

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 26 June 2006

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

Apologies: Professor Ian Lauder, Professor S B Palmer, Ms K Stark, Director of Estates.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 595/05-06 the Director of Warwick HRI, for item 599/05-06 the Acting Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning), for items 600/05-06 and 601/05-06 the Director of Research Support Services.

586/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2006 be approved subject to inclusion of the following resolution under minute 581/05-06:

- (b) That, given that there was already a Masters programme in a very similar field offered by the Department of Sociology, the Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies and the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies discuss with the School of Health and Social Studies the proposed introduction of the MA in Applied Social Research with Specialism in Migration, Ethnicity and Refugee Studies with a view to reconsidering this course proposal and exploring opportunities for collaboration between the two departments in this area of research.

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

That the School of Health and Social Studies had now withdrawn its proposal for the introduction of the MA in Applied Social Research with Specialism in Migration, Ethnicity and Refugee Studies with a view to bringing forward a revised proposal in the Autumn Term 2006/07.

587/05-06 University Password Policy (minute 581(c)/05-06 refers)

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

That IT Services was in the process of developing a web-based password resetting facility to enable users to change and check the robustness of their network passwords.

588/05-06 HEFCE Statement on Reform of Research Assessment and Funding
(minute 572/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

A statement from the HEFCE on the Government's consultation document "Reform of Higher Education Research Assessment and Funding" on proposals for a new metrics-

based research assessment and funding system to replace the current Research Assessment Exercise (SC.386/05-06).

589/05-06 Warwick Postgraduate Research Fellowships (minute 581/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper prepared by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies setting out proposed options for accounting for the costs of Warwick Postgraduate Research Fellows within the University system (SC.393/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the costs of Warwick Postgraduate Research Fellowships (WPRFs) be included in the budgets for the University's devolved units, including the Academic Resourcing Committee, and deducted from the central service charges for departments that are awarded WPRFs as set out in Option 2 of paper SC.393/05-06.
- (b) That the selection of WPRF award holders remain centrally administered for the academic year 2006/07.
- (c) That the first round of allocations of awards under the WPRF scheme be completed by the end of the Autumn Term 2006/07 and that the costs of the awards be accounted for in departments' first-quarter revised budgets.
- (d) That the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies undertake further work on proposals for the mechanisms for the allocation of costs and the selection of WPRF award holders with effect from October 2007 and bring forward a revised full proposal for consideration by the Steering Committee and the Senate in the Autumn Term.

590/05-06 Learning and Teaching Capital Funding 2006-2008

RECEIVED:

A copy of an email from the HEFCE notifying higher education institutions of an increase of £95m in the Learning and Teaching capital funding available to HEIs for the period 2006-2008 (SC.392/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of Finance noting that institutional allocations of the additional funding were as yet unspecified.

591/05-06 2006 National Teaching Fellowship Scheme

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Mr David Morley of the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies had been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship Award in the 2006 round of the Higher Education Academy's National Teaching Fellowship Scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee record its congratulations to Mr Morley on his award of a National Teaching Fellowship in the 2006 National Teaching Fellowship Scheme.

592/05-06 GMC Accreditation

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the General Medical Council (GMC) had formally confirmed its intention to recommend to the GMC Education Committee that the Warwick Medical School be added to the list of institutions in the UK which are able to award primary medical qualifications.

593/05-06 Vote of Thanks: Director of Personnel

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That this would be the last week at the University for Mr Donald Beaton, Director of Personnel, prior to his taking up his new appointment at Kingston University.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its gratitude to Mr Beaton for his valuable contribution to the work of the University during his tenure as Director of Personnel and its best wishes for his success in his new role.

594/05-06 Meeting of the Russell Group

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the meeting of the Russell Group held on 22 June at which the DfES consultation on proposals for a new metrics-based research assessment and funding system to replace the current Research Assessment Exercise and the implications of the recent UCEA pay settlement for pay negotiations in future years had been discussed.

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar) (minute 571/05-06 refers)

That it had been confirmed that full sets of examination marks had now been received by all final-year Boards of Examiners.

595/05-06 Warwick HRI Update and Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The 3rd quarter statement from Warwick HRI for the financial year 2005/06 and a report providing an update on key recent developments at WHRI (SC.384/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of WHRI.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 3rd quarter statement for the Warwick HRI Devolved Budget for the financial year 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.384/05-06.
- (b) That the Director of WHRI provide the Director of Finance with a copy of the final submission to the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council for the continuation of WHRI funding through the BBSRC core strategic grant (minutes 474/05-06 and 551/05-06 refer).

596/05-06 Warwick Business School Quarter-End Report and Five-Year Plan

CONSIDERED:

The 3rd quarter statement from the Warwick Business School for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.382/05-06) and the five-year financial plan summary for the School for the period 2005/06 to 2009/10 (SC.383/05-06) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Business School.

