

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

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

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair until item 146/07-08)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges (from item 141/07-08)
Professor Y Carter
Professor R Higgott
Mr J Kirby
Professor K Lamberts
Professor R Lindley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor M Smith
Professor H Thomas
- Apologies: Professor A Caesar, Professor M Whitby, University Secretary.
- In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Campus Affairs, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Registrar, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Ms H Sinclair, for item 141/07-08 the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts, The Director of the Institute of Advanced Study and the Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning), for item 142/07-08 the Director of Careers and Employability, for item 146/07-08 the Head of the Institute of Clinical Education and Associate Dean (Teaching).
- Note: The Deputy Vice-Chancellor chaired the meeting from item 146/07-08.
- 140/07-08 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2007 be approved.
- 141/07-08 Tuition Fees for Postgraduate Taught Courses in the Faculty of Arts 2008/09
(minute 127/07-08 refers)
- CONSIDERED:
- A paper containing a proposal from the Fees Working Group that Home/EU fees for postgraduate taught (PGT) courses in the Faculty of Arts be reduced from 2008/09, by £1500 below the standard University Home/EU fee for PGT courses, including modelling of the financial implications of this proposal (SC.103/07-08) together with a comparison of the fees charged by competitor HEIs for taught MAs in History (tabled at the meeting {SC.103/07-08 Annex A}).
- RECOMMENDED: (to the Finance and General Purposes Committee)
- (a) That Home/EU fees for postgraduate taught (PGT) courses in the Faculty of Arts be reduced from 2008/09 by £1500 below the standard University Home/EU fee for PGT courses, as set out in paper SC.103/07-08, for a two year pilot period in those Departments in the Faculty of Arts who wish to participate in the pilot subject to the following conditions:
- (i) That steps be taken in departments to increase recruitment to those postgraduate taught Masters level courses included in the pilot scheme.
- (ii) That no additional resources would be provided to accommodate any increase in recruitment to those

postgraduate taught Masters level courses included in the pilot scheme.

- (iii) That the financial implications of the fee reduction be monitored for the duration of the pilot scheme.
 - (iv) That, in addition to financial indicators, key performance indicators be identified and monitored for the duration of the pilot scheme to enable its impact to be evaluated fully.
- (b) That the proposed reduction in fees of £1500 below the standard University Home/EU fee for postgraduate taught courses in the Faculty of Arts in 2008/09 be advertised in promotional material for the University Postgraduate Open Day to be held on 21 November 2007 as “subject to confirmation”.
- (c) That the reduction in fees of £1500 below the standard University Home/EU fee for specified postgraduate taught courses in the Faculty of Arts in 2008/09 be reexamined at the end of the two year pilot in the light of the results of the pilot including the impact on fee revenue, recruitment of Masters level students and recruitment of postgraduate research students.
- (d) That the presentation of the publicity and marketing of the reduction in fees of £1500 below the standard University Home/EU fee for postgraduate taught courses in the Faculty of Arts in 2008/09 be considered carefully to ensure that any decision to revert to standard fees in the future did not jeopardise potential student recruitment.

142/07-08

Policy Issue for Discussion: Careers Update

RECEIVED:

An update on current developments in the Careers Service including attendance at Careers Fairs, the international strategy, the HEIF funded work experience project, the career management certificate, changes to front line services, the integration of e-learning into career planning, the draft employability strategy and the THES World University rankings (SC.104/07-08).

143/07-08

Faculty Issues

- (a) Faculty of Medicine

RECEIVED:

An update on current developments in the Faculty of Medicine, including the appointment of the Vice-Dean, the Science City outline bid for Translational Medicine, the bid to the Wellcome Trust for a Systems Biology building, the accreditation of the Clinical Trials Unit, the Arthritis Research Campaign Centre bid, SIFT funding, the preparation of a business case for the proposed anatomy suite and a list of new research grant awards (SC.113/07-08)

RESOLVED:

That the Warwick Medical School begin work on detailed preparation of material to include in the submission of a full bid to the Wellcome Trust should the outline bid for a Systems Biology building be shortlisted, it being understood that the proposal would need to be subject to the University’s Capital Planning Process.

(b) Faculty of Science

RECEIVED:

An update on current developments in the Faculty of Science including proposals for the establishment of a Faculty Committee for Research and Innovation, the Centre for Scientific Computing, the National Student Survey and space and accommodation (SC.105/07-08).

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

That the constitution and Terms of Reference of the proposed Faculty Committee for Research and Innovation would be considered by the Senate its next meeting.

144/07-08 Sainsbury Review (minute 33/07-08 refers)

RECEIVED:

A paper setting out the implications of the Sainsbury Review of UK Science and Innovation and key opportunities and challenges for the University including the Technology Strategy Board, Knowledge Transfer, and global collaboration (SC.100/07-08) together with UUK Information Note I/07/119 summarising the key points of the Sainsbury Report (SC.111/07-08).

145/07-08 UUK Report on Bibliometrics

RECEIVED:

A briefing note from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine) summarising the key points of the UUK Report on Bibliometrics together with UUK Information Note I/07/135 and a copy of the full UUK research report *The Use of Bibliometrics to Measure Research Quality in UK Higher Education Institutions* (SC.106/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That responses to the UUK research report *The use of bibliometrics to measure research quality in UK higher education institutions* would be considered at the Russell Group Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) Group meeting to be held at the University on 5 December 2007.

RESOLVED:

That the University draft response to the expected HEFCE consultation on components of the post-2008 Research Assessment Exercise for the science based disciplines be considered by the Steering Committee in good time prior to submission to the HEFCE.

146/07-08 Independent Inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers: 'Aspiring to Excellence'

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the Tooke Review *Aspiring to Excellence: Findings and recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers* together with UUK Information Note I/07/130 and the Executive Summary of the Review (SC.107/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the Tooke Review *Aspiring to Excellence: Findings and recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers* be finalised by the Head of the Institute of Clinical Education and Associate Dean (Teaching) prior to submission by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor to Universities UK before the deadline of 19 November as set out in paper SC.107/07-08.

147/07-08 Appointments to Committees of the Senate

RESOLVED: (on behalf of the Senate)

That Dr R Smith be appointed to the Investigating Committee into Suspected Cases of Cheating Panel as one of the representatives of the Faculty of Social Studies to replace Dr D Kelly.

148/07-08 UUK Corporate Plan 2007-10

RECEIVED:

A copy of UUK Information Note I/07/133 setting out the key priorities highlighted in the UUK Corporate Plan together with a copy of the UUK Corporate Plan for the period 2007-10 (SC.108/07-08).

149/07-08 1994 Group Response to the Home Office Consultation on Fees for the New Points-Based Immigration System (minute 124/07-08 refers)

RECEIVED:

A copy of the 1994 Group response to the Home Office Consultation on Fees for the New Points-Based Immigration System (SC.109/07-08).

cec\hs\steer-share\Mins07-08\Nov07\stg19-11-07
22/11/07