

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 8 December 2003

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

Apologies: Professor Thomas, Registrar, Finance Director.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Administrative Secretary, Director of Student and Ancillary Services, Director of Personnel Services, Miss E Clewlow, for items 126-128/03-04 Ms A Bell.

125/03-04 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2003 be approved.

126/03-04 NHS University (minute 110/03-04 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That representatives of the University and its partners had made two presentations before the NHS University on 4 December as part of the University's bid to become the principal academic partner of the NHS University; the outcome of which was expected before Christmas.

127/03-04 Eighteenth Century Collections Online (minute 114/03-04 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A revised proposal to purchase a digital resource, the Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO), for the University Library (SC.74/03-04) together with an oral report from the Librarian and noting that the Finance and General Purposes Committee had approved the proposal subject to the additional information required by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 1 December being provided.

RESOLVED:

That, in the light of the additional information provided in paper SC.74/03-04, the proposal to purchase a digital resource, the Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) be supported, it being noted that:

- (a) the purchase would be funded in part by the 'windfall' refund from the purchase of Early English Books Online and contributions from departments in the Faculty of Arts.
- (b) the ongoing cost of ECCO would be taken into consideration in determining the extent of future Library funding to be allocated to support those Departments making use of the resource.

128/03-04 Electronic Journals

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Librarian on the new charging model for purchase of electronic journals being proposed by the publishing company, Elsevier, and its potential cost implications for the University at the end of its current procurement contract in 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the University support the response coordinated through the Russell Group and the 94 Group to oppose the proposed new charging model.

129/03-04 Gibbet Hill Student Resources Centre

CONSIDERED:

A proposal for the provision of a student resource centre for use by students at the Gibbet Hill site (SC.75/03-04) together with an oral report from the Vice-Dean of the Warwick Medical School.

REPORTED:

That the Central Timetabling Office was currently undertaking modelling of future requirements for teaching space at Gibbet Hill to establish whether any teaching space could be released to provide space for the proposed resource.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal to establish a study and resources centre for use by all students at the Gibbet Hill site be supported in principle, it being noted that the detailed allocation of accommodation for the proposed resources centre would be a matter for consideration by the Accommodation Review Group following the submission of a detailed bid for space.
- (b) That the Vice-Dean of the Warwick Medical School liaise with the Director of the Careers Advisory Service regarding the provision of careers advice and information for medical students.

130/03-04 Lambert Review of Business-University Collaboration

CONSIDERED:

The Final Report of the Lambert Review of Business University Collaboration (SC.72/03-04) together with a Government press release welcoming the Review Report and an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the likely implications of the Report for the University.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Academic Office evaluate the potential impact of the imminent acquisition of HRI, the growth of the Warwick Medical School and the recent major research grant awarded to the Warwick Manufacturing Group upon the University's standing in relation to the global benchmarks identified in the Review Report.
- (b) That Richard Lambert be invited to visit the University during the early part of the Spring Term to discuss the Review report on Business University collaboration.

131/03-04 Warwick Medical School Research Strategy

RECEIVED:

A report from the Warwick Medical School Research Sub-Group Awayday held on 14 November (SC.71/03-04) together with oral reports from the Dean of the Leicester Warwick Medical School and the Vice-Dean of the Warwick Medical School outlining the progress being made towards the development of a full research strategy for the Warwick Medical School.

REPORTED:

That confirmation was being sought from the Chief Executive of the HEFCE on the likelihood of additional investment by the Funding Council in research at new medical schools in advance of the next Research Assessment Exercise.

132/03-04 Council/Strategy Committee Awayday: 24 November

RECEIVED:

The notes of the Joint Council and Strategy Committee Awayday held on 24 November (SC.76/03-04).

133/03-04 Membership of Senate Committees

RESOLVED:

That consideration of the membership of the Equal Opportunities Committee be deferred until the meeting of the Steering Committee to be held on 15 December.

134/03-04 Transfer of Undergraduate Numbers

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the HEFCE had confirmed the transfer of student numbers from TTA to HEFCE funding from the academic year 2005/2006 following the closure of the BA(QTS) programme, noting that further consideration would need to be given to the internal allocation of these additional numbers.

135/03-04 Criminal Records Bureau Consultation

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That Academic Registrars Council intended to respond with caution to a Home Office consultation on a proposal to incorporate the submission of fingerprints into the Criminal Records Bureau's procedure for Disclosure applications.

136/03-04 Student Academic Complaints Committee

REPORTED:

That, with the consent of all parties involved in the ongoing consideration of a student complaint under the University's academic student complaint procedure, the Vice-Chancellor had taken Chair's action on behalf of the Senate to approve a change to the constitution and membership of the Student Academic Complaints Committee to allow the Vice-Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies to serve in the stead of the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies from the Spring Term 2004, in view of the Chair's departure from the University in late Spring to take up the post of Principal of Ruskin College.

137/03-04 Future Funding of Higher Education

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor regarding the positions being taken by the Russell Group, the '94 Group and the Coalition of Modern Universities in relation to the Government's proposals for the future funding of Higher Education.

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That the recently appointed Conservative Party spokesman on Higher Education had expressed an interest in visiting the University to discuss the funding gap in Higher Education.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Conservative Party spokesman on Higher Education be invited to visit the University.
- (b) That recent media coverage of the University of Cambridge's proposal for a student bursary scheme be circulated to members of the Committee for information.