

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 25 July 2005

Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L Bridges
Professor R G Dyson
Professor J Jones
Professor I Lauder
Professor M Luntley
Professor H Thomas

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor A Caesar, Professor Y Carter, Professor A Easton, Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Academic Registrar, Mr S Lucas.

In Attendance: Director of Estates, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Dr J Moss for items 591/04-05 to 593/04-05.

586/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2005 be approved subject to amendment of the date of the meeting recorded in the minutes from 11 to 18 July 2005.

587/04-05 RAE 2008: Guidance on Submissions (minute 573/04-05 refers)

REPORTED:

That the HEFCE guidance on submissions for RAE 2008 had been published and circulated to academic departments.

588/04-05 Royal Society Research Professorships 2005 (minute 552/04-05 refers)

REPORTED: (by Professor Jones)

- (a) That two submissions for Royal Society Professorships would be submitted in the current round, one for an existing member of staff in Physics and one for a prospective external appointee in the field of medicine.
- (b) That, with the support of Research Support Services, he would be taking steps to prepare for potential submissions for the next round of Royal Society Research Professorship awards in 2006.

589/04-05 Second Leverhulme Symposium (minute 504/04-05 refers)

REPORTED:

That the Chairs of the Faculty Research Committees for Arts and Social Studies, Dr Finn and Professor Higgott, had been asked to develop an outline proposal for the University to host the Second Leverhulme Symposium to be held in 2007 by the deadline of 2 September 2005.

RESOLVED:

That Professor Jones notify Dr Finn and Professor Higgott that any outline proposal would need to take account of the availability of University facilities and the resource implications associated with the University hosting the Second Leverhulme Symposium.

590/04-05 EPSRC Science and Innovations Awards:Round 2 (minute 513/04-05 refers)

REPORTED: (by Professor Jones)

That two of the University's three submissions in Round 2 of the EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards had been shortlisted and second stage submissions would be prepared for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the EPSRC in the Autumn Term.

591/04-05 Departmental and Quinquennial Reviews

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for changes to the operation of the University's arrangements for the conduct of Periodic and Quinquennial Reviews of academic departments prepared by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) following consultation with academic departments and in the light of discussion at the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (SC.374/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the proposals for changes to the operation of Periodic and Quinquennial Reviews of academic departments be revised in the light of discussion at the meeting, in particular to take account of the need for flexibility in the context of the varying size of academic departments, and brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee before the start of the Autumn term and at a meeting when all the Chairs of the Faculty Boards are present.

592/04-05 National Student Survey Results

CONSIDERED:

A copy of HEFCE Circular letter 18/2005 on access to the National Student Survey (NSS) results and the launch of the TQI web-site (SC.375/04-05) and containing proposed agreements between the University and the HEFCE on the University's use of preview results and additional data from the NSS.

RESOLVED:

That the University sign up to the two agreements on the use of preview results and additional data from the NSS subject to clarification of the position of the ownership of the data in the context of the Freedom of Information Act.

593/04-05 QAA Audit of Collaborative Links with China

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the QAA on its audit of overseas partnership arrangements in China requesting additional information about the link between the University and Renmin University of China (SC.380/04-05)

RESOLVED:

That details of the University's link with Renmin University of China be prepared for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the QAA by the deadline of 30 September.

594/04-05 UK Higher Education Europe Unit Survey

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to a survey on European HE developments being conducted by the UK HE Europe Unit (SC.377/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That, subject to revision to take account of points raised in discussion, the draft University response to the survey on European HE developments being conducted by the UK HE Europe Unit be approved as set out in paper SC.377/04-05.

595/04-05 Regional Physics Consortium (minute 356/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A report from Professor Smith on the progress of development of the proposed Midlands Universities Physics Consortium (SC.376/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the progress in developing a Midlands Universities Physics Consortium in consultation with the HEFCE be noted and the proposed next actions, including preparation of a bid for a Strategic Development Award from the HEFCE to support the initiative, be noted.

596/04-05 Annual Monitoring Statement

CONSIDERED:

The draft University Annual Monitoring Statement for 2004/05 (SC.373/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That, subject to minor amendments as noted at the meeting, the draft University Annual Monitoring Statement be approved as set out in paper SC.373/04-05 and submitted to the HEFCE by the deadline of 29 July 2005 together with the University's Corporate Planning Statement and Financial Forecasts for 2005.

597/04-05 HEFCE Joint Costing and Pricing Steering Group

RECEIVED:

A copy of a circular setting out how the HEFCE will take account of full economic costs in funding distributed for higher education together with a letter from the Chair of the Joint Costing and Pricing Steering Group (JCPSG) on the future of the JCPSG (SC.379/04-05).

598/04-05 Additional Funding for Consultant Clinical Academics' Pay

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the HEFCE setting out the additional funding to be allocated to the University to meet the additional costs arising between April 2005 to July 2006 from applying the Consultant Contract (England) 2003 to consultant clinical academics in England (SC.378/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Dean of the Leicester Warwick Medical Schools discuss with the Vice-Chancellor the University's proposed policy in regard to the application of the Consultant Contract (England) to GP academics.

599/04-05 Vote of Thanks: Professor Dyson

REPORTED:

That this would be the last meeting of the Committee to be attended by Professor Dyson in his capacity as a Pro Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its gratitude to Professor Dyson for his distinguished contribution to the work of the Committee during his six year tenure as a Pro Vice-Chancellor.

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