

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 18 December 2007

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Professor L Bridges  
Professor A Caesar  
Professor R Higgott  
Professor M Smith  
Professor M Whitby
- Apologies: Professor S Bassnett, Professor Y Carter, Mr J Kirby, Professor K Lamberts, Professor R Lindley, Professor S B Palmer, Professor H Thomas, Director of Finance, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer.
- In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Communication, Director of Estates (from item 202/07-08), Registrar, University Secretary, Ms H Sinclair, for item 200/07-08 the Assistant Registrar (UG Admissions), for item 202/07-08 the Industrial Development Officer, for item 205/07-08 the Director: Warwick International.
- 199/07-08 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2007 be approved.
- 200/07-08 Admissions Update
- CONSIDERED:
- A paper providing an update on progress in improving the efficiency of the University's undergraduate and postgraduate application and selection process together with an update on undergraduate and postgraduate Home/EU and overseas applications for entry in October 2008 (SC.156/07-08).
- RESOLVED:
- That the University's stated objective of no departments entering the official clearing process for the 2008 admissions cycle be re-examined by the Academic Registrar at a later date in the admissions cycle, and in the light of the admissions data available at the time, and a report submitted to the Steering Committee on the matter.
- 201/07-08 Regional Affairs
- RECEIVED:
- A copy of a letter from the Chairman of Advantage West Midlands (AWM) reporting that Mr Mick Laverty, currently Deputy Chief Executive of AWM, had been appointed as Chief Executive of AWM with effect from April 2008 (SC.157/07-08).

CONSIDERED:

A summary of the main items discussed at the meeting of the Regional Affairs Group held on 22 November 2007 including the West Midlands Economic Strategy, an update on the Warwick Digital Laboratory, the results of the Advantage West Midlands Stakeholder Survey 2006-07, the Regional Development Agencies' Sub National Reviews, contacts with the Minister for the West Midlands, the University Festive Reception and the format of future updates on Regional Affairs to the Steering Committee (SC.146/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had sent a letter of congratulations to Mr Lavery on his appointment as Chief Executive of Advantage West Midlands.

RESOLVED:

That members of the Steering Committee submit their views on the most appropriate format of future updates on Regional Affairs direct to the Registrar.

202/07-08 HE-Business Community Interaction Survey (minute 106/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the HEFCE Higher Education Business Community Interaction Survey based on data for the academic year 2006-07 (SC.162/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the Industrial Development Officer finalise the University's response to the HEFCE Higher Education Business Community Interaction Survey, in consultation with Registrar, for submission to the HEFCE prior to the deadline of 14 January 2007.

203/07-08 QAA Institutional Audit 2008 (minute 130/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A letter from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) to the Vice Chancellor confirming the dates of 7-9 October 2008 for the briefing visit and 10-14 November 2008 for the audit visit for the forthcoming QAA Institutional Audit of the University (SC.152/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That members of the Steering Committee and Senior Officers be requested to reserve the dates of 7-9 October and 10-14 November 2008 in their diaries it being the expectation that a significant number of them would be required to attend meetings in connection with the QAA Institutional Audit of the University.

204/07-08 European Commission Consultation on European Union Cohesion Policy

CONSIDERED:

UUK Europe Note E/07/06 on the European Commission consultation on the future of European Union Cohesion funding policy beyond 2013 (SC.153/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Arts and Social Studies) refer to the responses from the Universities of Munster and Bordeaux and consult the Co-ordinator of the Labour Market Information Management Programme in order to advise the Committee on whether the University should submit a response to the European Commission consultation on the future of European Union Cohesion funding policy beyond 2013.

205/07-08 Points Based Immigration System (minute 124/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/151/07-08 providing an update on the development of the new points based immigration system by the Home Office and inviting Universities to submit a response to these proposals to the Home Office and copy this response to UUK (SC.151/07-08).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director, Warwick International draft a letter for submission by the Vice-Chancellor to the Minister for Immigration setting out the concerns of the University about the Home Office proposals for the new points based immigration system, along the lines discussed at the meeting, and that the Vice-Chancellor request a meeting with the Minister to discuss these concerns.
- (b) That a copy the letter sent to the Minister for Immigration be forwarded to UUK for information.
- (c) That the Vice-Chancellor raise the concerns of the University about the Home Office proposals for the new points based immigration system at the next meeting of the West Midlands Higher Education Association.
- (d) That the Vice-Chancellor seek to establish whether other members of the Russell Group shared the concerns of the University about the Home Office proposals for the new points based immigration system.

206/07-08 Appointments to Committees of the Senate

RESOLVED: (on behalf of the Senate)

- (a) That Dr L Campbell and Professor N Hewlett be appointed for terms two and three and Dr B Kumin for term three of 2007/08 as representatives of the Faculty of Arts to the Undergraduate Appeals Committee Panel.
- (b) That Dr G Frith be appointed for terms two and three of 2007/08 as a representative of the Faculty of Arts to the Graduate Appeals Committee Panel.

(c) That Dr G Thomson and Dr M Hulse be appointed for terms two and three of 2007/08 as representatives of the Faculty of Arts to the Investigating Committee into Cases of Suspected Cheating.

207/07-08 Process for Submitting Major Research Proposals (minute 104/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The revised University Process for Submitting Major Research Proposals (SC.163/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the revised University Process for Submitting Major Research Proposals be approved as set out in paper SC.163/07-08.

208/07-08 Higher Level Skills in the Workplace

RECEIVED:

A copy of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills press release dated 4 December 2007 announcing the allocation of at least £50m per year by 2010/11 to support the development of higher level skills in the workplace together with press releases from the HEFCE and UUK dated 4 December welcoming this announcement (SC.154/07-08)

209/07-08 NHS West Midlands Strategy 'Investing For Health

RECEIVED:

A copy of the response from the Dean of the Warwick Medical School to the NHS West Midlands Strategy *Investing for Health* (SC.155/07-08).