

## THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 30 January 2006

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair) (until 10.30am)  
Professor S B Palmer (Chair) (from 10.30am onwards)  
Professor S Bassnett  
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: Ms K Stark, Professor H Thomas.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 277/05-06 the Director of Warwick HRI, for item 280/05-06 Professor D Singer, for item 281/05-06 the Industrial Development Officer, for item 282/05-06 the Assistant Registrar (Graduate School).

273/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2006 be approved.

274/05-06 IT Issues

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the steps being taken by Information Technology Services to address the outstanding issues arising from the recent IT system failures and security attacks and indicating that the Director of ITS was to be approached to examine the feasibility of accelerating the migration of staff from Novell GroupWise to Microsoft Outlook.

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

That a review group had been established by IT Services to investigate the feasibility of introducing local installations of selected software to complement the current model of application delivery to managed desktops.

275/05-06 HR Framework

CONSIDERED:

Draft proposals for a revised academic career structure as part of the proposed implementation of the University's HR Framework and a report on the Academic Staff Committee's consideration of and recommendations on these proposals which would be considered by the Senate at its meeting on 1 February (S.24/05-06) together with oral reports from the Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Personnel.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee support strongly the proposed new academic career structure as set out in paper S.24/05-06 and the following principles guiding the restructuring of the University's HR arrangements for all University staff:

- (a) Reward group and individual contributions
- (b) Create flexible pay structures to help recruit and retain the best staff
- (c) Enhance opportunities for career development at all levels
- (d) Ensure equal pay for work of equal value.

276/05-06 Review of Teaching Quality Information

CONSIDERED:

HEFCE Circular Letter number 01/2006 on the review of the Teaching Quality Information (TQI) initiative and inviting volunteers to participate in a QAA review of the quality of TQI reports (SC.180/05-06).

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

That the University had been invited by the HE Academy to participate in a benchmarking exercise of e-learning in higher education.

RESOLVED:

That the University respond to the HEFCE by the deadline of 9 February 2006 to indicate its willingness to take part in the QAA review of the quality of TQI reports subject to confirmation from the Teaching Quality team that time and resource constraints would not preclude participation in the review.

277/05-06 WHRI Update

CONSIDERED:

A report providing an update on key recent developments at WHRI (SC.186/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of WHRI.

RESOLVED:

That steps be taken by the University to pursue rigorously with the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) the issues raised at the meeting in regard to the BBSRC's methodology for the allocation of studentships.

278/05-06 International Issues (minute 262/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A report on current international issues including the University's international strategy and US strategy, international student recruitment (incorporating source country analysis), activities in and links with China and Europe, the AC21 Conference and international student welfare (SC.168/05-06).
- (b) A report prepared by the Academic Registrar on the University's proposed participation in the conferences to be held in New Delhi in March 2006 as part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) (SC.176/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That responsibility for nominating a University representative to attend the UKIERI conferences to be held in New Delhi in March 2006 be delegated to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs and Equal Opportunities).

Faculty Issues(a) Faculty of Arts

## CONSIDERED:

A report on current developments and issues of concern within the Faculty of Arts, including issues considered at recent meetings of the Faculty Advisory Board, the appointment of a Deputy Chair for the Board of the Faculty of Arts, communication within the Faculty and the role of the Humanities Research Centre (SC.185/05-06) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Faculty of Arts.

## RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) be invited to participate in the ongoing discussions within the Faculty on the role and future of the Humanities Research Centre.

(b) Faculty of Medicine

## RECEIVED:

A report on current developments and issues of note within the Faculty of Medicine, including the General Medical Council quality assurance of basic medical education (QABME) review of the Warwick Medical School, options for additional accommodation for the WMS in the context of its ongoing expansion and proposed collaborative developments between the Universities of Warwick and Birmingham in the area of translational medicine (SC.185/05-06) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Medical School.

## REPORTED: (by the Dean of the Warwick Medical School)

- (i) That the first visit of the GMC QABME team would take place on 9 February 2006.
- (ii) That the expression of interest in bidding for additional medical student numbers submitted by the Leicester Warwick Medical Schools to the HEFCE and the Department of Health (minute 85/05-06 refers) and the bid for additional dental student numbers submitted by the Leicester Medical School had been unsuccessful.

(c) Faculty of Science

## RECEIVED:

A report on current developments and issues relating to research funding within the Faculty of Science and proposals for potential institutional key performance indicators, including the h index, (SC.184/05-06) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Faculty of Science.

## REPORTED:

(by the Chair of the Faculty of Science)

- (i) That a proposal from the Centre for Scientific Computing for University investment in High Performance Computing would be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee at its next meeting to be held on 6 February 2006.
- (ii) That it was expected that bids to host HECToR (High End Computing Terascale Resource), the planned next-generation national supercomputing service, would be invited in April 2006 and that discussions in regard to a potential bid from the University would be held in the coming week.

(d) Faculty of Social Studies

CONSIDERED:

A report on current developments and issues of concern within the Faculty of Social Studies, including ongoing accommodation concerns, IT issues, the development of an international strategy for the Faculty and the operation of the Faculty Advisory Board (SC.183/05-06) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Estates establish whether a University protocol existed for construction projects being undertaken on campus during term-time and report on the issue at a future meeting of the Committee.

280/05-06 Department of Health Sponsored Chair in Pharmacogenetics: Expression of Interest

CONSIDERED:

A draft expression of interest from the Warwick Medical School to the Department of Health for funding to sponsor the first UK University Chair in Pharmacogenetics (SC.181/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the draft expression of interest from the WMS for the Department of Health sponsored Chair in Pharmacogenetics be approved for submission to the Department of Health by the deadline of 31 January 2006.

281/05-06 HEIF3 (minute 264/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

A paper providing details of the University's involvement in collaborative bids for funding under Round 3 of the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF3) (SC.177/05-06).

282/05-06 QAA Special Review of Postgraduate Research Degree Programmes

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the QAA Special Review of postgraduate research degree programmes in England and Northern Ireland and a copy of the precepts from Section 1 of the QAA Code of Practice (SC.174/05-06) together with oral reports from the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies and the Assistant Registrar (Graduate School).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the QAA Special Review of postgraduate research degree programmes be approved as set out in paper SC.174/05-06 for submission to the QAA by the deadline of 10 February 2006.

283/05-06 Financial Forecasts and Annual Monitoring Statements: Outcomes for 2005

RECEIVED:

HEFCE document 2006/01 giving financial projections for the higher education sector for the period 2004/05 to 2008/09 and summarising the sector's annual monitoring statements for 2004/05 (SC.179/05-06).