

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 21 March 2005

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L Bridges
Professor Y Carter
Professor R G Dyson
Professor A Easton
Professor J Jones
Mr S Lucas
Professor S B Palmer
Professor H Thomas

Apologies: Professor A Caesar, Professor M Whitby, Academic Registrar.

In Attendance: Acting Director of Finance, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass.

325/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2005 be approved, subject to the amendment of minute 318/04-05 as follows: (amendments underlined, deletions struck through)

RESOLVED:

- (b) That approval of the proposed collaborative partnership with the University of KwaZulu-Natal be deferred pending production of a robust academic case for consideration and approval by the appropriate University bodies and the preparation of a business plan for approval by the University Finance Director.
- (c) That no agreements be entered into or signed on behalf of the University by the Warwick Manufacturing Group in advance of approval of the documentation set out in (b) above.

326/04-05 NILSI (minute 319/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

A paper from NILSI setting out an outline strategy and proposed rationale for its future academic and intellectual engagement with the University (SC.216/04-05, tabled at the meeting) together with an oral report from the Registrar, noting in particular:

- (a) That the Council, at its meeting on 16 March, had approved the proposals for NILSI's academic engagement with the University as set out in paper SC.216/04-05.
- (b) That a group comprising the Chair of Council, Treasurer, Vice-Chancellor and Registrar had been authorised by the Council to take forward detailed negotiations with NILSI on behalf of the University.
- (c) That an official announcement of NILSI's intentions to be located at Senate House and to enter into academic engagement with the University was expected on 30 March 2005.

327/04-05 Vice-Chancellor's Business

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had notified the University Council, at its meeting on 16 March, that for personal reasons he would not be seeking an extension of his existing contract with the University beyond 31 July 2006.

328/04-05 Warwick in Asia

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the presentation delivered at the meeting of the Council on 16 March by the Managing Director of the Singapore Economic Development Board, noting that the presentation had emphasised the research-led nature of the proposed new campus and indicated the possibility of special research grants for private universities in Singapore.

329/04-05 Science Research Investment Fund: Round 3

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That he had received notification from the Director of the Warwick Manufacturing Group of a potential multidisciplinary SRIF3 bid submission in the area of digital technology and that confirmation of this bid proposal was currently awaited.

330/04-05 Visit of the President of Maastricht University

RECEIVED:

A memorandum from the Vice-Chancellor's Personal Assistant on the visit of the President of the University of Maastricht to the University on 7 June 2005 together with documentation relating to the proposed consortium of European universities that the University had previously been invited to join (minute 222/04-05 refers) (SC.217/04-05, tabled at the meeting).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That any suggestions for the programme for the visit of the President of Maastricht University be forwarded to the Vice-Chancellor's Personal Assistant.
- (b) That members of the Committee interested in meeting the President of Maastricht University contact the Vice-Chancellor's Personal Assistant to provide details of their availability on 7 June.
- (c) That the Director of the Centre for Globalisation and Regionalisation be invited to meet with the President of Maastricht University on 7 June.

331/04-05 Association of University Administrators (AUA) Conference

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Registrar on the success of the AUA conference held from 14 to 16 March 2005 at the University.

332/04-05 Academic Resourcing Committee: Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The 2nd quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets under the remit of the Academic Resourcing Committee for the financial year 2004/05 (SC.204/04-05) together with an oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 2nd quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets for the financial year 2004/05 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.204/04-05.
- (b) That steps be taken to review and analyse any significant changes in overall forecast staff costs in the non-devolved departmental budgets overseen by the Academic Resourcing Committee.

333/04-05 Recurrent Funding 2005/06

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/05/37 summarising the key points of HEFCE Circular 2005/13 on the outcome of 2005/06 recurrent grant allocations for the HE sector (SC.212/04-05).

