

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 19 February 2007

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Mr B Duggan
Professor J Jones
Professor R Lindley
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor H Thomas

Apologies: Professor Y Carter, Professor M Smith, Professor M Whitby.

In Attendance: Director of Estates, Director of the International Office, Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 333/06-07 the Senior International Liaison Officer (South Asia and Latin America), for item 335/06-07 Mr J Darwen.

328/06-07 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2007 be approved.

329/06-07 2007 Royal Society Medals and Awards (minute 309/06-07 refers)

REPORTED:

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

(a) That further updates on the preparation of nominations for the 2007 Royal Society Medals, Awards, Prizes and Prize Lectures were being sought from Research Support Services but that a call for nominations by departments within the Faculty of Science had drawn little response.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

(b) That he expected that the University would be putting forward nominations for the Royal Society's Medals, Awards, Prizes and Prize Lectures by the deadline of 21 February 2007.

330/06-07 Consultation on European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training
(minute 319/06-07 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) would be determining whether the University should respond to the European Commission Consultation on its proposals for a European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training.

331/06-07 Study Leave (minute 310/06-07 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies)

That the Arts and Humanities Research Council had revised its terms and conditions for research leave to take into account full economic costing and that the new AHRC research leave arrangements represented a significant incentive for eligible staff to take study leave.

RESOLVED:

That it be noted that it was University policy that all eligible members of academic staff would take up study leave and that the issues raised in discussion at previous meetings of the Steering Committee concerning the low take-up of study leave opportunities would continue to be pursued.

332/06-07 Warwick HRI (minute 595/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council had notified the University of its approval for the continuation of WHRI funding through the BBSRC core strategic grant.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee record its congratulations to Warwick HRI on the securing of continued funding from the BBSRC through the BBSRC core strategic grant.

333/06-07 International Issues

CONSIDERED:

A briefing paper on issues relating to student recruitment and institutional networks in India (SC.209/06-07) together with a copy of the International Office publication "Indian Perspective" and an oral report from the Director of the International Office.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University policy of not using student recruitment agents on a commercial basis be reaffirmed and that the current practice of recruiting overseas students through the University's own representatives be maintained.
- (b) That the establishment of a working group to review the University's entry requirements and procedures for applicants from India with a view to improving the University's positioning within the Indian student recruitment market be noted.

334/06-07 Institute for Advanced Study (minute 311/06-07 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had made an approach to a potential Interim Director of the Institute for Advanced Study, that the individual concerned was currently considering appointment to the position and that he expected that a proposal for appointment would shortly be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee.

335/06-07 Quinquennial Review of the Department of Psychology

CONSIDERED:

The Report of the Quinquennial Review of the Department of Psychology (SC.213/06-07) together with an oral report from the Secretary to the Review Panel.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the positive tone of the Review Report be welcomed and that detailed discussion of the Report be undertaken at the next meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 26 February 2007 at which the Head of the Department of Psychology would be in attendance.
- (b) That further discussion of the Review Report aim to focus on the recommendations of the Review Panel relating to departmental aspirations; the physical perception of the Department; the potential development of research activity in the area of cognitive neuroscience; the 2008 RAE; and research grant and contract income.

336/06-07 UK Clinical Research Collaboration Public Health Research Centres of Excellence
(minute 321/06-07 refers)

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/07/16 on the call for proposals from the UK Clinical Research Collaboration (UKCRC) for the establishment of five UK Public Health Research Centres for Excellence (SC.212/06-07) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) on the progress of discussions concerning the preparation of an institutional bid for funding under this initiative.

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

That the Warwick Medical School had indicated that possible ideas for a collaborative regional bid were currently being explored.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) bring forward a report on the proposed institutional bid for funding to support the establishment of a Public Health Research Centre of Excellence for consideration by the Steering Committee at its next meeting to be held on 26 February prior to submission of an Intention to Apply to the ESRC by the deadline of 3 March 2007.

337/06-07 Coventry Business Improvement District

CONSIDERED:

A paper on the proposed establishment of a Coventry Business Improvement District (BID) (SC.222/06-07, tabled at the meeting) together with an oral report from the Registrar.

RESOLVED:

That, in the light of the information presented in paper SC.222/06-07 and in discussion at the meeting, the University vote against the proposed establishment of the Coventry BID; it being noted that should the BID proposal be approved following the formal balloting process the University will remain liable for a payment to the BID of £25k per annum throughout the lifespan of the BID plan.

338/06-07 Beacons for Public Engagement: Final Bid (minute 313/06-07 refers)

RECEIVED:

The final bid to the HEFCE for funding under the Beacons of Public Engagement initiative (SC.218/06-07).

339/06-07 UCAS Applications Digest Summary

RECEIVED:

Extracts from the UCAS Applications Digest published on 14 February 2007 summarising total Home/EU and overseas applications by institution and market share for full time degree courses received by UCAS as of 15 January (SC.214/06-07).

340/06-07 Assessing the Impact of Variable Tuition Fees on Students and HEIs: UUK Report

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note 1/07/15 on the main findings of the UUK report "Variable tuition fees in England: assessing the impact on students and higher education institutions" together with the executive summary of the report (SC.215/06-07).

341/06-07 RCUK Peer Review Consultation: UUK Response

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note 1/07/11 on the key elements of Universities UK's response to the Research Councils UK consultation on the RCUK Efficiency and Effectiveness Peer Review Project together with a copy of the full UUK response (SC.216/06-07).

342/06-07 "Economic Benefits of a Degree": UUK Report

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note 1/07/12 providing a summary of the main findings of the UUK research report "The Economic Benefits of a Degree" (SC.217/06-07).

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