

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 13 September 2004

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor Y Carter
Professor R Dyson
Professor J Jones
Professor M Whitby
Professor M Luntley
Professor A McFarlane
Professor M McCrae
Mr S Lucas

Apologies: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor H Thomas, Professor I Lauder, Professor A Easton.

In Attendance: Professor A Caesar, Professor L Bridges, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 560/03-04 Dr C Sparrow.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Professor A Caesar, the incoming Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts, to her first meeting of the Committee.

558/03-04 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2004 be approved.
- (b) That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 September be approved, subject to amendment to minute 549(g)/03-04 as follows (amendment underlined):

That fees charged for market-based courses could be set temporarily below the University standard fee on the launch of new courses in order to attract recruits but that, after a given period of time, fees be brought in line with standard courses, as a minimum.

559/03-04 Vice-Chancellor's Business

RECEIVED:

Oral reports from the Vice-Chancellor on the following:

- (a) His attendance at the AC21 International Forum in Sydney and his view that the University should seek to host the third International Forum of AC21 in 2006 pending formal agreement from Advantage West Midlands to the provision of funding to support the Forum and the submission of a further report from the International Office.
- (b) His meetings and discussions in July with representatives of the Economic and Development Board of Singapore concerning the Warwick in Asia project.
- (c) His visits to Taiwan and China during the summer noting that the contacts established with a range of universities during his visits would be followed up by the International Office.

560/03-04 Warwick in Asia

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The draft report to the Senate from the Asia Exploratory Group, incorporating three market research analyses prepared by Euro RSCG Riley, Ms P O'Sullivan

and the Academic Registrar (SC.305/03-04), together with an oral report from the Chair of the AEG, Dr C Sparrow.

- (b) A letter from the President of the Students' Union to the Vice-Chancellor raising a number of concerns about the Warwick in Asia project (SC.306/03-04).

REPORTED: (by Dr C Sparrow)

- (a) That several improvements and additions had been made to the content of the Report since its circulation to the Steering Committee, including the development of section 5.7 on academic and other opportunities and section 7.18 on risks connected with regulation and the political and cultural environment in Singapore.
- (b) That information on the Warwick in Asia project would be made available on Insite on Monday 13 September with the full Report of the AEG being made available on Insite on Wednesday 15 September to inform discussion at the meetings with staff scheduled for the coming week, including the Open Meeting on Friday 17 September.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That revisions be made to the Report along the lines proposed at the meeting for publication on Insite on 15 September and submission to the Senate on 22 September.
- (b) That Dr Sparrow and the Academic Registrar prepare a briefing paper on the key questions and issues which should be raised for discussion at the meetings of the Senate and the Council on 22 September and 29 September respectively.
- (c) That, in the light of the letter from the Chair of the School of Engineering indicating that the School did not support the proposal and the fact that this view had been reached before the full Report and information prepared by the Warwick in Asia Group had been compiled, Dr Sparrow and the Academic Registrar hold further discussions with the Chair of the School of Engineering prior to the meeting of the Asia Exploratory Group with Chairs of Departments on Wednesday 15 September.

561/03-04 ESRC Research Centre Bids

CONSIDERED:

Two draft bids for submission to the ESRC Research Centre Competition 2004/05 from the Department of Psychology and the Warwick Business School (SC.312/03-04).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee approve the academic content and rationale of both bids for submission to the ESRC subject to further revision to frame both proposals clearly within the context of the University's wider academic activities and interests.
- (b) That Professor Jones discuss the calculation and presentation of the financial elements of each proposal with Research Support Services to ensure that the points raised in discussion at the meeting were addressed before final approval and submission of the two bids to the ESRC.

562/03-04 Proposals for HE Funding Reform

CONSIDERED:

An analysis from the Higher Education Policy Institute of the new Conservative Party proposals for HE Funding reform (SC.311/03-04).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had been approached by the Higher Education spokesman for the Conservative Party to write a critical review of the Conservative Party's HE funding reform proposals for publication in the National Press.

RESOLVED:

That the Vice-Chancellor accept the invitation to undertake a critical review of the Conservative Party's HE funding reform proposals for publication in the press.

563/03-04 HE Act: Current Issues for Fees and Student Support

RECEIVED:

Universities UK Information Note 1/04/96 on current issues for student fees and student support in the context of the Higher Education Act 2004 (SC.304/03-04).

564/03-04 University Court, Cranfield

CONSIDERED:

An invitation from Cranfield University to nominate a member for appointment to the University Court, Cranfield, following the expiry of the term of office of the University's previous nominee (SC.303/03-04).

RESOLVED:

That the University Secretary write to Cranfield University indicating that the University of Warwick no longer wished to nominate a member for appointment to the Court of Cranfield University.