

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 7 June 2004

Present: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair)
Professor Dyson
Professor Easton
Professor Jones
Mr R Jones
Professor Lauder
Professor McCrae
Professor McFarlane
Professor Palmer
Professor Thomas
Professor Whitby

Apologies: Professor Luntley

In Attendance: Registrar, University Secretary, Finance Director, Academic Registrar, Director of Personnel Services, Director of Student and Ancillary Services, Miss E Clewlow, for item 423/03-04 Deputy Dean of the Warwick Business School, for item 424/03-04 Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning), for item 426/03-04 Industrial Development Officer.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Jon Baldwin, the new Registrar, to his first meeting of the Steering Committee.

421/03-04 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2004 be approved.

422/03-04 Governance

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the meeting of the University Court held on 4 June at which outline proposals for changes to the roles and constitutions of the Court and Council had been discussed.

RESOLVED:

That outline proposals from the Governing Instruments Committee be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 14 June to inform discussions at the final meeting of the Governing Instruments Committee.

423/03-04 Warwick Business School Five Year Plan

CONSIDERED:

The Warwick Business School Five Year Plan 2003/04 – 2007/08 (SC.235/03-04) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Business School.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the WBS Five Year Plan be recommended for approval as set out in paper SC.235/03-04 subject to:
- (i) Finalisation of financial provision for the transfer of CHeSS from WBS to the Warwick Medical School.
 - (ii) Revision of research income targets and corresponding safety factors to reflect more ambitious targets for research income growth, to be used within the School.
 - (iii) Absorption of planned growth in staff and student numbers within the School's proposed allocation of accommodation with a view to selected accommodation in the Social Studies Building being released by the School after the construction of WBS Phase 3a.
 - (iv) Deletion of provision of a room for smokers from the plan for Phase 3a of the Business School.
 - (v) Final revision following the finalisation of the overall University Financial Plan.
 - (vi) The provision of further information on the following areas for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee:
 - (A) A breakdown of the way in which the School's fee payments to staff are allocated.
 - (B) An indication of the disciplinary areas into which it was intended to recruit new academic staff.
 - (C) A comparative overview of the roles of non-academic support staff within the School.
- (b) That the following proposed investment priorities for the Warwick Business School for the academic year 2004/2005 be approved in principle as set out in paper SC. 235/03-04:
- Infrastructure development
 - Recruitment of academic staff
 - Research
 - Management and decision-making
 - Undergraduate expansion and expansion of postgraduate portfolios.
- (c) That reports on the progress of the School's fundraising efforts be incorporated into future quarterly financial statements brought forward for consideration by the Committee.

424/03-04 University League Tables

CONSIDERED:

An analysis of the University's performance in the recently published University League Tables (SC.234/03-04) together with an oral report from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Personnel Services bring forward a report on the review being undertaken of the fees payroll for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting.
- (b) That further investigation be undertaken of the steps that might be taken to enable the University to present its investment in library and IT resources to its best advantage.
- (c) That the Committee record its best wishes to the Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning) for her maternity leave.

425/03-04 Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence

RECEIVED:

A report on the Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence for 2003/2004 (SC.232/03-04) together with an oral report from Professor Whitby noting that subsequent to the initial decisions of the Awards Panel:

- (a) That a new award for teaching excellence, established in honour of Lord Butterworth, had been awarded to Alison Cooley in the Department of Classics.
- (b) That the fourth Warwick Award had subsequently been awarded to Tony Arber in the Department of Physics.

426/03-04 Research and Innovation for the West Midlands

CONSIDERED:

A summary of the recommendations of the West Midlands Research and Innovation Audit undertaken on behalf of Advantage West Midlands (SC.233/03-04) together with an oral report from Professor Jones.

RESOLVED:

That Professor Jones and staff from Research Support Services use the informal channels of communication and influence at their disposal to indicate the University's position regarding the establishment and constitution of a Regional Innovation and Technology Council for the West Midlands.

427/03-04 Senate Business

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 16 June 2004 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.
- (b) That the Committee record its concern at the proposed reduction by the West Midlands Fire Service in the number of fire engines based at Canley Fire Station.