

## THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 23 January 2006

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Professor S Bassnett  
Professor L Bridges  
Professor A Caesar  
Professor J Jones  
Professor I Lauder  
Professor M Luntley  
Professor S B Palmer  
Professor M Smith  
Professor H Thomas  
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Professor Y Carter, Professor R Lindley, Ms K Stark.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 263/05-06 the Research Development Manager (Physical Sciences), for item 264/05-06 the Industrial Development Officer.

258/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2006 be approved.

259/05-06 National Student Survey

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

- (a) That an analysis undertaken by the Administrative Officer (Teaching Quality) on the University's results in the 2005 National Student Survey (NSS) had indicated that the University's score for feedback on assessed work had been significantly lower than that for other aspects of the student experience and that this had adversely affected the University's overall performance in the NSS.
- (b) That steps were being taken to encourage Heads of academic departments to review their procedures in regard to assessment and feedback with a view to addressing this issue within the University.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee support strongly the steps being taken by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) and the Teaching Quality team to encourage Heads of departments to review and improve their assessment and feedback procedures.

260/05-06 Wolfson Funding for Library Capital Projects (minute 249/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

- (a) That it had been confirmed that the costs associated with the off-campus library storage facility would be substantially lower than that originally budgeted for and that the University's commitment to providing partnership funding for the proposed shelving installation in the Modern Records Centre would therefore be offset by the cost savings made in this area.
- (b) That proposals in regard to the off-campus library storage facility would be brought forward for consideration by the Committee before the end of February.

261/05-06 IT Security Attacks

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Director of Information Technology Services on the recent security attacks on the University's IT systems (SC.172/05-06, tabled at the meeting) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Information Technology Services undertake a review of the procedures in place within ITS to protect the University's IT systems against further security attacks in order to ensure a prompt and effective response to any future attacks.

262/05-06 International Issues

RESOLVED:

- (a) That full consideration of paper SC.168/05-06 be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 30 January 2006 when the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs and Equal Opportunities) would be present.
- (b) That the Academic Registrar prepare draft proposals for the University's participation in the conferences to be held in New Delhi in March 2006 as part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the British Council by the deadline of 31 January.

263/05-06 Collaboration with Birmingham: Science Cities

CONSIDERED:

Indicative capital costing scenarios for the establishment of centres of excellence in three research areas aligned to the Birmingham Science City initiative in which the Universities of Warwick and Birmingham might collaborate and a report on the identification and development of these key areas of research (SC.169/05-06) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Research Development Manager (Physical Sciences) develop further the indicative costing scenarios set out in paper SC.169/05-06 to incorporate projected levels of expenditure for the financial year 2006/07 and detailed proposals for the establishment and development of the proposed research centres for submission to Advantage West Midlands.
- (b) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and the Community) take forward the development of proposals for potential collaborations between the University and the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), in the context of the ongoing investment by Advantage West Midlands in the RSC and in the Stratford region more widely, for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting.

264/05-06 HEIF3 (minute 180/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

Recommendations for the University's submission to the HEFCE for collaborative project funding under Round 3 of the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF3) (SC.171/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Industrial Development Officer and the Registrar)

That the University had been invited to be a partner in up to 10 other collaborative bids and that details of these bids would be circulated for consideration at the next meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 30 January.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Bioventures programme be supported and endorsed by the Committee as the Warwick-led collaborative project to be submitted to the HEFCE under the competitive funding element of HEIF3 and that the draft expression of interest for the programme be approved for submission by the deadline of 31 January subject to amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.
- (b) That it was the view of the Committee that the Science-TV programme would deliver significant benefits to the University and that, in view of this, consideration be given to identifying alternative sources of funding to support this initiative.

265/05-06 National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (minute 223/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A report outlining the significant contribution of the National Academy for Gifted and Talented Youth (NAGTY) to the University and the issues associated with the preparation of a University bid tender for NAGTY in the context of the upcoming re-tendering process to be undertaken by the DfES (SC.170/05-06) together with an oral report from the Registrar.

RESOLVED:

That the Registrar, in consultation with relevant colleagues, prepare a report on the current and potential future areas of engagement between the University and NAGTY which would assist in informing the development of the University's bid tender for NAGTY for consideration by the Steering Committee in due course.

266/05-06 Equality and Diversity Committee Membership

RESOLVED: (on behalf of the Senate)

That Dr R Thiara be appointed to the membership of the Equality and Diversity Committee as the representative for Contract Research Staff on the Committee.