

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 23 October 2006

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

Apologies: Professor Y Carter, Director of Communication.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Deputy Registrar, Registrar, University Secretary, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 33/06-07 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Research Assessment), for item 34/06-07 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality).

27/06-07 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2006 be approved subject to the addition of the Registrar to the list of those in attendance at the meeting.

28/06-07 EPSRC Knowledge Transfer Challenge 2006 (minute 730/05-06 refers)

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

That the University had made an institutional submission in the 2006 EPSRC Knowledge Transfer Challenge and that the outcome of the competition was currently awaited.

29/06-07 Royal College of Nursing Research Institute and Distance Learning Unit (minute 742/05-06 refers)

REPORTED:

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

(a) That the University had been shortlisted to submit a full proposal for the acquisition of the Royal College of Nursing Research Institute and Distance Learning Unit and that all shortlisted candidates would be required to deliver presentations to the RCN on 30 October.

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

(b) That the University's bid for the acquisition of the RCN Research Institute and Distance Learning Unit continued to be contingent upon a satisfactory level of financial contribution from the RCN.

30/06-07 Review of the School of Engineering

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(a) That the term of office of Professor J W Gardner as Head of the School of Engineering would expire on 31 July 2007.

- (b) That a working group would shortly be established to review the existing approved management structure for the School and to bring forward any proposed amendments to this structure for consideration by the Steering Committee.

31/06-07 University Strategic Development

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That proposals for the input and participation of the University community into the development of a new institutional strategy for the future direction of the University would be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee within the next two weeks.

32/06-07 Equality and Diversity Update

RECEIVED:

A paper providing an update on the implementation of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations within the University and forthcoming anti-discrimination legislation relating to disability, gender equality and the Work and Families Act 2006 (SC.25/06-07) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs and Equal Opportunities).

33/06-07 Independent College and University Tutors

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Deputy Registrar on the recent publication in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* of an article on the offering of private tuition and remedial study support services to students in higher education institutions by the company Independent College and University Tutors.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the concerns expressed at the meeting in regard to the services offered by Independent College and University Tutors be noted and that further investigation into the company be undertaken with a view to bringing forward an update to the Committee in due course.
- (b) That the Head of the School of Health and Social Studies be approached to request information on the School's provision of academic support services for its students within the parameters of its existing departmental budget.

34/06-07 International League Tables

CONSIDERED:

An analysis of the results of the University league tables recently published by the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Newsweek International, the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and the *Sunday Times* (SC.27/06-07) together with an oral report from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Research Assessment).

REPORTED:

(by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the University had been ranked in 9th position among the 1994 Group in the Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) Academic Ranking of World Universities, noting that Professor Andrew Oswald of the Department of Economics had produced an analysis of the SJTU data including strategies for improving the University's performance in this international league table.

(by the Senior Assistant Registrar {Research Assessment})

- (b) That further analysis of the league table data presented in paper SC.27/06-07 was currently being undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Statistics and that the International League Table Review Group would be reviewing this data to identify strategies for improving the University's performance in the league table rankings.

RESOLVED:

That the paper prepared by Professor Andrew Oswald on strategies for improving the University's performance in the Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Ranking of World Universities be circulated for the information of members of the Steering Committee.

35/06-07 Burgess Group Second Consultation on Degree Classification: University Response
(minute 20/06-07 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the second consultation paper from the Measuring and Recording Student Achievement Steering Group (Burgess Group) "The UK Honours Degree: Provision of Information – Second Consultation" (SC.28/06-07) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the Burgess Group consultation document would be an item for discussion at the next meeting of the Russell Group Vice-Chancellors to be held on 26 October.

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the second consultation paper from the Burgess Group be approved for submission to the QAA by the deadline of 3 November 2006 subject to amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.

36/06-07 Allocation of Additional Teaching and Learning Funds (minute 590/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for the allocation of an additional £1,030,708 in Learning and Teaching capital funding for the University for the period 2006 – 2008 (SC.20/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed allocation of the University's additional Learning and Teaching capital funds be approved as set out in paper SC.20/06-07.

37/06-07 Building Student Demand for STEM Subjects

RECEIVED:

A press release from the HEFCE on the four projects being funded by the HEFCE in collaboration with the Government to build demand from students wishing to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects at HE level (SC.21/06-07).

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

That the Department of Chemistry had secured £45k in funding from the Royal Society of Chemistry under the "Chemistry for our Future" programme.

38/06-07

Membership of Senate Committees

RESOLVED: (on behalf of the Senate)

- (a) That the following members of staff be appointed to the membership of the Panel for the Committee on the Admission of Students to Courses of Study:

Dr D Davies and Professor W Fulford (to fill the two existing vacancies in the representatives from the Faculty of Medicine on the Panel)

Dr F McKay and Dr T Sinclair (to fill one vacancy in the representatives from the Faculty of Social Studies on the Panel and in place of Professor McEldowney respectively).

- (b) That Dr N Webber, Professor S Ghosal, Professor R Brewer and Professor J Davey be appointed to the membership of the Board of Graduate Studies in place of Professor P Stoneman, Professor R Jackson, Professor B Lockwood and Professor N Mann respectively.
- (c) That Dr J Burrows be appointed to the membership of the Undergraduate Appeals Committee Panel for the Board of the Faculty of Arts.
- (d) That Professor L Bridges be appointed to the membership of the Continuation of Registration Committee Panels for undergraduates and postgraduates to fill one of the existing vacancies in the academic membership of the Panels.
- (e) That the Chairs of the Boards of the Faculties of Arts and Social Studies bring forward further nominations for representatives from both Faculties to fill the remaining two vacancies in the academic membership of the Continuation of Registration Committee Panels for undergraduates and postgraduates.

39/06-07

Academic Staff Committee Terms of Reference

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Academic Staff Committee (SC.26/06-07).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal approved by the Senate at its meeting held on 28 June 2006 that all Electoral Board recommendations for promotion to Professor be forwarded to the Academic Staff Committee for consideration and approval be reviewed in the light of discussion at the meeting with a view to bringing forward revised proposals for consideration by the Steering Committee and the Senate in due course.
- (b) That, in the light of (a) above, proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Academic Staff Committee be not approved.

40/06-07

DfES Consultation on Reform of Higher Education Research Assessment and Funding: UUK Response

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/113 on the UUK response to the DfES Consultation on the Reform of Higher Education Research Assessment and Funding (SC.19/06-07).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That the UUK response to the DfES consultation document was in line with the responses submitted by the University and the Russell and 1994 Groups.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) forward to the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor the response made by the AHRC to the DfES consultation document.

41/06-07 Procurement in Higher Education (minute 713/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University's response to HEFCE document 2006/33 on the development and strategic management of procurement in the higher education sector (SC.24/06-07).

42/06-07 OECD Publication "Education at a Glance"

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/110 summarising the key findings of the latest edition of the OECD publication "Education at a Glance" (SC.22/06-07).

43/06-07 UK HE Europe Unit: Guide to Diploma Supplement

RECEIVED:

Europe Note E/06/08 from the UK HE Europe Unit providing information on the Unit's 'Guide to the Diploma Supplement' booklet for UK HEIs (SC.23/06-07).

44/06-07 Financial Times Executive MBA League Table 2006

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the Warwick Business School's Executive MBA had risen by three places to 14th position in the 2006 Financial Times Executive MBA League Table.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee record its congratulations to the Warwick Business School on achieving 14th position in the Financial Times Executive MBA League Table for 2006.