REPORTED: (by the Dean of the Warwick Business School)

That the Warwick Business School was in the process of preparing comparative data on the research grant and contract income received by the School with a view to addressing the

lower-than-anticipated quarter-end out-turn in this area and that a report on this data would be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 3rd quarter statement for the Warwick Business School Devolved Budget for the financial year 200/05 and the variations between revised forecast and original budget be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.382/05-06.
- (b) That the WBS five-year plan be recommended for approval as set out in paper SC.383/05-06.
- (c) That the Academic Registrar discuss with the Dean of the Warwick Business School the points raised in discussion at the meeting in regard to student number targets for the School.

597/05-06 Warwick Medical School Quarter-End Report and Five-Year Plan

CONSIDERED:

The 3rd quarter statement from the Warwick Medical School for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.385/05-06) and the five-year financial plan for the School for the period 2005/06 to 2009/10 (SC.389/05-06) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Medical School.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 3rd quarter statement for the Warwick Medical School Devolved Budget for the financial year 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.385/05-06.
- (b) That the WMS five-year plan be recommended for approval as set out in paper SC.389/05-06.

598/05-06 Academic Resourcing Committee: Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The 3rd quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets under the remit of the Academic Resourcing Committee for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.380/05-06) together with an oral report from the Deputy Registrar.

REPORTED:

(by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the five-year financial plan for non-devolved departments would be brought forward for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 3 July.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (b) That the University Secretary was in the process of developing arrangements for the governance and management of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research centres within the University for consideration by the Steering Committee at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 3rd quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets for the financial year 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.380/05-06.

- (b) That future quarter-end reports for non-devolved departmental budgets under the remit of the Academic Resourcing Committee include an overall summary of the financial position in transparent accounting format.

599/05-06

The Times League Tables 2006: Analysis

CONSIDERED:

An analysis of the University's performance in the University League Tables recently published by *The Times* newspaper (SC.381/05-06) together with an oral report from the Acting Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning).

(Note: Tables summarising the overall results from the top 20 institutions in the tables and the University's positions on individual indicators and subject rankings and providing statistical analysis of the University's performance were tabled at the meeting.)

REPORTED: (by the Director of Finance)

That the Finance Office would be undertaking an investigation into issues relating to the methodology adopted by *The Times* in the calculation of institutional scores for facilities expenditure.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, in view of the issues identified regarding the impact of the results of the National Student Survey (NSS) on league table rankings, the University work with the Union of Students to actively encourage participation by all eligible students in the 2007 NSS.
- (b) That steps continue to be taken to encourage Heads of academic departments to review and improve their procedures in regard to assessment and feedback with a view to maximising the University's performance in the 2007 NSS.

600/05-06

Research and Innovation Update

CONSIDERED:

An update on current and projected future developments relating to the University's research and innovation activities (SC.378/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of Research Support Services.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Research Support Services)

That the University had received notification from the EPSRC that its bid for the establishment of a Doctoral Training Centre in Complexity Science had been successful (minute 348/05-06 refers).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Steering Committee record its congratulations to the Departments of Mathematics and Physics and all members of staff involved in the preparation of the successful Complexity Science bid proposal.
- (b) That Research Support Services explore the mechanisms by which information relating to the University's research and innovation activities might be communicated effectively to a wider audience.

601/05-06 Consultation on the Patent Office Strategy for Supporting Innovation

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/57 on the consultation recently launched by the Patent Office on its innovation support strategy (SC.387/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Research Support Services)

That the Director of Warwick Ventures, in consultation with the Industrial Development Officer (Research Support Services) and the Head of Financial Reporting, would be preparing a draft institutional response to the Patent Office consultation for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the Patent Office by the deadline of 21 August 2006.

602/05-06 Senate Business

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 28 June 2006 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

603/05-06 Medical School MB ChB Regulations

RECEIVED:

A paper prepared by the University Secretary on issues relating to the timeframe for the award of independent degree-awarding powers for the Warwick Medical School which would be circulated for consideration by the Senate at its meeting to be held on 28 June in conjunction with the Report from the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (SC.391/05-06).

604/05-06 Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund 2006-2009: Submission to HEFCE
(minute 519/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University's submission to the HEFCE for the release of its institutional allocation of funding under the Teaching Quality Enhancement Fund for the period 2006 – 2009 (SC.377/05-06).

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

That the University had received notification that the priority areas and action plan for distribution of its TQEF funding allocation set out in its submission to the HEFCE had been approved.

605/05-06 Warwick in Asia: Draft Memorandum of Understanding with the National Institute of Education, Singapore

RECEIVED:

The draft Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore for the establishment of a mechanism and framework for the proposed collaborative provision of research and teaching activities in Singapore (SC.390/05-06).