

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 24 January 2005

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

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Director of Finance, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 223/04-05 the Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling), for item 224/04-05 Chair of the School of Health and Social Studies and the University Librarian.

218/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2005 be approved.

219/04-05 Warwick in Asia

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the issues raised in discussion at the meeting of the Chairs Forum on 21 January on the Warwick in Asia project.

220/04-05 Naming of University Buildings

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That he had received a proposal from the Chair of the Department of Mathematics to rename the Mathematics and Statistics Building as the Zeeman Building in honour of Professor Sir Christopher Zeeman, the founding Professor of the Department of Mathematics.

RECOMMENDED: (to the Council)

That, subject to confirmation from the Director of Development and Alumni Relations and the Chair of the Department of Statistics that they supported the proposed renaming of the building, the Mathematics and Statistics Building be renamed the Zeeman Building in honour of Professor Sir Christopher Zeeman.

221/04-05 CAPITAL Centre

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the ongoing discussions on the location of the CAPITAL Centre, including the possibility of the Centre being housed at the Westwood campus alongside other relocated departments within the Faculty of Arts and the Estates Office, noting that a decision on these matters needed to be taken as a matter of urgency.

222/04-05 International Issues Update

RECEIVED:

The International Office publication "Looking Forward to Warwick", a guide for all international students who have received offers of a place at Warwick (tabled at the meeting).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had been approached by the President of Maastricht University to join a consortium of selected European universities and that the Academic Registrar would be attending a meeting of the consortium in February as an observer.

CONSIDERED:

A report from the International Office on current international issues including data on overseas student recruitment for the academic year 2003/2004, student satisfaction and welfare issues and overseas collaborative links (SC.138/04-05) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

RESOLVED:

That the International Office prepare a similar report on the University's recruitment activities in and links with Europe for consideration at a future meeting of the Steering Committee.

223/04-05 Accommodation and Capital Update

CONSIDERED:

A paper prepared by the Interim Director of Estates and the Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling) on strategic issues relating to capital developments and accommodation (SC.141/04-05) together with an oral report from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Accommodation and Research).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That a report from the working group established to identify institutional priorities for the University in the context of SRIF3 bids and to develop SRIF3 bid proposals for approval in consultation with academic departments would be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee at its next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling) and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Accommodation and Research) continue to develop and refine the data on academic space utilisation with a view to providing a more accurate assessment of future space requirements for offices, laboratories and teaching rooms.
- (b) That the Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling) and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Accommodation and Research) convene a meeting as soon as practicable to resolve pressing space issues including the location of the CAPITAL Centre and the potential relocation of the Estates Office and departments within the Faculty of Arts (minute 221/04-05 above refers).

224/04-05 IRR Library (minute 94/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Chair of the School of Health and Social Studies and the University Librarian on a financial strategy to support the acquisition by the University of the Sivanandan Collection from the Institute of Race Relations (IRR) (SC.142/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, subject to the release of funding by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the financial strategy for the transfer of the Sivanandan Collection held by the Institute of Race Relations be approved as set out in paper SC.142/04-5.
- (b) That all reference and research material held by the University on ethnicity and race relations, including the collections held by the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations and the Centre for Evidence in Ethnicity, Health and Diversity be relocated within the University Library.
- (c) That the Chair of the School of Health and Social Studies and the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies prepare a paper incorporating both the financial strategy set out in paper SC.142/04-05 and the academic case for the acquisition of the Sivanandan Collection as proposed in paper SC.56/04-05 for consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 11 March 2005.

225/04-05 Access to Higher Education

CONSIDERED:

A press release from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on the 'Young Participation in Higher Education' Report published by the HEFCE, together with the foreword and summary of key findings from the report (SC.140/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That Professor Dyson take forward the issues raised in the HEFCE Report, in consultation with the relevant University staff, with a view to bringing forward a report for consideration by the Steering Committee in due course.

226/04-05 National Student Survey

RECEIVED:

A press release from the HEFCE on the first National Student Survey (NSS) (SC.134/04-05).

REPORTED: (by the President of the Union of Students)

- (a) That he and the Deputy President of the Union of Students would shortly be meeting with the Vice-President of Education of the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Shadow Minister for Higher Education to discuss the National Student Survey.
- (b) That the Union of Students would shortly be disseminating information to the University student community on its position in regard to the NSS.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee continue to be kept informed of the progress of discussions between the Union of Students and with the NUS on the NSS.

227/04-05 Strategic Science Inquiry

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the inquiry conducted by the Science and Technology Committee into strategic science provisions across universities in England, together with a press release from the Science and Technology Committee (SC.139/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the Strategic Science Inquiry be approved as set out in paper SC.139/04-05 and submitted to the Science and Technology Committee by the deadline of 28 January 2005.

228/04-05 West Midlands Regional Seminar Report

RECEIVED:

The report from the West Midlands Regional Seminar on Regional Priorities for Higher Education, held on 24 November 2004 at the University of Warwick, together with a letter from the Regional Adviser of the HEFCE (SC.137/04-05).