

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 15 May 2006

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges (from item 496/05-06)
Professor A Caesar
Professor J Jones
Professor I Lauder
Professor R Lindley
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor M Smith
Ms K Stark
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 499/05-06 the Acting Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling), for item 500/05-06 the Head of the Department of Classics and Ancient History, Professor S Ireland and the Acting Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning), for item 501/05-06 the Head of the Department of Physics and Ms H Hutchings.

494/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2006 be approved subject to amendment to minutes 470/05-06 and 471/05-06 as follows: (amendments underlined, deletions struck through)

470/05-06 Business and Community: Third Stream as Second Mission
(minute 463/05-06 refers)

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

(b) That the ~~Universities~~ University of Birmingham and Wolverhampton had met with the HEFCE in the previous week to discuss a potential collaborative submission in response to circular letter number 05/2006 and that feedback from this meeting was currently awaited to inform the University's policy in this regard.

471/05-06 WMG Collaboration with China Aerospace
(minute 467/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

(c) That the draft contract between the University and CA-TDEC had been forwarded to the ~~University's~~ WMG's representative in China but that no feedback on the draft had yet been received.

495/05-06 WMG Collaboration with China Aerospace (minutes 467/05-06 and 471/05-06 refer)

REPORTED:

(by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the University's interim legal adviser and the Warwick Manufacturing Group's representative in China were making progress on the finalisation of the draft contract between the University and CA-TDEC.

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

- (b) That he had taken Chair's Action on behalf of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (AQSC) to grant in-principle approval to the proposed partnership for one year in the first instance, noting that the AQSC had, at its meeting held on 11 May, resolved that any future collaborative arrangements or courses which had not been subject to rigorous scrutiny through the normal processes would not be approved.

RESOLVED:

That the Vice-Chancellor write to the Head of the Warwick Manufacturing Group to reinforce the University's existing quality assurance procedures for the establishment of new collaborative awards and the need for the Warwick Manufacturing Group to take due account of these procedures in developing any future proposed partnerships with external agencies.

496/05-06 AUT Industrial Action

REPORTED:

(by the President of the Union of Students)

- (a) That, at its meeting held on 8 May, the National Executive Committee of the National Union of Students had voted to continue its overall support for the AUT Industrial Action, including the withholding of marks, while strongly reiterating its call for the AUT to reconsider its decision not to set examinations.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (b) That a number of meetings with members of the AUT and the Boards of the Faculties to discuss the AUT industrial action and its impact on the University would be held on 15, 16 and 24 May and that members and attendees of the Steering Committee had also been invited to attend these sessions.

497/05-06 Business and Community: Third Stream as Second Mission (minute 470/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had written to the HEFCE to convey the University's objections to the wording of HEFCE circular letter number 05/2006.

RESOLVED:

That the letter from the Vice-Chancellor to the HEFCE be circulated for information to members of the Steering Committee.

498/05-06

ARC: Review of Computer Science

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the proposal from the Academic Resourcing Committee that a full Departmental Review of the Department of Computer Science be undertaken as soon as practicable.

REPORTED: (by the University Secretary)

That the last quinquennial review of the Department had taken place in the academic year 2003/04.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a full Departmental Review of the Department of Computer Science be undertaken as soon as practicable and by no later than the end of the calendar year.
- (b) That steps be taken to ensure the appointment of appropriate external members to the Departmental Review Panel.

499/05-06

Accommodation and Capital Projects Update

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on strategic matters relating to capital developments and accommodation, including the Campus Development Plan, capital development priorities, the progress of capital projects and the annual accommodation allocation round (SC.317/05-06) together with oral reports from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and the Community) and the Acting Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling).

REPORTED:

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

- (a) That there was some evidence that a number of Heads of Departments were as yet not sufficiently alert to the real cost implications of space and new capital investments, particularly given that capital costs were not fully reflected in departmental transparent accounts.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (b) That the projected costs for the refurbishment of Millburn House, in particular with regard to the CAPITAL Centre and the NMR Centre, were substantially higher than those that were budgeted for originally.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That paper SC.317/05-06 be revised to incorporate discussion of the issues discussed at the meeting and submitted for consideration at the meeting of the Strategy Committee to be held on 25 May 2006.
- (b) That the Acting Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling) prepare a breakdown of all locally and centrally timetabled teaching rooms within the University by building, capacity and ownership for circulation to the Committee.
- (c) That steps be taken by the Finance Office and the Space Management and Timetabling Office to ensure that all Heads of Departments are made aware of the true running costs of their existing accommodation as well as the full cost implications of future space requirements and new capital provision.

