at the meeting of the Council to be held on Wednesday 14 December.
- RESOLVED:
- That members of the Committee forward any additional suggestions for institutional key performance indicators to the Vice-Chancellor.

194/05-06 CETLs: Bids for Additional Capital Funding (minute 177/05-06 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) in consultation with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and the Community), the Registrar and the Acting Director of Finance, prepare the Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Shakespeare Institute of the University of Birmingham for the use of space in the Shakespeare Institute for consideration by the Steering Committee in due course.

195/05-06 Additional Meeting of the Steering Committee

RESOLVED:

That an additional meeting of the Steering Committee be held on 19 December to discuss the issues of Sustainability and Financial Planning.

196/05-06 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions (minutes 185/05-06 and 186/05-06 refer)

CONSIDERED:

- (a) University data on home and overseas undergraduate and postgraduate intake projections against budget plan as at mid-November 2005 (SC.98/05-06).
- (b) Summary comparative admissions statistics for four-year versus three-year undergraduate courses (SC.123/05-06).
- (c) A paper prepared by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies on issues relating to postgraduate admissions and the issue of postgraduate fees for spouses or partners of University employees (SC.134/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Student Admissions Office examine the viability of the collection and presentation of more detailed data for future admissions reports as discussed at the meeting.
- (b) That further investigation into the implications of a move towards a fully-centralised system for both undergraduate and postgraduate admissions be undertaken by the Student Admissions Office and a report brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee in the Spring Term.
- (c) That the proposal that spouses or civil partners of all overseas University employees be eligible for Home/EU fees for postgraduate degrees be approved in principle, on the understanding that a report on the technical issues associated with the implementation of this proposal would be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee as soon as practicable.

197/05-06 Undergraduate Open Days

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for the scheduling of undergraduate University Open Day dates for 2007 (SC.124/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed dates for undergraduate Open Days for 2007 be approved as set out in paper SC.124/05-06 noting that the possibility of a move towards holding all Open Days on Saturdays from 2008 onwards would be contingent upon the continued success of Saturday Open Days in 2007.

- (b) That the Student Recruitment and Marketing Strategy Unit take steps to ensure continued engagement with school and college teachers in the University's undergraduate student recruitment and marketing activities.

198/05-06 HEFCE Review of Teaching Funding Methodology: University Response
(minute 78/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The Russell Group response to the HEFCE consultation on proposed changes to its teaching funding methodology together with a summary document prepared by the Director of Operations and Planning (SC.129/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the response from the Russell Group to the HEFCE consultation on proposed changes to the teaching funding method be revised along the lines discussed at the meeting and submitted to the HEFCE as the University's institutional response to the consultation by the deadline of 13 January 2006.

199/05-06 Research and Innovation Update

RECEIVED:

An update on current and projected future developments relating to the University's research and innovation activities (SC.125/05-06) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Research})

That meetings with the Chief Executives of the EPSRC, ESRC and the BBSRC had been scheduled for 19 December 2005, 21 December 2005 and 5 January 2006 respectively to discuss recent developments in the University's research and innovation activities.

200/05-06 Harwell Chilton Campus

CONSIDERED:

A paper on the proposed establishment by UKAEA Harwell of a National Research Centre and Science Park at its Chilton campus and the extent to which the University might become involved in this project (SC.128/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of the Science Park.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Director of the Science Park, with support from Research Support Services, investigate actively potential opportunities for the University arising from the proposed establishment of the National Research Centre and Science Park at the Harwell Chilton Campus and report back to the Steering Committee in due course.

201/05-06 Midlands Physics Consortium (minute 178/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The draft bid to the HEFCE prepared by the Departments of Physics of the Universities of Warwick, Birmingham and Nottingham for the establishment of a Midlands Physics Consortium (SC.114/05-06)

- (b) A paper outlining the financial implications for the University of participation in the proposed Midlands Physics Consortium (SC.133/05-06) together with an oral report from the Head of the Department of Physics (Warwick).

(Note: Revised legacy costings for the University for the proposed Consortium following the HEFCE bid period were tabled at the meeting and replace the figures originally circulated.)

RESOLVED:

That the draft bid from the Universities of Warwick, Birmingham and Nottingham for the establishment of a Midlands Physics Consortium be approved for submission to the HEFCE on the understanding that final approval of the process would be subject to an iterative process and that, prior to making a final commitment to its contribution towards the proposed Consortium, the University would need to be assured of the sustainability of the project in the context of the wider range of Science Faculty research initiatives (minute SC.205/05-06 refers).

