

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 27 June 2005

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

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor A Caesar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Estates.

In Attendance: Ms K Stark, Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Communication, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 519/04-05 the Director of Warwick HRI.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor welcomed Ms Kat Stark, the incoming President of the Union of Students, to her first meeting of the Committee.

512/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2005 be approved.

513/04-05 EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards: Round 2 (minute 501/04-05 refers)

REPORTED: (by Professor Easton)

That the proposed Plasma Physics initiative from the Department of Physics and the UKAEA Culham Science Laboratory had been developed further and had been submitted as a third expression of interest from the University to the EPSRC in Round 2 of the Science and Innovation Award Scheme.

514/04-05 The Sunday Times League Table 2005 (minute 479/04-05 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That there had, reportedly, been very little engagement with the *Sunday Times* by members of University staff and at other institutions within the Russell Group in response to the newspaper's peer assessment survey.

515/04-05 HEFCE Review of Funding Methodology (minute 496/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University's response to UUK on HEFCE document 2005/21 'Review of the funding method for teaching: Aims of the new method and progress of the review' (SC.334/04-05).

516/04-05 40th Anniversary Gala Concert

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the success of the 40th Anniversary Gala Concert held on 23 June noting that there was strong support within the University for holding a similar concert on an annual basis.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee record its congratulations to the Director of Music on the success of the 40th Anniversary Gala Concert.

517/04-05 Burst Water Main on Kirby Corner Road

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Registrar on the water main burst on Kirby Corner Road on Saturday 25 June, which had caused some flood damage to the reception area at University House and the temporary loss of water supply to both the Central and Westwood campuses.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its thanks to all those members of staff involved in managing the issues arising from the water main burst for the speed and efficiency of their response.

518/04-05 Warwick Business School Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The 3rd quarter statement from the Warwick Business School for the financial year 2004/05 (SC.332/04-05) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Business School.

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

That the downturn in recruitment to full-time MBA programmes within the School and the corresponding uplift in recruitment to Executive Programmes was symptomatic of a general trend across the sector.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 3rd quarter statement for the Warwick Business School Devolved Budget for the financial year 2004/05 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.332/04-05.
- (b) That the Warwick Business School and the Personnel Office continue to take steps to exercise controls over fees expenditure on Executive Short Course Programmes within the School.

519/04-05 Warwick HRI Update and Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The 3rd quarter statement from Warwick HRI (WHRI) for the financial year 2004/05 and a report providing an update on key recent developments at WHRI (SC.324/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of WHRI.

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on his recent meeting with a representative from the Board of the East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) at which potential collaborations between EMDA and the Kirton Research Centre had been explored and which would be pursued by the Director of WHRI.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the 3rd quarter statement for the WHRI Devolved Budget for the financial year 2004/05 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.324/04-05.

- (b) That the steps currently being taken to dissuade the Inland Revenue from conducting a financial audit of WHRI be supported given that there would be a significant cost to the University in terms of the additional burden placed on WHRI staff should an audit proceed as proposed.

520/04-05 Warwick Medical School Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The 3rd quarter statement from the Warwick Medical School for the financial year 2004/05 (SC.335/04-05) 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 2004/05 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.335/04-05.
- (b) That the Warwick Medical School work with the Personnel Office and the Finance Office to reduce fees expenditure within the School.

521/04-05 NHS Institute

RECEIVED:

- (a) The prospectus for the new NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement (SC.328/04-05).
- (b) A copy of a press release on the appointment of Professor Bernard Crump as Chief Executive designate of the NHS Institute (SC.329/04-05).

REPORTED: (by Professor Carter)

- (a) That discussions on the restructuring of the Birmingham and Black Country, Staffordshire and Shropshire and West Midlands South Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) were currently underway with a view to the integration of these SHAs into a single body.
- (b) That the Warwick Medical School, the Warwick Business School and the Warwick Manufacturing Group were developing proposals for a feasibility study into the establishment of a Centre for Clinical Systems Improvement in collaboration with the NHS Institute, with a view to the submission of a full business plan for the Centre for consideration by the University and the Institute in the Autumn Term.

522/04-05 Higher Education Regulation Review Group: 1st Annual Report

RECEIVED:

The first annual report of the Higher Education Regulation Review Group (HERRG) and a press release from the Department for Education and Skills (SC.336/04-05).

523/04-05 EPSRC Update

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the EPSRC on the 2004 Spending Review (SR2004), full economic costing of research and EPSRC's delivery plan in regard to SR2004 and the 2004-2014 Science and Innovation Investment Framework (SC.327/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the progress of the EPSRC in taking forward the Research Councils' energy agenda, including the proposed appointment of a Senior Research Fellow as an 'energy envoy', be monitored.
- (b) That Professor Jones invite the Chief Executive of the EPSRC to the University for further discussions on the EPSRC's priorities and plans for investment.

524/04-05 Initial Teacher Training: PGCE Fees and TTA Review of Financial Incentives

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/05/83 providing an update on the status of PGCE fees and new student support arrangements for ITT students (SC.330/04-05) together with an oral report from the Registrar.

REPORTED: (by the Acting Director of Finance)

That the implementation of variable fees for PGCE programmes and the new student support arrangements arising from the TTA Review had been factored into the five-year plan for the Institute of Education and that this plan was currently reflecting a growing gross surplus.

525/04-05 Russell Group Statement on Scholarly Communication and Publishing

RECEIVED:

The statement on Scholarly Communication and Publishing adopted by the Russell Group in association with the Joint CURL/SCONUL Scholarly Communications Group (SC.331/04-05) together with an oral report from the Registrar.

526/04-05 Board of the Faculty of Arts: Undergraduate Appeals Committee

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of members of the Undergraduate Appeals Committee of the Board of the Faculty of Arts for the academic year 2005/06 be approved as set out in paper SC.322/04-05.

527/04-05 Course Restructure Proposal: Philosophy with Psychology

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Board of Undergraduate Studies on the proposed restructuring of the current BA in Philosophy and Psychology and BSc in Psychology and Philosophy to create a new degree BA Philosophy with Psychology (SC.337/04-05).

RECOMMENDED: (to the Senate)

That the proposed restructuring of the BA in Philosophy and Psychology and BSc in Psychology and Philosophy to create a new degree BA Philosophy with Psychology be approved as set out in paper SC.337/04-05.

528/04-05 Senate Business

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 29 June 2005 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

529/04-05 UUK Annual Review 2003/04

RECEIVED:

The 2003/04 Universities UK Annual Review together with a covering letter from the Chief Executive of UUK (SC.326/04-05).

530/04-05 UKVisas Fee Increase: Financial Times Letter (minute 503/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

A copy of the letter on the impact of visa fee increases on tourism written by the Chairman of VisitBritain, the Director-General of CBI and Sir Richard Branson and published in the Financial Times on Monday 20 June (SC.325/04-05).

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