

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 22 October 2007

- Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L Bridges (from item 52/07-08)
Professor A Caesar
Professor R Higgott (until item 58/07-08)
Mr J Kirby
Professor K Lamberts
Professor R Lindley (from item 54/07-08)
Professor M Smith
Professor M Whitby (from item 52/07-08)
- Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor S Bassnett, Professor Y Carter, Professor H Thomas, Director of Finance, Registrar.
- In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, University Secretary, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Ms H Sinclair, for item 57/07-08 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Graduate School), for item 58/07-08 the University Librarian.
- 51/07-08 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2007 be approved.
- 52/07-08 Withdrawal of Funding for Equivalent or Lower Level Qualifications (minute 43/07-08 refers)
- CONSIDERED:
- A letter from the Chief Executive of the HEFCE on the implications of the withdrawal of funding for equivalent or lower level qualifications (ELQs) for 2008/09 stating that the HEFCE expects that students on undergraduate courses leading to a first registerable qualification as a medical doctor will be exempted from the withdrawal of funding and that the HEFCE will provide £20m additional funding, as part of the part time targeted allocation, to recognise the disproportionate impact upon part time students (SC.50/07-08).
- RESOLVED:
- That the Academic Registrar bring forward a report on the anticipated financial impact of the withdrawal of funding for equivalent or lower level qualifications, drawing on the modeling data published by the HEFCE, for consideration at a future meeting of the Steering Committee.
- 53/07-08 National Student Survey (minute 30/07-08 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- An oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning and International Affairs) on continuing discussions with Heads of Departments on the outcome of the 2007 National Student Survey (NSS) including his exchange of information with the Head of the Department of Politics and International Studies (PAIS) on the apparent disparity between the data published in the NSS and the results of internal PAIS surveys.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Quality and Standards Committee consider the inclusion of guidance to academic departments on the alignment of departmental student satisfaction surveys with the National Student Survey (NSS) as part of its monitoring and overseeing of initial responses to the NSS at a departmental level.

54/07-08 Warwick in Venice (minute 45/07-08 refers)

REPORTED: (by the University Secretary)

That the Italian lawyer consulted in preparing the legal documentation establishing a branch of the University in Venice, had confirmed that the documentation did not preclude the University from undertaking any other institutional activity in Italy provided that such activities were linked to the main academic activities of the University.

55/07-08 CECAM (minute 07/07-08 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That the University bid to host the Centre Européen de Calcul Atomique et Moléculaire (CECAM) had not been shortlisted by the CECAM Council.

56/07-08 2007 EPSRC Knowledge Transfer Challenge

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

That the University submission to the 2007 EPSRC Knowledge Transfer Challenge Awards had not been shortlisted.

57/07-08 Policy Issue for Discussion: Graduate Issues

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on graduate issues including regulations governing the award of higher doctorates, recommendations on scholarships and the administration of Doctoral Training Accounts and the development of a programme of events for the Research Exchange (SC.42/07-08).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the application fee for internal candidates for the award of higher doctorates be reinstated with effect from the academic year 2007/08.
- (b) That a paper on proposed amendments to Regulations governing the award of Higher Doctorates be brought forward by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies for initial discussion.
- (c) That the Graduate School investigate arrangements for returning work submitted for Higher Doctorates to applicants for Higher Doctorates.

58/07-08

Library Update

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on recent developments and issues of concern for the Library including the possibility of the expansion of Modern Records Centre collections, the possibility of the development of an institutional open access fund, an update on the development of an institutional repository, an update on the Library physical remodeling update and an update on the development of the Research Exchange project (SC.40/07-08).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts take forward discussions with the relevant staff in the Faculty of Arts on the opportunities and benefits of pursuing a theatre archive collection in the Modern Records Centre.
- (b) That the University Librarian bring forward a further paper on proposals for the expansion of Modern Records Centre collections for consideration by the Steering Committee at a future meeting.
- (c) That Heads of Department be reminded of the relevance of the resources in the Modern Records Centre for a range of staff and student activities including the undergraduate Research Scholarship Scheme.
- (d) That the University Librarian commence initial discussions with the Pro-Vice-Chancellors for Research and Research Support Services on the development of an institutional repository.

59/07-08

Comprehensive Spending Review

RECEIVED:

A briefing from the Russell Group together with UUK information note I/07/121 on the implications for HEIs in England of the Government's key announcements on the Comprehensive Spending Review (SC.43/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

That further details on the University's allocation from the Capital Investment Fund were expected by the end of the calendar year.

60/07-08

Higher Education Innovation Fund

RECEIVED:

A press release from the HEFCE on the confirmation of funding from the Government for the fourth round of the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (SC.44/07-08).

61/07-08

Burgess Group Final Report on Degree Classification

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/07/123 providing a summary of the Burgess Group Final Report on Degree Classification together with the Executive Summary of the Report published by UUK in October 2007 (SC.45/07-08).

- 62/07-08 Higher Education Engagement with Schools
- CONSIDERED:
- UUK Information Note I/07/118 inviting responses from HEIs on their work with schools for collation by UUK and submission to the UK Government's National Council for Education Excellence (SC.46/07-08).
- RESOLVED:
- That the Academic Registrar draft an initial University response to UUK on the University's engagement with schools, focusing on widening participation activities, the Warwick Volunteers project and Arts Centre outreach activities, for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to UUK before the deadline of 31 October 2007.
- 63/06-07 Appointment of Minister for Students
- RECEIVED:
- A copy of a BBC article on the extension of duties of Lord Triesman, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Intellectual Property and Quality, to include 'Minister for Students' (SC.51/07-08).
- 64/07-08 Awarding Body Status: Centre for Lifelong Learning
- CONSIDERED:
- A paper from the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning on proposals to explore the recognition of the University as an awarding body by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (SC.41/07-08).
- RESOLVED:
- That the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning take forward discussions with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority on the potential recognition of the University as an awarding body as proposed in paper SC.41/07-08 and report to the Committee at a future meeting on the outcome of these discussions and a proposed way forward.
- 65/07-08 Appointments to Committees of the Senate
- RESOLVED:
- That Dr Z Newby and Dr S Allen be appointed to the Board of Undergraduate Studies as the representative of the Board of Graduate Studies for term one and terms two and three respectively for the academic year 2007/08 in place of Professor Phizacklea.
- 66/07-08 Prime Minister's Initiative: Union of Students' Bid (minute 37/07-08 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- The University Union of Students' Bid to the UK Council for International Student Affairs for funding under the Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education to enhance opportunities for international interaction (SC.47/07-08).

67/07-08

HEFCE Survey on the Impact of League Tables on Institutional Behaviour

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the HEFCE to their consultation on the impact of league tables on institutional behaviour (SC.37/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the University response to the HEFCE to their consultation on the impact of league tables on institutional behaviour be submitted to the HEFCE prior to the deadline of 22 October 2007, as set out in paper SC.37/07-08, subject to minor amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.

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