

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 17 July 2006

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

Apologies: Professor S Bassnett, Mr B Duggan, Professor I Lauder, Ms N Snodgrass.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation for item 641/05-06, Research Development Manager (Social Studies) for item 642/05-06, International Liaison Officer for item 643/05-06.

637/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2006 be approved.

638/05-06 Inaugural Lectures in the Warwick Medical School (minute 634/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he welcomed the introduction of Inaugural Lectures for professorial staff in the Warwick Medical School.

639/05-06 Vice-Chancellor's Business

REPORTED (by the Vice-Chancellor):

That it was imperative that the University's management team had sufficient time to devote to developing and delivering the University's strategic priorities, that in order to do so space had to be created for staff to devote time to these activities and to this end he intended to invite initial views on the conduct of a review of University Committees at the end of the meeting.

640/05-06 Policy Item for Discussion: Community Affairs

CONSIDERED:

A report on key issues relating to the University's regional activities and community activities (SC.421/05-06) together with an oral report from the Registrar.

REPORTED:

That the recent acquisition by the Library of the Sivanandan collection and the University's wider holdings of research materials relating to ethnicity might be promoted to good effect within the Region.

RESOLVED:

That Advantage West Midlands (AWM) be alerted to the ESRC's current focus on the Knowledge Society which was complementary to AWM's focus on the Knowledge Economy and might offer the potential for securing additional funding for appropriate joint projects.

641/05-06

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions

CONSIDERED:

An update on University admission statistics for undergraduate and postgraduate courses for entry in October 2006 as at 30 June 2006 (SC.420/05-06) together with an oral report from the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation.

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

That he was meeting with postgraduate admissions tutors across a range of academic departments to obtain more detailed information on the apparent delays in response time to postgraduate research applications with a view to reducing significantly the number of outstanding applications in the future.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the likelihood that there would be four University departments in Clearing at the end of the 2006 admissions cycle was not acceptable, notwithstanding the technical reasons rehearsed at the meeting and the introduction of increased student fees in October 2006, and that steps be taken to investigate further the reasons why the departments concerned were in this position in the expectation that action would be taken to ensure that the same situation did not obtain at the end of the 2007 admissions cycle.
- (b) That the Student Admissions Office undertake further work on reviewing the pattern of undergraduate application conversion rates with a view to improving predictability in the future.

642/05-06

ESRC Call for Proposals for Research Centres

CONSIDERED:

An outline application from the Institute of Education for the 2006 ESRC Research Centres Competition which has a suggested interest of 'Education for Life' (SC.417/05-06).

REPORTED:

- (a) That the Warwick Business School was developing a bid for submission under the direction of Professor Mark Salmon.
- (b) That the University's reservations about the suggested focus for the 2006 ESRC Research Centres Competition be conveyed to the Chair of the ESRC Strategy Board.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That it was the view of the Committee that quality and innovation must be the determining factors in preparing and selecting a University proposal or proposals for submission rather than strict adherence to the stated focus of the 2006 ESRC Research Centres Competition.
- (b) That it was the view of the Committee that the outline proposal from the Institute of Education would be significantly enhanced by securing engagement and commitment from other departments in the Faculty of Social Studies.

- (c) That the University support the submission of more than one bid providing that such bids were felt to be of sufficient standing and quality.
- (d) That Professor Jones, as Chair of the University Research Committee, establish a small group to review and approve the development and submission of University bids to the 2006 ESRC Research Centres Competition and submit a report on the bids to the meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 4 September.

643/05-06

UK-India Education and Research Initiative: Draft Bids

CONSIDERED:

Proposed University Expressions of Interest for the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI): Major and Standard Awards (SC.418/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Faculty of Science)

That the Physics proposal would be extended to embrace a wider range of activities beyond the NMR area.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Expressions of Interest for UKIERI major and standard awards be developed along the lines discussed at the meeting and in particular to demonstrate the University's existing strengths and track record of positive academic collaboration on the Indian Sub-Continent.
- (b) That Professors Lindley and Jones review and approve the revised UKIERI Expressions of Interest for submission by the deadline of 14 August 2006.
- (c) That, in recognition of the fact that securing a major or standard (UKIERI) award would enhance the University's reputation but was unlikely to meet all project costs, further work be undertaken to develop any issues of policy and principle associated with the awards, including the fees status of any exchange students, in consultation with the Finance Director and well in advance of finalisation of any full proposal documentation.

644/05-06

Cooksey Review of UK Health Research: University Response

CONSIDERED:

A draft joint University and UHCW NHS Trust response to the Cooksey Review on institutional arrangements for the new single fund for Health Research (SC.422/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the draft response be revised in the light of comments made at the meeting, in particular to remove inaccuracies on page one of the response and to incorporate three or four key principles within which the University and the Medical School would want to frame its detailed responses to the individual questions posed by the Cooksey Review consultation document.

- 645/05-06 Independent Review of Governance of BBSRC-Sponsored Institutes: University Response
(minute 574/05-06 refers)
- CONSIDERED:
- The University response to the consultation on the Independent Review of Governance of BBSRC-Sponsored Institutes which had been submitted to the BBSRC by the deadline for submissions of 14 July (SC.426/05-06).
- RESOLVED:
- That the University response to the consultation on the Independent Review of Governance of BBSRC-Sponsored Institutes be approved as set out in paper SC.426/05-06.
- 646/05-06 SRIF3/T&L New Project Proposal
- CONSIDERED:
- A proposal for the SRIF3/T&L Programme Monitoring Group for the allocation of £175,780 from SRIF3 funds to refurbish laboratory space in Biological Sciences. (SC.424/05-06)
- RESOLVED:
- That the proposed reallocation of funds for the refurbishment of laboratory space in Biological Sciences be approved as set out in paper SC.424/05-06 and submitted to the HEFCE for approval.
- 647/05-06 Review of University Committees
- RESOLVED:
- That a review of University Committees be undertaken during the summer vacation, addressing in particular the frequency of meetings and the volume of documentation circulated for meetings, and a report for discussion be prepared for consideration by the Steering Committee in early September.
- 648/05-06 Final Report of the Interim Evaluation of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education: Executive Summary
- RECEIVED:
- The Executive Summary of the Final Report of the Interim Evaluation of the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education (SC.425/05-06).
- 649/05-06 Steering Committee Schedule of Meetings 2006/07
- RECEIVED:
- A revised and provisional schedule of meetings of the Steering Committee for the academic year 2006/07 (SC.423/05-06).
- 650/05-06 HR Framework
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- (a) That all University Campus Unions had voted to accept the University's HR Framework and arrangements were being made for all staff to be notified of the outcome of the Union ballots.

(b) That the outcome of the UCU ballot on the 2006 pay settlement was expected to be announced in the next few days.

651/05-06 University Award

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Julian Gardner had been appointed as a fellow of Royal Academy of Engineering.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Steering Committee be conveyed to Professor Gardner on his election as a FREng.

652/05-06 Graduation Week

RESOLVED:

That all those staff involved in the organisation and success of Graduation Week be congratulated and thanked for their efforts.