

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 14 March 2005

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Professor R G Dyson
Professor A Easton
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer

Apologies: Professor J Jones, Mr S Lucas, Professor M Whitby, Registrar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar (till item 318/04-05), Acting Director of Finance, Director of Personnel, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 317/04-05 the Director of Warwick HRI.

311/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2005 be approved.

312/04-05 Post-Qualification Applications (PQA)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That he had received a response from the Director-General for Higher Education to his letter on the proposed PQA procedure (minute 260/04-05 refers) indicating that PQA proposals now under consideration included a system similar to that put forward in the Vice-Chancellor's letter.
- (b) That a meeting convened by the DfES to discuss options for the implementation of PQA, which the Academic Registrar would be attending, would be held on 18 March.

313/04-05 EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards: Statistics Bid

REPORTED: (by Professor Easton)

That the bid submitted by the Department of Statistics for the EPSRC Science and Innovation Award Scheme had been successful.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its congratulations to the Department of Statistics and to all members of staff involved in the preparation of the successful bid proposal.

314/04-05 Recurrent Funding 2005/06

RECEIVED:

HEFCE document 2005/13 on provisional allocations of recurrent funding to institutions for the academic year 2005/06 together with a press release from the HEFCE and a paper prepared by the Acting Director of Finance summarising the University's 2005/06 recurrent grant allocation and the implications of this settlement (SC.201/04-05), noting in particular:

- (a) That more detailed analysis on student number funding within the T Grant was being undertaken.

- (b) That funding of £2.2m, in addition to the University's total HEFCE recurrent grant allocation, would be awarded to the University for 2005/05 by the Research Councils to support full economic costing of research.

315/04-05 E-Learning Strategy and Capital Investment Funding

RECEIVED:

Circular letter number 05/2005 from the HEFCE announcing the publication of the HEFCE e-learning strategy and setting out details of allocations to HEIs to support investment in e-learning (SC.198/04-05), noting that the University had been conditionally allocated £340k in e-learning capital investment funding for 2005/06.

RESOLVED:

That consideration of paper SC.198/04-05 on the HEFCE e-learning strategy and capital investment funding be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee on 21 March.

316/04-05 Warwick Medical School Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The out-turn statement from the Warwick Medical School for the 2nd quarter of the financial year 2004/05 (SC.202/04-05) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Medical School.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 2nd quarter statement for the Warwick Medical School Devolved Budget for the financial year 2004/05 be approved as set out in paper SC.202/04-05, noting that although the quarter-end out-turn was not as positive as had been anticipated, this needed to be set in the context of the rapid growth and expansion of the Warwick Medical School.
- (b) That the Finance Office and the International Office work together with the Warwick Medical School to ensure the provision of adequate professional support to the School in the areas of student recruitment and marketing and financial monitoring during the continuing period of rapid growth and expansion of the School.

317/04-05 WHRI Update and Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The 2nd quarter statement from Warwick HRI for the financial year 2004/05 and a report providing an update on key recent developments at Warwick HRI (SC.195/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of Warwick HRI.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 2nd quarter statement for the Warwick HRI Devolved Budget for the financial year 2004/05 be approved as set out in paper SC.195/04-05.
- (b) That an options appraisal to examine the proposed demolition of the two outdated buildings at WHRI Wellesbourne be undertaken with a view to determining alternative possibilities for the use of these buildings.

318/04-05 WMG Proposal for New Collaborative Partnership

CONSIDERED:

Advance notification of a proposal from the Warwick Manufacturing Group for a potential new collaborative partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa (SC.197/04-05) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the establishment of a formal relationship with the University of KwaZulu-Natal be endorsed in principle as an appropriate partnership.
- (b) That approval of any future proposed collaborative partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal 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.
- (c) That no agreements be entered into or signed on behalf of the University by the Warwick Manufacturing Group in advance of approval of the documentation set out in (b) above.
- (d) That steps be taken to fast-track consideration of the documentation for the proposed partnership following provision of this documentation by the Warwick Manufacturing Group.

319/04-05 NILSI

RECEIVED:

Universities UK Information Note I/05/31 on the NHSU transition to the National Institute for Learning, Skills and Innovation (NILSI) (SC.199/04-05).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That NILSI had confirmed its intention to occupy space in Senate House and that the University was currently awaiting a report from NILSI setting out a strategy and proposed rationale for its academic and intellectual engagement with the University (minute 202/04-05 refers).

320/04-05 International Student Enrolments 2004

RECEIVED:

Universities UK Information Note I/05/29 providing a summary of the results of UUK's survey conducted on international student enrolments at the beginning of the academic year 2004/05 (SC.196/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That regular reports on undergraduate and postgraduate admissions statistics for October 2005 entry be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee.

321/04-05 Gateways to the Professions Consultation (minute 275/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University's draft response to the Gateways to the Professions Consultation (SC.200/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft response to the Gateway to the Professions consultation be approved as set out in paper SC.200/04-05 subject to amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.
- (b) That any further comments from members of the Committee be forwarded to Professor Whitby for incorporation into the consultation response prior to its submission to the DfES by the deadline of 18 March 2005.

322/04-05 Review of FE Colleges (minute 276/04-05 refers)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Professor Dyson and the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning be authorised to submit general comments on the consultation to UUK on behalf of the University by the deadline of 18 March 2005.
- (b) That Professor Dyson and the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning prepare a draft response to the consultation for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the Foster review team by the deadline of 8 April 2005.

323/04-05 Equal Opportunities Committee Terms of Reference

CONSIDERED:

Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Equal Opportunities Committee (SC.203/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the amendments to paragraphs one and two of the Terms of Reference of the Equal Opportunities Committee as set out in paper SC.203/04-05 be recommended to the Council for approval at its meeting on 16 March 2005.
- (b) That a review of the remaining Terms of Reference of the Equal Opportunities Committee be undertaken as part of the wider review of the Terms of Reference and constitution of University committees arising from the work of the Governing Instruments Committee.

324/04-05 Teaching Quality Information Website (minute 288/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the HEFCE on the proposed subject groupings to be used on the Teaching Quality Information website (SC.194/04-05).