UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17 March 2010

Present: Vice-Chancellor (in the chair), Ms A Bell, Mr A Bradley, Professor L Bridges, Professor S Bruzzi (until item 60/09-10), Professor T Burnard, Professor R Burns, Professor A Caesar, Professor S Collinson, Professor M Cooper, Mr K Das (until item 59 (g)/09-10), Professor J Davey, Professor J Faundez, Dr A Greene, Dr F Griffiths, Dr M Hadley, Professor S Hand, Dr C Harrison, Professor M Harrison, Professor N Hewlett, Professor C Hughes, Professor N Johnson (until item 59/09-10), Professor T Jones, Ms S Khaku, Professor J Labbe, Professor K Lamberts, Professor A Muthoo, Professor B Rosamond, Professor J Seville, Professor M Smith (from item 57/09-10), Professor C Sparrow, Professor S Stewart-Brown, Professor J Thistlewaite, Professor S Thornton (until item 60/09-10), Professor M Underwood, Professor M Whitby (until item 68/09-10).

Apologies: Professor H Beale, Dr J Burrows, Professor T Docherty, Professor A Easton, Ms A Green, Professor R Higgott, Professor J Hutton, Dr M Pope, Professor B Thomas.

In attendance: Professor S B Palmer, Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance, Head of Governance Support Services, Administrative Officer (Governance).

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Professor Simon Collinson to his first meeting of the Senate as a representative of the Faculty of Social Sciences replacing Professor Howard Thomas.

55/09-10 Minutes

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Senate held on 27 January 2010 be approved.

56/09-10 Senior Academic Appointments

(a) Appointment of the Dean of Warwick Medical School

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Peter Winstanley, currently Head of the School of Clinical Sciences at the University of Liverpool, had been appointed as Dean of Warwick Medical School and that he would join Warwick in early May 2010.

(b) Appointment of the Dean of Warwick Business School

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Mark Taylor had been appointed as Dean of Warwick Business School and would take up the post from a date to be confirmed.

Note: Subsequent to the meeting, it was announced that Professor Taylor would take up the post of Dean of Warwick Business School from 1 April 2010.
(c) **Appointment of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor**

**REPORTED:** (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(i) That, in accordance with Ordinance 2, the Committee on the Appointment of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor had recommended to the Council that Professor Mark Smith, currently Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine), be appointed as the next Deputy Vice-Chancellor for a period of five years from a date to be agreed.

(ii) That once a decision had been received from the Council, the appointment would be communicated to the University community by the end of March 2010.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Senate warmly endorse the recommendation of the Committee on the Appointment of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor to the Council as set out above and congratulate Professor Smith.

57/09-10 **Financial Situation**

**REPORTED:** (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(a) That current predictions indicated that the UK national debt would increase and would have inevitable implications for the HE sector funding and public spending levels, regardless of which government was in power after the forthcoming general election.

(b) That further significant and long term cuts to public spending for unprotected areas (including HE) were anticipated with a cut equivalent to 5 percent of the HEFCE budget having already been applied to the sector, noting, however, that the University received 23 percent of its income directly from HEFCE.

(c) That Warwick needed to refocus its Strategy to ensure it survived the worst of the financial turmoil and this would need to be followed up with financial control which acknowledged that selective and strategic investment was sometimes required to ensure success, as well as recognising the importance of making economic savings.

(d) That the institution did not plan to impose a flat-rate savings target across all departments or services in this Financial Planning cycle but would carefully consider any difficult financial choices to be made as they arose, it being noted that the financial context within which universities were operating was still in continual flux.

58/09-10 **Implementation of the School of Life Sciences**

**REPORTED:** (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(a) That members of the Senate had received letters from academic colleagues in Warwick HRI and the Prospect Trades Union representative raising serious concerns and allegations of poor management and a lack of clear vision for the School of Life Sciences; charges which the University repudiated.
(b) That the selection criteria underpinning the consideration of staffing levels within the School sought to balance the requirements of all high-performing academic departments in terms of research and teaching quality and the criteria had been consulted upon with Trades Unions as well as being considered by the Steering Committee and finally being approved by the Academic Redundancy Committee.

