

## UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

### Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 20 September 2004

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Professor R Dyson  
Professor J Jones  
Professor M Whitby  
Professor I Lauder  
Professor A Easton  
Professor H Thomas  
Mr S Lucas

Apologies: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor M Luntley.

In Attendance: Professor A Caesar, Professor L Bridges, Academic Registrar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Finance, Director of Communication, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 570/03-04 Dr C Sparrow, for item 571/03-04 Mr L Atwood, for item 572/03-04 Ms L Perrin, for item 574/03-04 Professor D Singer and Mr J Inegbedion, for item 575/03-04 Mr J Inegbedion.

568/03-04 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2004 be approved.

569/03-04 Vice-Chancellor's Business

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on his attendance at the Universities UK Annual Conference held between 15-16 September and his views on the speeches delivered by the Shadow Minister for Public Services, Health and Education; the Secretary of State for Education and Skills and the President of Universities UK.

570/03-04 Warwick in Asia (minute 560/03-04 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Asia Exploratory Group setting out proposed key questions to be raised at the meetings of the Senate and the Council on 22 September and 29 September 2004 respectively (SC.319/03-04) together with an oral report from Dr C Sparrow.

REPORTED: (by Dr C Sparrow)

That the meeting of the Asia Exploratory Group with Chairs of Departments held on Friday 17 September had been well-attended, with a well-informed and productive discussion and that there would be a second meeting for Chairs of Departments on Tuesday 21 September for those who had been unable to attend the earlier meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That key questions be raised at the forthcoming meetings of the Senate and the Council as agreed in discussion at the meeting based upon those questions prepared by the Asia Exploratory Group.
- (b) That the Steering Committee support the University proceeding with further intensive investigation of the Singapore proposal, commencing with a feasibility study, it being the view of the Committee that the outcome of the proposed feasibility study would also allow for the evaluation of alternative possibilities for

the University's international strategy and future development which would be of significant value to the University.

- (c) That should a vote on the recommendation of the Asia Exploratory Group be held at the meeting of the Senate on 22 September this be conducted via a show of hands rather than a secret ballot and that all those members of Senate present for 2003/04 and 2004/05 and Chairs of Departments be invited to cast a vote.
- (d) That the Vice-Chancellor discuss the current status of the University's deliberations with the Chairman of the Economic and Development Board (Singapore) during their meeting on 21 September 2004.
- (e) That, following the meeting of the Senate on 22 September, the Academic Registrar and the Chair of the Asia Exploratory Group prepare a brief report summarising the progress to date of the investigations of the AEG and the outcome of the meeting of the Senate for presentation to the Council on 29 September 2004.

571/03-04 Science and Innovation Investment Framework

CONSIDERED:

A paper presenting key points from the Government's publication *Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014* and the University's first responses to this Framework, including an analysis of the potential opportunities for the University that could be developed by aligning its research capacity and interests with the priorities identified in the Framework and initial proposals as to how the University might seek to take advantage of these priorities, in particular through multidisciplinary research initiatives (SC.317/03-04).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That further research be undertaken by Research Support Services in order to inform a final decision as to which of the priority areas identified in the Framework should best be pursued by the University.
- (b) That consultations with departments be undertaken by Research Support Services to identify academic members of staff who would be willing to participate in the initiatives proposed.
- (c) That Professor Jones report back to the Steering Committee on a monthly basis on the progress of development of the University's response to the Framework.

572/03-04 AHRB Research Centres

CONSIDERED:

A draft bid for submission to the AHRB for the award of Phase 2 funding for the Centre for the Study of the Renaissance for a five year period from 1 October 2005 (SC.316/03-04).

RESOLVED:

That the draft bid be supported and approved as set out in paper SC.316/03-04 for submission to the AHRB subject to the Academic Resourcing Committee approving the release of the additional University funding required to support the bid for the period from 2005 to 2010 from its overall budget.

573/03-04 Fair Admissions to HE

## CONSIDERED:

Universities UK Information Note I/04/103 on recommendations for good practice in fair admissions to higher education as set out in the final report of the HE Admissions Steering Group chaired by Professor S Schwartz (SC.318/03-04).

## RESOLVED:

- (a) That the issue of implementation of a post-qualification applications system, as proposed by the current Government, be brought forward for further discussion at a future meeting of the Steering Committee.
- (b) That the Academic Registrar prepare the University's response to the Schwartz Report for consideration by the Steering Committee.

574/03-04 AC21 International Forum 2006 (minute 559/03-04(a) refers)

## CONSIDERED:

A report from Professor Singer on the AC21 International Forum 2004 held in Sydney together with proposals for the successful planning and organisation of the AC21 International Forum should the University proceed with hosting the conference in 2006 (SC.313/03-04).

## RESOLVED:

That the University host the AC21 International Forum in 2006 and proceed to the initial planning stage with administrative support being provided by the International Office notwithstanding the fact that Advantage West Midlands might not be willing to provide financial support for the event.

575/03-04 Agreement with Waseda University, Japan

## CONSIDERED:

A draft Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Warwick and Waseda University, Japan, establishing a mutual agreement to explore opportunities for co-operation in the exchange of academic information and ideas, academic visits and the development of study abroad programmes (SC.314/04-05).

## RESOLVED:

That the draft Memorandum of Understanding with Waseda University be approved.

576/03-04 WMG Overseas Collaboration

## CONSIDERED:

Documentation relating to the Warwick Manufacturing Group's proposed partnership with Global EduTech Management, Suzhou, China (SC.307/03-04).

## RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed partnership between WMG and GEM be approved in specific relation to academic quality and standards matters on the terms outlined in the Chair of the Academic and Quality Standards Committee's memorandum of 7 September 2004.
- (b) That in view of the fact that there was no evidence that the necessary approval had been obtained for the business plan for the partnership arrangement, that the

Chair of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee discuss with the Registrar how this omission should be addressed.

- (c) That steps be taken to ensure that a clear and well-understood procedure was in place for the approval of future proposals of this nature, from a financial and academic quality and standards viewpoint and within the context of the University's wider international strategy.

577/03-04      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 29 September 2004 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.