

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 22 May 2006

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor J Jones
Professor I Lauder
Professor R Lindley (from item 514/05-06)
Professor S B Palmer
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Professor M Luntley, Professor M Smith, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates.

In Attendance: Deputy Registrar, Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 515/05-06 the Head of the Department of Chemistry, the Head of the Civil and Mechanical Division of the School of Engineering, the Head of the Department of Mathematics and the Deputy Director of Research Finance (Research Support Services), for items 515/05-06 and 516/05-06 the Head of Research Support Services, for item 518/05-06 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Graduate School), for items 519/05-06 and 520/05-06 the Acting Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality).

511/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2006 be approved subject to deletion of Mrs H E Blunt from the list of attendees present at the meeting.

512/05-06 Royal Society Fellowships

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Phil Woodruff, a founding member of the Department of Physics, had been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee record its congratulations to Professor Woodruff on his outstanding achievement.

513/05-06 AUT Industrial Action

CONSIDERED:

- (a) An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the meeting of the Senate held on 17 May at which an additional temporary University Regulation was approved to enable all eligible students to graduate in the Summer Term 2006 and at which an update on national and local developments in response to the AUT industrial action was provided.
- (b) An oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the meetings of the Russell and 1994 Groups held on 18 May to discuss the ongoing pay level negotiations with the Trades Unions noting that members of both groups had unanimously reaffirmed their support for the final UCEA pay offer of 12.6% over 3 years.

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Registrar continue to work closely with Heads of Departments to assess the scale of impact of non-co-operation by members of staff participating in the AUT industrial action.

514/05-06 Quality Assurance of Basic Medical Education (QABME): General Medical Council Accreditation

REPORTED: (by the Dean of the Leicester Warwick Medical Schools)

That the General Medical Council had indicated informally its intention that the Warwick Medical School be awarded independent degree-awarding powers and that formal confirmation was expected to be received by the University following the final meeting with the GMC QABME review team on 22 June.

515/05-06 EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards: Round 3

CONSIDERED:

Draft outline bids for Round 3 of the EPSRC Science and Innovation Award Scheme led by the Departments of Mathematics and Chemistry and the School of Engineering together with a covering paper outlining the financial implications of the bids for the University (SC.331/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft outline bids for Round 3 of the EPSRC Science and Innovation Award Scheme be approved in principle subject to revision and final approval of the financial case as outlined in (b) below.
- (b) That the Director of Finance and the Deputy Director of Research Finance (Research Support Services) review the financial models for the three draft outline bids in the light of discussion at the meeting for approval by the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor prior to the submission of the bids to the EPSRC by the deadline of 30 May.
- (c) That Research Support Services take steps to ensure that all future University bids for research funding brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee incorporate commentary on the full space implications of these bids.

516/05-06 Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014 (minute 508/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A briefing paper on the key proposals put forward in the consultation document "Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-14: Next Steps" (SC.323/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of Research Support Services.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Research Support Services, in consultation with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), prepare a draft institutional response to the Science and Innovation Investment Framework consultation document for consideration by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the Steering Committee prior to submission to UUK by the deadline of 2 June 2006.
- (b) That the institutional response in (a) above be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee at its next meeting to be held on 5 June 2006 prior to submission to the Office of Science and Technology by the deadline of 16 June 2006.

517/05-06

HEIF3

CONSIDERED:

Notification from the HEFCE that the University's Bioventures programme had been unsuccessful in gaining funding under the competitive funding element of HEIF3 (SC.328/05-06) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) noting that the University would need to consider carefully the long-term implications for its third stream activities arising from the recent decline in HEIF funding allocations to the University.

RESOLVED:

That Research Support Services contact the HEFCE to seek specific feedback on the HEIF3 assessment panel's consideration of the University's Bioventures proposal.

518/05-06

QAA Report on the Special Review of Research Degree Provision

CONSIDERED:

The draft report of the QAA special review of research degree provision at the University (SC.324/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft report of the QAA special review of Warwick's research degree provision be welcomed.
- (b) That the University's response to the draft QAA report incorporate a request for provision of additional examples of good practice with a view to further improving research degree provision within the University.

519/05-06

Teaching Quality Issues

CONSIDERED:

A report on matters relating to Teaching Quality, including feedback and assessment within the University, the University's Academic Satisfaction Review, the 2006 National Student Survey and the TQI website, the Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund (TQEF) and the 2005/06 Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence (WATE) (SC.325/05-06) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Teaching and Learning})

That the Butterworth Memorial Award for 2005/06 had not yet been awarded.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Steering Committee support and endorse the proposed distribution of the University's allocation of TQEF funding for the academic years 2006/07 to 2008/09 as set out in paper SC.325/05-06 for inclusion in the University Financial Plan.
- (b) That the Steering Committee support the conferral of the Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence as set out in paper SC.325/05-06.
- (c) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) encourage further potential candidates to complete the nominations process for the Butterworth Memorial Award with a view to enabling the WATE panel to make the award in 2006.

- (d) That steps be taken to ensure that the full nominations process for the Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence is as light-touch as practicable in order to encourage a large pool of staff to submit nominations for the Awards.

520/05-06

Consultation on QAA Draft Handbook

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the QAA consultation on its draft Handbook for the proposed integrated quality and enhancement review of higher education provision in further education colleges in England together with QAA circular letter CL/04/06 and a copy of the draft Handbook (SC.326/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the draft institutional response to the QAA consultation on its draft Handbook for Integrated Quality and Enhancement Review be approved for submission to the QAA by the deadline of 26 May as set out in paper SC.326/05-06 subject to minor amendment along the lines discussed at the meeting.

521/05-06

Employer Engagement in Learning at HE Level

CONSIDERED:

Circular letter number 06/2006 from the HEFCE inviting HEIs to contribute to the development of the HEFCE's policy on employer engagement (SC.327/05-06) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) discuss with the Director of the Careers Service the potential development of expressions of interest in undertaking pilot projects on employer engagement in the HE sector for submission to the HEFCE.

522/05-06

Business and Community: Third Stream as Second Mission (minute 497/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

A copy of the letter from the Vice-Chancellor to the HEFCE registering the University's objections to the wording of HEFCE circular letter number 05/2006 (SC.329/05-06).

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

That the University of Wolverhampton had clarified that its proposed submission to the HEFCE in response to circular letter 05/2006 would not be collaborative in nature.

523/05-06

Teaching Space Provision (minute 499/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

A paper providing a breakdown of the University's locally and centrally timetabled teaching rooms by building, capacity and ownership (SC.332/05-06).

524/05-06

Realignment of Advantage West Midlands Structure

RECEIVED:

A copy of a letter from Advantage West Midlands providing notification of the completion of the recent re-alignment of the structure of AWM together with a diagrammatic overview of the realigned structure (SC.330/05-06).

525/05-06 IT Services: Planned Outage

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That a planned outage of core IT services had been scheduled for the evening of Tuesday 23 May to allow for essential remedial and maintenance work and that staff would therefore be unable to access their GroupWise email and the campus network during this period.

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