

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 24 May 2004

Present: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair)
Professor Carter
Professor Dyson
Professor Easton
Professor Jones
Mr R Jones
Professor Lauder
Professor Luntley
Professor McCrae
Professor McFarlane
Professor Palmer
Professor Thomas
Professor Whitby

In Attendance: Acting Registrar, University Secretary, Finance Director, Academic Registrar, Director of Personnel Services, Director of Communication, Ms A Goodall, Miss E Clewlow, for items 407-408/03-04 University Librarian and Director of IT Services, for item 409/03-04 Assistant Registrar (Graduate School), for item 410/03-04 Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality), for item 411/03-04 Deputy Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office.

404/03-04 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2004 be approved.

405/03-04 Higher Education Sector

REPORTED:

(a) (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That sustainability in the HE Sector had arisen in discussion with the Minister for Science and Innovation at a recent meeting of the Russell Group as a theme of the forthcoming Treasury Spending Review.

(b) (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That at a recent meeting of the 94 Group, the following topics had been discussed:

- (i) The potential endowment of a substantial number of undergraduate scholarships in 94 Group universities.
- (ii) The next phase of SRIF funding.
- (iii) The likely percentage of the Research Councils' contribution to the full economic cost of research projects.
- (iv) The Government's view of the potential role of regional development agencies, particularly their science councils, in the funding of research.

406/03-04 Links with Singapore

RECEIVED:

Oral reports from the Chairs of the Board of the Faculties of Arts and Social Studies and the Academic Registrar on their impressions of the potential development of the University's links with Singapore following their visit to Singapore on 19-23 May, noting that a series of feedback meetings had been arranged and that written reports would be brought forward in due course.

407/03-04 University Library: Strategic Issues

CONSIDERED:

A briefing paper on strategic developments relating to the Library (SC.215/03-04) together with an oral report from the Librarian.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University continue to monitor developments in the publishing market with a view to minimising future institutional exposure and offering targeted support, where applicable, to the responses being made to such developments by the HE sector as a whole.
- (b) That further comparative data on levels of student service in the libraries of peer institutions be brought forward to inform future consideration of Library strategy.

408/03-04 IT Update and Strategic Issues

RECEIVED:

A briefing paper on recent developments and strategic issues relating to IT (SC.222/03-04) together with an oral report from the Director of IT Services, noting that a review of the progress being made by Faculty e-Learning advisors would be undertaken in Autumn 2004 and that discussions were being undertaken with Departments in the Faculty of Social Studies regarding the potential development of a collective approach to the provision of additional IT support.

409/03-04 Graduate School: Strategic Issues

CONSIDERED:

A progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Roberts' Review on provision of skills training for postgraduate research students (SC.220/03-04) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies.

RESOLVED:

That further data on the extent of existing provision within academic departments of skills training for postgraduate research students be brought forward for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting.

410/03-04 Institutional Audit Report (minute 397/03-04 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A draft University response to the QAA's draft Institutional Audit report (SC.218/03-04) together with an oral report from Professor Whitby.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to minor amendment along the lines discussed at the meeting, the University response to the draft Institutional Audit report be approved for submission to the QAA as set out in paper SC.218/03-04.

411/03-04 Fair Admissions to Higher Education

CONSIDERED:

A draft University response to the second consultation document from the Fair Admissions to Higher Education Review (SC.221/03-04) together with an oral report from the Deputy Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office.

RESOLVED:

That the University response to the second consultation document from the Fair Admissions to Higher Education Review be approved for submission as set out in paper SC.221/03-04 subject to the addition of a covering letter outlining the points of principle not covered within the consultation document.

412/03-04 Warwick Medical School Five Year Plan

CONSIDERED:

The Warwick Medical School Five Year Plan 2003/04 – 2007/08 (SC.219/03-04) together with oral reports from the Dean and Vice-Dean of the Leicester Warwick Medical Schools.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Warwick Medical School Five Year Plan be recommended for approval as set out in paper SC.219/03-04, it being noted that the plan would require final amendment to include any payment from the Warwick Business School with respect to the transfer of CHeSS and further revision of the Central Services Charge following the completion of the overall University Financial Plan.
- (b) That the proposed investment priorities and list of new posts for the Warwick Medical School for the academic year 2004/2005, together with the allocation of the available funding, be approved as set out in paper SC.219/03-04 subject to minor revision to indicate that the technical posts identified as being HEFCE-funded would only have this status in the first instance prior to being funded from the Medical School's general funds and it being noted that the School would be drawing upon its reserve in order to bring forward investment in new academic posts to the academic year 2004/2005.
- (c) That the Warwick Medical School work towards the elimination of a deficit in future years and minimise calls upon reserves to support operational commitments.

413/03-04 University Financial Plan

RECEIVED:

- (a) A report from the Financial Plan Sub-Committee on progress towards completion of the University's Financial Plan for 2003/2004 – 2007/2008 (SC.226/03-04).

- (b) A report from the Financial Plan Sub-Committee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (SC.223/03-04) together with extracts from the five year plans for the following University activities as background information to consideration by the Committee of the University's Financial Plan at the end of May:

IT Services
Central Administrative Budget
HR Strategy.

414/03-04 CHeSS

CONSIDERED:

An interim report from the Group established to facilitate the transfer of the activities of the Centre for Health Service Studies from the Warwick Business School to the Warwick Medical School (SC.212/03-04) together with oral reports from the Vice-Dean of the Warwick Medical School and the Academic Registrar.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Group established to facilitate the transfer of the activities of the Centre for Health Service Studies from the Warwick Business School to the Warwick Medical School be approved as set out in paper SC.212/03-04.

415/03-04 University Base in London

CONSIDERED:

A proposal from the Director of Communication for the potential future location of the University's office in London as an alternative to the current venue in Tufon Street (SC.225/03-04).

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the receipt of satisfactory feedback on likely reputational impact, the University proceed to locate its London office at the Work Foundation in Carlton House Terrace.

416/03-04 ESRC Strategic Plan

CONSIDERED:

Notification of the steps being taken to formulate a University response to the Economic and Social Research Council's consultation to identify the key challenges and priorities in the social sciences (SC.216/03-04).

RESOLVED:

That Professor Wensley be invited to join the Group established to formulate the University's response to the ESRC consultation.

417/03-04 DTI Consultation on EU Framework Programme

RECEIVED:

Notification of the Department of Trade and Industry's consultation regarding the European Union's 7th Research and Development Framework Programme (SC.217/03-04).

418/03-04 Acting Registrar

REPORTED:

That this would be the last meeting of the Committee attended by Mr P Greatrix in the capacity of Acting Registrar.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee record its thanks to the Acting Registrar and the Senior Officers for their work to ensure the continued smooth-running of the University's administration.

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