334/04-05 Science Budget Allocations 2005 –2008

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/05/35 on overall science budget allocations for the period 2005 – 2008 (SC.213/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Accommodation and Research), with support from Research Support Services, establish how best the University can determine how the science budget allocation should be directed in the context of the University's overall research strategy.

335/04-05 Sustainable Development in Higher Education (minute 206/04-05 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the Vice-Chancellor be authorised to approve on behalf of the Steering Committee the University's response to HEFCE Consultation document 2005/01 on the strategy and action plan developed by the HEFCE to support UK HEIs in their contribution to sustainable development in higher education, currently being prepared by Professor Jones, the Registrar and the Director of Student and Academic Affairs, prior to submission of the University's response to the HEFCE by the deadline of 11 April.

336/04-05 Financial Forecasts, Annual Monitoring and Corporate Planning Statements (minute 248/04-05 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the Vice-Chancellor be authorised to approve on behalf of the Steering Committee the University's response to proposed changes to Annual Monitoring Statements in 2005, currently being prepared by the Registrar and the University Secretary, prior to submission of the University's response to the HEFCE by the closing date of 30 March.

337/04-05 E-Learning Strategy and Capital Investment Funding (minute 315/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

- (a) Circular letter number 05/2005 from the HEFCE announcing the publication of the HEFCE e-learning strategy and setting out details of allocations to HEIs to support investment in e-learning (SC.198/04-05).
- (b) HEFCE Document 2005/12 on the HEFCE's strategy and implementation plan for supporting e-learning in HEIs (SC.207/04-05).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the £340k allocated to the University in e-learning capital investment funding for 2005/06 was separate from the University's recurrent capital funding allocations.

RESOLVED:

That Professor Whitby take forward the preparation of plans for the use of the University's e-learning capital investment funding, in the context of the University's overall strategic objectives and in consultation with the Centre for Lifelong Learning and the Centre for Academic Practice, for consideration by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 18 April.

338/04-05 Queen's Anniversary Prizes (minute 97/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft submission for the 2004 round of the Queen's Anniversary Prizes Scheme for Higher and Further Education (SC.215/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Registrar, the University Secretary and the Director of Communication be authorised to review and approve the final draft of the University's entry for the Queen's Anniversary Prizes Scheme prior to submission to the Queen's Anniversary Prizes Office by the closing date of 23 March 2005.

339/04-05 UUK International Strategy

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/05/32 on UUK's international strategy (SC.208/04-05).

340/04-05 Review of FE Colleges (minute 322/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft response to the review of the future role of FE colleges led by Sir Andrew Foster (SC.214/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the draft response to the Review of FE Colleges consultation exercise be approved for submission to the Foster review team by the deadline of 8 April 2005.

341/04-05 University Access Agreement

RECEIVED:

A copy of an email from the Director of the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) providing notification of approval of the University's Access Agreement (SC.210/04-05).

342/04-05 Bologna Process

RECEIVED:

A guide to the Bologna Process for the UK Higher Education sector, published by the UK HE Europe Unit (SC.209/04-05).

343/04-05 Centre for Primary Health Care Studies

REPORTED: (by Professor Carter)

- (a) That the Centre for Primary Health Care Studies (CPHCS) had received outstanding feedback in the recent review of primary care research at the University from the National Co-Ordinating Centre for Research Capacity Development (NCCRCD).
- (b) That the NCCRCD panel would be recommending to the Department of Health that infrastructure funding to CPHCS be renewed for a further 5 years, to a value of approximately £2m.

344/04-05 Next Meeting of the Steering Committee

REPORTED: (by the University Secretary)

That the next meeting of the Steering Committee would be held on 11 April.

345/04-05 Regional Issues (minute 257/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

An oral report from Professor Dyson on the meeting of the West Midlands Higher Education Association held on 17 March 2005, at which the topic of 'Science Cities' had been discussed.

RESOLVED:

That Professor Jones invite the Chief Executive of Advantage West Midlands to the University to discuss opportunities for developing the University's role in regional initiatives, including the 'Science Cities' initiative.