

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 27 October 2003

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

Apologies: Professor Carter, Professor Lauder, Professor McCrae.

In Attendance: Registrar, Academic Registrar, Administrative Secretary, Finance Director,
Director of Personnel Services, Miss E Clewlow, for items 54-55/03-04 Ms N Owen.

53/03-04 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2003 be approved.

54/03-04 Undergraduate Curriculum Review Group (minute 599/02-03 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The final report of the Undergraduate Curriculum Review Group (SC.298/02-03) together with an oral report from Professor Whitby on the steps already being taken to articulate clearly and amplify the skills development opportunities inherent in existing academic programmes.

RESOLVED:

That Professor Whitby bring forward, at regular intervals, reports for consideration by the Steering Committee on the progress being made by the Board of Undergraduate Studies and the Skills Working Group, with support as appropriate from the Careers Service, to implement the recommendations of the Review Group.

55/03-04 Early Statement of Student Enrolments 2003/2004

CONSIDERED:

An early statement of projected undergraduate and postgraduate student numbers as at 31 October 2003 (SC.30/03-04) together with an oral report from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That further investigation be undertaken by the Academic Office, for report to the Committee, on the internal and external factors affecting the overall fall in projected taught and research postgraduate student numbers.
- (b) That a detailed definition and categorisation of students enrolled on non-standard courses be provided in future statements of undergraduate and postgraduate student numbers.

- (c) That the feasibility of submitting an additional University bid to host a Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning be explored in the light of the increase in the overall size of the University student population.

56/03-04 Degree Awarding Powers and University Title

CONSIDERED:

A draft University response to the DfES consultation on Degree Awarding Powers and University Title (SC.32/03-04) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Sir Alan Wilson, currently Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds, had been appointed as the first Director General for Higher Education at the Department for Education and Skills.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University response to the consultation on Degree Awarding Powers and University Title be approved for submission as set out in paper SC.32/03-04 subject to further elaboration of the University's position on the need for a process for reaching agreement on titles of newly created universities.
- (b) That any further comments from members of the Committee be forwarded to the Academic Registrar for incorporation into the University response prior to its submission to the DfES by 12 December.

57/03-04 Review of Research Assessment

RECEIVED:

A statement from the UK higher education funding bodies on the review of research assessment (SC.34/03-04).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That he intended to bring forward a paper on the future of the dual funding mechanism for research for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting.
- (b) That the Russell Group would be meeting on 4 November to consider its position on the future of research assessment and dual funding.

58/03-04 NHS University

RECEIVED:

Notification from the NHS University that the University's first stage bid to become the single high level partner to the NHSU had been successful and noting that a statement of requirements for the second stage bidding process would be issued in due course (SC.33/03-04).

59/03-04 Appointment to University Committees

Academic Staff Development and Appraisal Committee

RESOLVED: (on behalf of the Senate)

That Professor C Clark and Dr P O'Hare be appointed to replace Professor N Lazarus and Dr L Maxwell respectively on the Academic Staff Development and Appraisal Committee.

60/03-04 Invitation to Visit Hillfields: 12 November

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar and the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning represent the University at the 'Seeing is Believing' visit to the Hillfields Centre in Coventry on 12 November.

61/03-04 The Queen's Anniversary Prizes

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had been invited to submit an entry for the Queen's Anniversary Prizes in 2006, criteria for which would be published in Spring 2004.

RESOLVED:

That informal consultation be undertaken to identify potential entries for the Queen's Anniversary Prizes with any University entry being co-ordinated by the Administrative Secretary.