- (d) That the Director of Estates review the projected costs for the refurbishment of Millburn House with a view to bringing these costs back within budget.

500/05-06

Quinquennial Review of the Department of Classics and Ancient History
(minute 479/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The Quinquennial Review Report of the Department of Classics and Ancient History (SC.301/05-06) together with oral reports from the Head of the Department of Classics and Ancient History, Professor S Ireland and the Acting Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Report on the Quinquennial Review of the Department of Classics and Ancient History be referred to the Academic Resourcing Committee, the Accommodation Review Group and the Board of the Faculty of Arts.
- (b) That the Department of Classics and Ancient History be encouraged to take full advantage of the range of research funding opportunities made available through the Arts and Humanities Research Council.
- (c) That the Department be asked to consider the possibility of running integrated PhD programmes as an alternative to separate postgraduate taught courses.
- (d) That steps be taken within the Department to ensure that full account is taken of the resource implications of the introduction of additional language teaching provision within the department.
- (e) That the feasibility of providing statistical information on the progress of students enrolled on postgraduate taught courses to doctoral programmes be examined by the Graduate School.

501/05-06

Quinquennial Review of the Department of Physics (minute 480/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The Quinquennial Review Report of the Department of Physics and the Department's response to the Review Report (SC.309/05-06) together with an oral report from the Head of the Department of Physics.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Report on the Quinquennial Review of the Department of Physics be referred to the Academic Resourcing Committee and the Board of the Faculty of Science.
- (b) That steps be taken within the Department to encourage all staff to take full advantage of study leave opportunities.
- (c) That the Steering Committee record its congratulations to the Department of Physics on the positive outcome of its Quinquennial Review and to the Head of the Department of Physics on his effective leadership of the Department.

502/05-06 Annual Monitoring and Corporate Planning Statements and Financial Forecasts 2006

RECEIVED:

HEFCE document 2006/14 on the submission of annual monitoring statements and corporate planning statements for 2005/06 and financial forecasts to 2009/10 (SC.318/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of Finance, the University Secretary and the Registrar noting in particular the following:

- (a) That, in the light of paragraph 51 of HEFCE document 2006/14, the University would be discussing with the HEFCE the continued possibility of carrying over to 2006/07 the remainder of the University's allocation of funding under the Rewarding and Developing Staff initiative.
- (b) That an internal pilot of the common submission date of 30 November for the University's financial statements and forecasts would be undertaken in the Autumn Term 2006/07 in preparation for the national implementation of the 'single conversation' accountability process in 2007.

503/05-06 The Guardian University League Tables 2006

RECEIVED:

An analysis of the University's performance in the University League Tables recently published by *The Guardian* (SC.322/05-06) together with an oral report from the Deputy Registrar.

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That *The Times* University League Tables for 2006 would be published shortly.

504/05-06 2006 AC21 International Forum

RECEIVED:

The brochure for the 2006 AC21 International Forum to be held at Warwick from 4 to 6 July 2006 (SC.319/05-06) together with oral reports from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs and Equal Opportunities) and the Academic Registrar.

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs and Equal Opportunities) (minute 113/05-06 refers)

- (a) That, further to the Executive Board meeting of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU) held in November and in the light of the ECIU's support for the 2006 AC21 International Forum, the University would be retaining its membership of the ECIU for 2006 but that this membership would be reviewed again following the AC21 Forum.
- (b) That he would shortly be taking over from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor as the University's representative on the Executive Board of the ECIU.

505/05-06 Prime Minister's Initiative: Phase 2

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/50 on the second phase of the Prime Minister's Initiative on international education and the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (SC.320/05-06) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs and Equal Opportunities).

506/05-06 Hong Kong Alumni Dinner

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he, the University Secretary, the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies and the Director of Development and Alumni Relations would be travelling to Hong Kong on 1 June to host a dinner in honour of the University's honorary graduand Mr Martin Lee, honorary Hong Kong based graduates Sir David Li and Ms Elsie Leung, and University of Warwick Alumni.

RESOLVED:

That members of the Steering Committee forward to the University Secretary any suggestions for potential invitees to the event.

507/05-06 New Strategic Health Authorities: Appointment of Chairs

RECEIVED:

A press release from the NHS Appointments Commission on the appointment of Chairs of the new Strategic Health Authorities (SC.321/05-06).

508/05-06 Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014 (minute 489/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by the University Secretary)

That the briefing paper being prepared by the Director of Research Support Services on the key proposals put forward in the consultation document "Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-14: Next Steps" would be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee at its meeting to be held on 22 May.

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