

## THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 28 November 2005

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

Apologies: Professor M Luntley, Ms K Stark.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Estates, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt.

154/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2005 be approved.

155/05-06 Review of the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (minute 149/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by Professor Jones)

That the Department of Biological Sciences and the Medical School had indicated that they did not intend to respond to the Review of the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control.

156/05-06 CETL Additional Funding

RESOLVED:

That Professor Whitby, in consultation with Professor Bassnett and the Director of Estates, follow up on the reports made at the meeting on the development of the CETL additional funding bid for the refurbishment of physical space at Stratford for use by the CAPITAL Centre in advance of the next meeting of the Committee at which the final bids for CETL additional funding would be considered.

157/05-06 Additional Meeting of the Steering Committee

RESOLVED:

That members of the Committee reflect on whether there would be value in convening a further meeting of the Steering Committee before the Christmas vacation on a topic to be discussed and determined by the Committee at its next meeting.

158/05-06 THES Young Researcher of the Year

REPORTED:

That Dr Julie MacPherson, Reader in the Department of Chemistry, was the recipient of the first annual 'THES' Young Researcher of the Year Award at a national event held on 23 November 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee record its congratulations to Dr MacPherson on her outstanding achievement.

159/05-06 WBS Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The first quarter statement from the Warwick Business School for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.99/05-06) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Business School.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the first quarter statement for the Warwick Business School Devolved Budget for the financial year 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.99/05-06.
- (b) That a report be made to the Steering Committee for consideration on the proposed recruitment plans for the MBA and MPA programmes once proposals have been drawn up by WBS.

160/05-06 WHRI Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The first quarter statement from Warwick HRI for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.100/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of Warwick HRI.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the first quarter statement for the Warwick HRI Devolved Budget for the financial year 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.100/05-06.
- (b) That the Director of Warwick HRI discuss with the Director of Estates the opportunities for reducing energy charges for HRI through alignment with the University's overall energy purchasing policy.
- (c) That the Director of Warwick HRI continue to monitor the impact of changing DEFRA policies on research grant funding on Warwick HRI and include a report on this issue in the next WHRI report to the Committee.

161/05-06 Academic Statistics

RECEIVED:

A copy of the Academic Statistics document for the academic year 2005/06 together with an oral report from the Director of Academic and Student Affairs.

RESOLVED:

That any comment on the Academic Statistics document be referred to the Director of Academic and Student Affairs.

162/05-06 Tuition Fees for 2006/07

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for the setting of University tuition fees for Home/EU and overseas students and independently funded courses in the Warwick Business School (SC.96/05-06).

REPORTED:

That the 'real' costs of academic courses would be examined during the current academic year and would serve to inform the work of the Academic Activities Sub-Committee in reviewing new and existing courses offered by non-devolved and devolved academic departments.

RECOMMENDED: (to the Finance and General Purpose Committee)

- (a) That, subject to revision as discussed at the meeting, University tuition fees for Home/EU and overseas students and independently funded courses in the Warwick Business School for the academic year 2006/07 be approved as set out in paper SC.96/05-06.
- (b) That for planning purposes inflation plus 2% be used as the benchmark increase applied to tuition fees each year.

163/05-06 Warwick Undergraduate Aid Programme

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for the management and administration of the Warwick Undergraduate Aid Programme (WUAP) (SC.102/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University enter into a contract with the Student Loans Company to use the full Bursaries Portal service at a cost of £3.75 per eligible student as proposed in paper SC.102/05-06.
- (b) That the eligibility criteria and administrative arrangements for the WGA scholarships for the 2006/07 academic year be changed as proposed in paper SC.102/05-06 to enable the University to guarantee earlier in the admissions cycle a minimum of £1000 per annum to all applicants where families are in receipt of means-tested benefits or students who are classed as independent students for funding purposes.
- (c) That the development and direction of the arrangements for the management and administration of the WUAP be approved as set out in paper SC.102/05-06.

164/05-06 Accountability for HEIs

CONSIDERED:

A draft response to the HEFCE consultation paper on better regulation for higher education institutions through a new accountability process (SC.101/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the HEFCE consultation on Accountability for HEIs be approved as set out in papers SC.101/05-06.

165/05-06 Research Capability Funding

RECEIVED:

A copy of HEFCE circular letter 29/2005 on the continuation until 2008-09 of research capability funding to provide additional support for emerging research in disciplines where the research base is not as strong as in traditional disciplines (SC.103/05-06).