

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Senate Steering Committee held on 25 September 2006

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

Apologies: Professor M Luntley, Professor S B Palmer.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Communication (from item 737/05-06), Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 736/05-06 the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation, for item 737/05-06 the Head of Student Finance, for item 742/05-06 the Head of the School of Health and Social Studies, Professor J Harris, Professor A Mullender and the Finance Manager (Health and Social Studies).

735/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2006 be approved.

736/05-06 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions

CONSIDERED:

University data on home and overseas undergraduate and postgraduate intake projections against the University 5-year plan as at 15 September 2006 (SC.484/05-06) together with an oral report from the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation.

REPORTED:

(by the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation)

(a) That the School of Engineering and the Department of Biological Sciences had now exceeded their undergraduate Home/EU intake targets by 12 and 2 respectively.

(by the Director of Finance)

(b) That the Finance Office would be reviewing the variance between total fee income and 5-year plan student number targets for each academic department following confirmation of final student numbers for 2006/07 with a view to implementing cost savings where appropriate.

(c) That cost saving measures for the Department of Computer Science were currently under discussion.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies, with the support of the Graduate School, undertake a review of postgraduate taught provision within the Department of Sociology with

a view to pursuing the issues raised in discussion at the meeting in regard to the number of postgraduate taught courses on offer within the Department.

737/05-06 Report from the Working Group on Fees Setting

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for the setting of undergraduate and postgraduate tuition fees for Home/EU and overseas students for the academic year 2007/08 (SC.482/05-06) together with oral reports from the Registrar and the Head of Student Finance.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Finance, with the support of the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies, prepare a paper setting out a comparative analysis of teaching costs between UK HEIs based on available TRAC data in the sector for consideration by the Steering Committee at its meeting to be held on 9 October 2006.

RECOMMENDED: (to the Finance and General Purposes Committee)

That proposed undergraduate and postgraduate tuition fees for Home/EU and overseas students for the academic year 2007/08 be approved as set out in Annex A of paper SC.482/05-06.

738/05-06 University Risk Management

CONSIDERED:

The proposed University Risk Register, sample Risk Status Summary and University Risk Management Procedure for the academic year 2006/07 and proposed revisions to the University Risk Management Policy (SC.489/05-06) together with an oral report from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Governance).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed list of the University's significant risks and risk management measures outlined in the University Risk Register 2006/07 be supported and endorsed by the Steering Committee on the understanding that the Risk Register would be reviewed to ensure that appropriate risk holders are associated with each identified risk.
- (b) That the proposed key risks for the University for 2006/07 be recommended for approval to the Council as identified in the University Risk Status Summary set out in Appendix B to paper SC.489/05-06 subject to inclusion of risks T1 and T2 in the list of key University risks.
- (c) That the revised University Risk Management Policy and University Risk Management Procedure for the academic year 2006/07 be recommended to the Council for approval as set out in Appendices C and D to paper SC.489/05-06.
- (d) That the Director of Finance investigate the feasibility of introducing a departmental safety factor to be applied to the student recruitment targets of individual academic departments.

739/05-06 University Funding for Postgraduate Research Students (minute 589/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper prepared by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies providing an update on developments in University funding for postgraduate research students together with a summary of the allocation of Warwick Postgraduate Research Fellowships (WPRFs) and

Overseas Research Student Awards beginning in October 2006 and a copy of postgraduate research funding marking criteria for selectors (SC.486/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

That he would be preparing a paper on the financial implications of the new arrangements for research postgraduate student funding with a view to bringing this forward for consideration by the Steering Committee during the Autumn Term.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee support the new arrangements for University funding of postgraduate research students as set out in paper SC.486/05-06, in particular the revised timetable for completion of the WPRF allocations round and the increase in the total amount of funding available for postgraduate research students.

740/05-06 Advantage West Midlands: Independent Performance Assessment

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from Advantage West Midlands (AWM) inviting the University to contribute to its consultation on the draft AWM self-assessment report prior to submission of the report to the National Audit Office as part of the new Independent Performance Assessment (IPA) of Research Development Agencies together with a copy of the draft self-assessment report and the University's draft response to the consultation (SC.492/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the University's response to the AWM consultation on its draft self-assessment report be approved for submission to AWM by the deadline of 26 September 2006 subject to amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.

741/05-06 Collaborative Partnerships

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A proposal from the Warwick Manufacturing Group for participation in a collaborative venture with the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Durham University and Thales UK for the delivery of an MSc in the Management of Major Projects to be awarded by the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (SC.487/05-06).
- (b) A proposal from the Warwick Medical School for the extension of the University's partnership with Global Implant Forum and Training (GIFT) for the delivery of the existing Warwick MSc in Implant Dentistry in Dubai (SC.488/05-06).

RESOLVED: (on behalf of the Senate)

- (a) That the proposed participation of the Warwick Manufacturing Group in the delivery of the collaborative MSc in the Management of Major Projects be approved as set out in paper SC.487/05-06.
- (b) That the proposed extension of the University's partnership with GIFT for the delivery of the existing Warwick MSc in Implant Dentistry in Dubai be approved as set out in paper SC.488/05-06 subject to approval of associated contractual documentation by the Director of Finance.

742/05-60 Royal College of Nursing Research Institute and Distance Learning Unit

CONSIDERED:

A proposal for the acquisition by the University of the Royal College of Nursing Research Institute and Distance Learning Unit (SC.491/05-06) together with an oral report from the Head of the School of Health and Social Studies.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal that the University submit an expression of interest to the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) for the acquisition of the RCN Research Institute and Distance Learning Unit be approved subject to fulfillment of all of the individual conditions set out in paper SC.491/05-06 and any additional financial conditions deemed to be appropriate and necessary by the Director of Finance.
- (b) That responsibility for preparing the final University expression of interest in the acquisition of the RCN Research Institute and Distance Learning Unit be delegated to the Director of Academic and Student Affairs in consultation with the Registrar and representatives of the School of Health and Social Studies.

743/05-06 Senate Business

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, in view of the forthcoming retirement of the University Senior Tutor and the fact that this position will not be filled in the short term, the University Senior Tutor be not appointed to *ex officio* membership of the Senate for the academic year 2006/07.
- (b) That the remaining comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 4 October 2006 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

744/05-06 New Induction Arrangements

RECEIVED:

A paper prepared by the Assistant Director of Personnel (Policy and Projects) on the key findings of a review undertaken in 2005/06 of the University's induction arrangements for new members of staff and the introduction of new induction arrangements to be implemented from the academic year 2006/07 (SC.490/05-06).

745/05-06 UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) Fellowships

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar bring forward a report on the University's submission of applications for UKIERI Research Fellowships for consideration at the next meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 2 October.

746/05-06 Transparency Review Resubmitted Data 2004/05 (minute 630/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

HEFCE Circular Letter number 21/2006 providing a report on resubmitted data received for 2004/05 from universities and colleges in the sixth round of reporting under the Transparency Review (SC.493/05-06).