

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 1 December 2003

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor Carter
Professor Dyson
Professor Easton
Professor Jones
Professor McCrae
Professor McFarlane
Professor Mullender
Professor Palmer
Professor Whitby

Apologies: Mr R Jones, Professor Thomas, Director of Personnel Services.

In Attendance: Registrar, Academic Registrar, Administrative Secretary, Finance Director, Director of Student and Ancillary Services, Director of Communication, Miss E Clewlow, for items 110-111/03-04 Ms N Owen.

107/03-04 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2003 be approved.

108/03-04 Research Funding

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on a recently published newspaper article proposing reform of the dual funding system by allocating QR funding pro rata to research monies from the Research Councils.

RESOLVED:

That members of the Committee use the informal channels of communication and influence at their disposal to put the case against the further development of such proposals.

109/03-04 Higher Education Funding (minute 96/03-04 refers)

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the public and political debate surrounding the Government proposals for the future funding of Higher Education.

REPORTED:

That a meeting between members of the Russell Group and Government ministers to discuss the proposed HE legislation would be held on 4 December.

110/03-04 NHS University (minute 95/03-04 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University's bid to become the principal academic partner of the NHS University had been shortlisted and that representatives of the University and its partners would be making two presentations before the NHS University on 4 December.

111/03-04 UK/EU Student Population 2003/2004

CONSIDERED:

A comparison of the forecast UK/EU non self-financing student population for the academic year 2003/2004 and the actual student population recorded on the census date of 31 October 2003 (SC.69/03-04).

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Office be asked to provide for the Committee:

- (a) Combined data on self-financing and non self-financing courses in order that the University's overall position in relation to its Financial Plan might be more clearly illustrated.
- (b) Further trend analysis to inform the Committee's understanding not only of the University's financial position in relation to its student population but also of the key factors having an impact on the student recruitment market.

112/03-04 Foundation Degrees: Bid for Additional Student Numbers

CONSIDERED:

An outline proposal for a bid to the HEFCE for additional student numbers for foundation degrees (SC.70/03-04).

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar be requested to prepare and submit a formal bid to the HEFCE for 70 additional FTE student places with development funding to develop work in the following areas:

Post Compulsory Education and Training
Essential Skills Education and Training
Learning Support.

113/03-04 Funding and Development of Teaching and Learning Phase 5

CONSIDERED:

Draft bids from the Centre for Academic Practice and from the Department of Politics and International Studies for submission to the HEFCE as part of Phase 5 of the Funding and Development of Teaching and Learning scheme (SC.65/03-04) together with an oral report from Professor Whitby noting that the University was also a partner in two further bids in archaeology and in classics and that links were being made between these initiatives and the process for identifying potential bids to host Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

RESOLVED:

That the bids from the Centre for Academic Practice and from the Department of Politics and International Studies be approved for submission to the HEFCE as part of Phase 5 of the Funding and Development of Teaching and Learning scheme as set out in paper SC.65/03-04.

114/03-04 Eighteenth Century Collections Online

CONSIDERED:

A proposal to purchase a digital resource, the Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), for the University Library (SC.71/03-04) together with an oral report from the Head of Information Services.

RECOMMENDED: (to the Finance and General Purposes Committee)

That the proposal to purchase a digital resource, the Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), for the University Library be approved, subject to the following:

- (a) Receipt of a satisfactory service-level agreement from the supplier.
- (b) Further exploration of the feasibility of purchasing ECCO in partnership with a group of other HE institutions.
- (c) An indication from the Library of the proposal's relative standing within the Library's strategic priorities.

RESOLVED:

That future proposals of this type being brought forward for consideration by the Committee incorporate a cost-benefit analysis of the proposal and data to contextualise the bid in relation to the University's and the department's strategic priorities.

115/03-04 Report from the Estimates and Grants Committee to the Finance and General Purposes Committee

CONSIDERED:

The report from the meetings of the Estimates and Grants Committee held on 1 July, 14 October and 11 November 2003 for the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on 4 December 2003 (SC.57/03-04).

RESOLVED:

That the feasibility of incorporating into future reports a comparison of the financial position of departments with non-devolved budgets in relation to the University's Financial Plan be explored.

116/03-04 DfES Higher Education Research

RECEIVED:

A letter from the Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education setting out the key assumptions of the Government's position with regard to public funding of research in universities (SC.67/03-04).

117/03-04 Senate Business

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 3 December 2003 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

118/03-04 Awards and Distinctions

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Mullender had accepted a two-year appointment as Principal of Ruskin College, Oxford.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its congratulations to Professor Mullender on her appointment and its best wishes for her success in her new role.