

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 31 October 2005

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

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor S Bassnett, Ms K Stark, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Registrar.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Director of Personnel, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 97/05-06 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning), for item 98/05-06 the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation, for item 99/05-06 the Acting Director of the International Office, for item 101/05-06 the Assistant Director of Personnel (Policy and Projects).

92/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2005 be approved.

93/05-06 Graduate Issues (minute 55/05-06 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the minute of the meeting held on 17 October 2005 relating to Graduate Issues be amended as follows: (amendments underlined)

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Estates and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor responsible for accommodation matters, in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies, review the University's existing policy of allocation of space for postgraduate research students in the context of University and individual departmental priorities for the allocation of space within available resources.

94/05-06 Medical Research Council Institutional Discipline Bridging Award (minute 76/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Research})

- (a) That he, the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science and the Director of Research Support Services had determined that the expression of interest from the Warwick Medical School and the Warwick Manufacturing Group should be developed into a full bid for consideration by the MRC and the EPSRC.
- (b) That consideration would be given to investigating alternative sources of funding to support the proposal developed within the Department of Biological Sciences.

95/05-06 Warwick in Asia (minute 77/05-06 refers)

REPORTED:

- (a) That the Singapore Academic Planning Group established by the Vice-Chancellor to develop an alternative academic plan was currently in discussions with a range of academic departments on potential opportunities for academic development in Singapore and was seeking to deliver the alternative plan by early December.
- (b) That the Director of Communication was working with the Group to develop a set of key messages concerning the Warwick in Asia project to aid internal staff briefings.

96/05-06 Implant Dentistry

CONSIDERED:

A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Warwick, Global Implant Training (GIFT) and the Institute for Dental Advancement (IDEA) in regard to the proposed launch in Singapore of the Warwick MSc in Implant Dentistry (SC.71/05-06).

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

That the academic case for the proposed partnership between the University, GIFT and IDEA for the delivery of the Warwick MSc in Implant Dentistry in Singapore would be considered by the Collaborative, Flexible and Distributed Learning Sub-Committee of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee at its next meeting on 3 November.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft MoU between the University of Warwick, GIFT and IDEA be approved as set out in paper SC.71/05-06 on the understanding that the proposed partnership would be subject to financial scrutiny by the Acting Director of Finance.
- (b) That the Dean of the Warwick Medical School and the Director of Communication brief the Director of the Centre of Primary Health Care Studies and the Course Director of the MSc in Implant Dentistry at Warwick on an appropriate strategy for the management of any press enquiries on the Warwick in Asia project during the launch of the MSc programme in Singapore on 4 November.

97/05-06 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions

RECEIVED:

University data on home and overseas undergraduate and postgraduate intake projections against budget plan as at 24 October 2005 (SC.63/05-06).

98/05-06 Post-Qualification Applications Consultation (minute 24/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft response to the DfES consultation paper 'Improving the Higher Education Applications Process' prepared by the Academic Registrar, a summary of the proposed reforms, a briefing paper prepared by the Head of Student Admissions and Widening Participation and illustrative documents relating to undergraduate admission within the School of Law (SC.65/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft University response to the DfES consultation paper 'Improving the Higher Education Applications Process' be amended in line with the detailed comments made at the meeting and a final draft brought back for consideration by

the Steering Committee prior to submission of the University response to the DfES by the deadline of 5 December 2005.

- (b) That the University's response to the DfES consultation incorporate the University's significant concerns about the ability of UCAS to effectively implement the range of proposals set out in the DfES consultation document.

99/05-06 International Issues

CONSIDERED:

A report from the International Office on current international issues including the University's international strategy and US strategy, activities in and links with China and Europe, data on overseas student recruitment for the academic year 2005/2006 and student welfare issues (SC.60/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor responsible for International Affairs review the University's membership of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU) notwithstanding the University's existing commitment to host the ECIU Executive Board meeting in November 2005.

100/05-06 Campus Life

RESOLVED:

That consideration of this item be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee on 7 November when the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and the Community) and the Director of Academic and Student Affairs would be present.

101/05-06 Equality Impact Assessment (minute 486/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

A paper on the projected benefits afforded to the University through conducting Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) together with an update on the progress made to date and subsequent steps to be taken by the University in its undertaking of EIAs (SC.69/05-06).

102/05-06 New ESRC Grant Schemes (minute 79/05-06 refers)

REPORTED:

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Research})

- (a) That steps had been taken by Research Support Services earlier in the year to publicise the new ESRC grant schemes to all academic departments and that preparation of University bids for funding under the new schemes was already underway.

(by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies)

- (b) That the new ESRC grant schemes would be discussed at the next meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies and the next Faculty of Social Studies Lunch.

RESOLVED:

That it was the view of the Committee that the arrangements put in place by Research Support Services for the promulgation of the new ESRC grant schemes within academic departments were comprehensive and that, this being the case, an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) to update the Committee on the development of applications for funding under these schemes would suffice in place of a written report (minute 79(b)/05-06 refers).

- 103/05-06 Higher Education Innovation Fund Round 3: Funding Proposals
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/05/147 on the UUK response to the joint HEFCE/Office of Science and Technology (OST) consultation document on proposals for a third round of funding under the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF3) (SC.67/05-06).
- 104/05-06 National Teaching Fellowship Scheme Feedback (minute 613/04-05 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- Copies of correspondence between the University and the Higher Education Academy concerning the feedback provided by the National Advisory Panel on the nomination and selection process for National Teaching Fellowship Awards (SC.68/05-06).
- 105/05-06 Steering Committee Schedule of Policy Issues
- CONSIDERED:
- The Steering Committee schedule of policy issues for discussion during the academic year 2005/06 (SC.66/05-06).
- RESOLVED:
- (a) That the Steering Committee schedule of policy issues for the academic year 2005/06 be noted.
- (b) That reports on Research and 3rd Leg activities and HEIF2 Collaborative Programmes be scheduled as separate items for discussion within the Steering Committee Schedule of Policy Issues.
- 106/05-06 Research Councils UK Academic Fellowships
- REPORTED: (by Professor Jones)
- That Research Councils UK (RCUK) had invited all UK HEIs to submit applications for funding under the second round of the RCUK Academic Fellowship Scheme to support Academic Fellowships over the academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08.
- RESOLVED:
- That Professor Jones, with support from Research Support Services, prepare the University's application for funding under the RCUK Academic Fellowship Scheme for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to RCUK by the deadline of 18 January 2006.
- 107/05-06 University Links with Business and Industry
- REPORTED: (by Professor Jones)
- That he had recently been involved in discussions concerning potential collaborations between the University and organisations based within the Harwell Chilton Science Campus in Oxfordshire as well as with Telent plc (formerly Marconi) and expected that the ongoing discussions would present the University with significant future opportunities in the area of science and innovation.