

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Senate Steering Committee held on 19 September 2005

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Professor A Easton
Professor J Jones
Professor R Lindley
Professor M Luntley
Ms K Stark
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 663(a)/04-05 Professor M Paterson and the Research Development Manager (Chemistry, Mathematics, Psychology and Statistics), for item 663(b)/04-05 Professor R Dendy and the Research Development Manager (Computer Science, Engineering and Physics), for items 664/04-05 to 668/04-05 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality), for item 670/04-05 the Senior International Student Adviser, for item 671/04-05 the Head of Student Finance.

657/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2005 be approved subject to the inclusion of Professor John Jones in the list of those in attendance at the meeting.

658/04-05 Email Replacement Project

RECEIVED:

An oral report from Professor Whitby on his meeting with the Director of IT Services to discuss the possibility of encouraging the use of external free webmail services such as Google Mail for email archival purposes, noting in particular:

- (a) That the cost of email storage associated with the new student email client, Squirrel Mail, was a small proportion of the total start-up and recurrent costs of the provision of this software.
- (b) That Google Mail was currently on limited release only and that students would be encouraged to consider suitable alternatives to supplement the email storage capacity afforded by Squirrel Mail.

659/04-05 Warwick in Asia

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the progress of negotiations with the Economic Development Board of Singapore on the Warwick in Asia project and the visit of EDB representatives to the University in the week commencing 12 September 2005.

660/04-05 UUK Annual Conference 2005

RECEIVED:

An oral report from Professor Lindley on the Universities UK Annual Conference held in London on 14 and 15 September 2005 at which various topics were discussed, including the future of UUK, post-qualification applications and the issue of political and religious extremism on University campuses.

661/04-05 London 2012

REPORTED: (by Professor Lindley)

That London Higher, the representative organisation for universities and higher education colleges in London, would be seeking to work with the Organising Committee for the London 2012 Olympic Games to help maximise the contribution of UK HEIs to the 2012 Games.

662/04-05 Higher Education Innovation Fund Round 3: Funding Proposals
(minute 606/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft institutional response to the joint HEFCE/Office of Science and Technology (OST) consultation document on proposals for a third round of funding under the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF3) (SC.432/04-05) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft institutional response to the HEFCE/OST consultation be approved as set out in paper SC.432/04-05 subject to confirmation that the proposed reduction in the weighting for Component 1 of the HEIF3 funding model would not have an adverse impact upon University HEIF3 funding.
- (b) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) investigate possible proposals which the University might submit to the HEFCE for any future 3rd Mission funding opportunities.

663/04-05 EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards: Round 2 (minute 590/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The draft bid from the Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science and the Warwick Business School for Round 2 of the EPSRC Science and Innovation Award Scheme (SC.428/04-05) together with oral reports from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Chair of the Department of Computer Science.
- (b) The draft bid from the Department of Physics and UKAEA Culham Science Laboratory for Round 2 of the EPSRC Science and Innovation Award Scheme (SC.429/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft bid from the Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science and the Warwick Business School be approved for submission to the EPSRC by the deadline of 27 September subject to revisions in the light of discussion at the meeting and to approval of the financial element of the bid by the Academic Resourcing Committee.
- (b) That the draft bid from the Department of Physics and the UKAEA Culham Science Laboratory be approved for submission to the EPSRC by the deadline of 27 September.

- (c) That consideration be given to investigating alternative sources of funding for the above bids should funding under the EPSRC Science and Innovation Award Scheme not be secured.

664/04-05 Institutional Audit Follow-Up (minute 614/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft response to the QAA 2004 Institutional Audit follow-up exercise (SC.425/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the draft institutional response to the QAA Institutional Audit follow-up exercise be approved as set out in paper SC.425/04-05.

665/04-05 TQI Update and Commentaries

CONSIDERED:

A paper prepared by the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) providing an overview of the status of the University's data sets on the Teaching Quality Information (TQI) website to be launched on 22 September, including institutional commentaries on University HESA data and the National Student Survey (SC.426/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the two institutional commentaries on the University's HESA data and the National Student Survey be approved for upload to the TQI website as set out in paper SC.426/04-05.

666/04-05 QAA Audit of Collaborative Links with China (minute 593/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft response to the QAA audit of overseas partnership arrangements in China providing details of the University's link with Renmin University (SC.427/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the draft institutional response to the QAA's request for further details of the University's link with Renmin University of China be approved as set out in paper SC.427/04-05.

667/04-05 Standards Framework for Teaching and Supporting Student Learning

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the HE Academy on behalf of UUK, SCOP and the four UK funding bodies on proposals for a standards framework for teaching and supporting student learning in higher education, together with a copy of the consultation document (SC.433/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) and the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) prepare a draft institutional response to the consultation for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the HE Academy by the deadline of 20 October.

668/04-05 Sector Skills Agreement for IT 2005-2008

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from e-skills UK and the HEFCE inviting the University to consider offering a new degree programme based on the new Information Technology Management for Business degree framework together with the University's initial response and a summary copy of the 2005-2008 Sector Skills Agreement for IT (SC.434/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) take forward discussions with the Department of Computer Science on the new degree framework and proposed degree programme.

669/04-05 RAE 2008

RESOLVED:

That members of the Committee provide the Vice-Chancellor with views on the negative effects of the Research Assessment Exercise for incorporation in a report to be sent to the Education Adviser of the No 10 Policy Unit.

670/04-05 International Issues / Immigration and Visa Applications (minute 612/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The University's draft response to Universities UK on the UUK student visa applications survey for the period July to September 2005 (SC.430/04-05)
- (b) The University's draft response to the Home Office consultation 'Selective Admission: Making Migration Work for Britain' on proposals for a new points-based immigration system for managed migration routes to the UK (SC.431/04-05) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University's draft response to the UUK student visa applications survey be approved as set out in paper SC.430/04-05.
- (b) That the University's draft response to the Home Office consultation 'Selective Admission: Making Migration Work for Britain' be approved as set out in paper SC.431/04-05.
- (c) That the Academic Registrar, in consultation with relevant colleagues, pursue the points raised at the meeting in regard to the University's existing admissions procedures and arrangements for the continuation of registration of students.
- (d) That steps be taken to convey to the University's contacts in the Treasury the University's concerns regarding the Home Office proposals for a points-based immigration system.

671/04-05 Review of Higher Education Student Finance Delivery: Consultation (minute 611/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft response to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) consultation on the DfES review of the delivery of higher education student finance in England (SC.436/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the DfES consultation be approved as set out in paper SC.436/04-05 for submission to the DfES by 5 October 2005.

673/04-05 Post-Qualification Applications

RECEIVED:

The consultation paper 'Improving the Higher Education Applications Process' together with a press release from Universities UK (SC.435/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the consultation paper be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee on 26 September and that the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation be invited to attend the meeting for discussion of this item.

674/04-05 Visit of the Director-General for Higher Education

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the programme for the visit of the Director-General for Higher Education to be held on 5 October, which would include discussion on post-qualification applications and access agreements, the Warwick in Asia project, the regulatory burden for higher education institutions, CETLs and the University's entrepreneurial ventures.

RESOLVED:

That the President of the Union of Students liaise with the University Secretary to incorporate discussion of issues relating to the Students' Union into the programme for the Director-General's visit on 5 October.

675/04-05 Senate Business

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 28 September 2005 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

676/04-05 Vote of Thanks: Professor Easton

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That this would be the last meeting of the Committee to be attended by Professor Easton in his capacity as the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its gratitude to Professor Easton for his contribution to the work of the Committee during his three-year tenure as the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science.