202/05-06 RCUK Academic Fellowships (minute 181/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining the financial implications for the University of submitting a significant number of bids in Round 2 of the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Academic Fellowship Scheme (SC.132/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Director {Research Finance}, Research Support Services)

That RSS had now established that a maximum of 36 bids per institution would be considered by RCUK.

RESOLVED:

That the financial model for the University's application for RCUK Academic Fellowships be revised along the lines discussed at the meeting and the amended model brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 9 January 2006 in order that the Committee could determine the number of bids the University would submit to RCUK by the deadline of 18 January 2006.

203/05-06 EPSRC Doctoral Training Centres in Complexity Science: Expression of Interest (minute 182/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The draft expression of interest from the University to the EPSRC for the establishment of a Doctoral Training Centre in Complexity Science (SC.104/05-06).
- (b) The financial plan for the proposed Doctoral Training Centre in Complexity Science together with a covering paper prepared by the Head of the Department of Mathematics, Professor R Ball and the Research Development Manager (Chemistry, Maths, Statistics), Research Support Services (SC.122/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the expression of interest from the University to the EPSRC for the establishment of a Doctoral Training Centre in Complexity Science be approved for submission to the EPSRC by the deadline of 13 December 2005.
- (b) That the Research Development Manager (Chemistry, Maths, Statistics), Research Support Services revise the letter of support from the Vice-Chancellor for the proposed Doctoral Training Centre along the lines discussed at the meeting for inclusion in the University's submission to the EPSRC.

- 204/05-06 Submission of Research Bids
- RESOLVED:
- That the Finance Office and Research Support Services take steps to ensure that the financial models for all future University bids for research funding are based upon a standard methodology and set of financial assumptions, agreed by the Finance Office and Research Support Services, in order that the University is able to assess these bids on a comparable basis.
- 205/06-06 Science Faculty Research Initiatives
- RESOLVED:
- That the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science, in consultation with the Finance Office, Research Support Services and the Academic Resourcing Committee, prepare a paper setting out the anticipated resource commitments the Faculty of Science would be subject to in relation to research developments within the Faculty and how these research initiatives would be funded and sustained in the future (minutes 178/05-06 and 182/05-06 and minute 201/05-06 above also refer).
- 206/05-06 HEFCE 2006-11 Strategic Plan
- RECEIVED:
- HEFCE Circular Letter number 30/2005 on the formal HEFCE consultation on its draft strategic plan for the period 2006-11 (SC.139/05-06).
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That the draft HEFCE 2006-11 Strategic Plan would be reviewed and a draft institutional response to the consultation drawn up for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the HEFCE by the deadline of 13 January 2006.
- 207/05-06 Office for Fair Access 2005-10 Strategic Plan
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/05/163 on the publication of the first strategic plan for the Office for Fair Access for the period 2005-10 (SC.137/05-06).
- 208/05-06 Foster Review of FE
- RECEIVED:
- The overview of the final Report from the review undertaken by Sir Andrew Foster on the future role of further education colleges (SC.136/05-06).
- 209/05-06 Chancellor's Statement: International Student Recruitment
- RECEIVED:
- A copy of an email from the Council for International Education on the announcement by the Treasury in its Pre-Budget Report of additional support for higher education exports to sustain the UK's world leading position and attract more highly skilled overseas students (SC.127/05-06).

- 210/05-06 Renaming of Senate House (minute 6/05-06 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- An oral report from the University Secretary on the suggestions received to date for the re-naming of the former Senate House building.
- RESOLVED:
- That members of the Committee forward any further suggestions for the renaming of the former Senate House building to the University Secretary.
- 211/05-06 Home Office Consultation on a Points-Based Immigration System: UUK Response
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/05/162 on the UUK response to the Home Office consultation 'Selective Admission: Making Migration Work for Britain' on the creation of a points-based immigration system for managed migration routes to the UK (SC.138/05-06).
- 212/05-06 Terrorism Bill
- RECEIVED:
- A copy of the Parliamentary Briefing from Universities UK on its position on the Terrorism Bill together with statements from the Association of University Teachers and the Society of College, National and University Libraries (SC.135/05-06).
- 213/05-06 Maintaining Business at HEFCE
- RECEIVED:
- HEFCE Circular Letter number 31/2005 on the arrangements put in place at HEFCE to manage business prior to the appointment of a permanent successor to Sir Howard Newby following his departure as Chief Executive on 31 January 2006 (SC.131/05-06).
- 214/05-06 Bologna Process: Integrated Masters Programmes
- RECEIVED:
- Europe Note E/05/12 from the UK HE Europe Unit on how integrated Masters programmes might be made compatible with the Bologna Process and the promotion of integrated Masters programmes within Europe (SC.130/05-06).