(c) That the Academic Redundancy Committee would be invited to consider an amendment to the selection criteria to allow for equal consideration and value to be given to both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching as a result of feedback raised at recent Group Consultation meetings held at Warwick HRI and the Department of Biological Sciences and in the light of the concerns raised in the letters received by members of the Senate.

(d) That, whilst undertaking the managed process of contraction to implement the School of Life Sciences, the University was endeavouring to sustain areas of growth including engagement with industry and that Professor Tim Jones was pursuing the development of a business plan for this part of the programme.

(By the President of the Students’ Union)

(e) That the Chair of the Warwick HRI Student-Staff Liaison Committee wished the following student concerns to be brought to the attention of the Senate:

(i) Loss of supervisors and the potential adverse effect this would have on students’ ability to progress;
(ii) Potential lack of suitable alternative supervisors;
(iii) Loss of key facilities at the Wellesbourne Warwick HRI site;
(iv) The potential need for a facility to extend submission deadlines for those students most directly impacted, and
(v) The potential need for financial support for students who would exceed their period of funding because of the disruption to their studies.

(By the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

(f) That similar issues as those presented by the President of the Students’ Union had been raised by students in the Department of Biological Sciences and that these were being addressed, noting, however, that final arrangements for PhD supervision could not be resolved until the outcome of the staffing decisions was known.

(By the Deputy Registrar)

(g) That the basis of the call from academic colleagues and some Trades Unions for a delay to the selection process did not reflect the extensive period of consultation with these groups commencing in November 2009 and the subsequent group and individual consultation activities.

(By the Interim Chair of the School of Life Sciences)

(h) That any delay would only add to the uncertainty for staff and students concerned and that communication of the outcome of the process needed to be fair to individuals and swift to minimise further anxiety.

(i) That the Advisory Group did believe it was important not to discourage interdisciplinary research.
CONSIDERED:

The findings and recommendations of the Harris Report in the light of the feedback from the initial consultations held since the last meeting of the Senate (S.19/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

(a) That Model B (Strong Centre and Strong Departments) had emerged as the preferred option when the findings of the Harris Report had been considered at the recent Heads of Department Forum and the Steering Committee, acknowledging however that moderate change would be required to strengthen the role of Faculty Chair and in other areas in relation to academic resourcing.

(By Professor A Caesar)

(b) That the notion of reviewing the constitutional framework of the institution to ensure appropriateness in the context of external conditions should be supported and the implementation of the preferred model should be carried out to permit potential future revision.

(c) That consideration should be given to a change in nomenclature from ‘Chair’ of Faculty to ‘Dean’ to adequately reflect the responsibility and remit of the role, noting that the use of ‘Dean’ did not necessarily imply a budget-holding capacity.

(By Professor J Labbe)

(d) That a revision of the constitutions of the Boards of the Faculties to produce a more ‘executive’ body made up of Heads of Department would limit the engagement of other colleagues with university governance.

(e) That the adoption of Model A (creation of a Faculty structure) would require an initial deconstruction of the University’s structure at all levels to facilitate the creation of Faculty-based structures rather than the positive strengthening provided by Model B.

(By Professor T Jones)

(f) That Model A appeared to permit the University to respond strategically in a easier fashion than in Model B because the decision-making routes of Model B were unclear and would provide less contact time with management for departments.

(By Professor L Bridges)

(g) That consideration within the implementation of any constitutional change must be given as to how postgraduate issues were discussed at an institutional and strategic level.
RESOLVED:

(a) That the ‘Strong Centre – Strong Department’ (Model B) should be supported in principle, with more detailed proposals and timescales being explored by the Implementation Group with a view to considering these at a meeting of the Senate in the summer term 2010.

(b) That the Senate broadly support the key recommendations and issues identified for further consideration within the Harris Report (as set out in Annex A of S.19/09-10), as well as additional consideration of the issues around the management of joint degrees in the Strong Department model.

(c) That the Senate confirmed that the areas of general consensus or note set out in section 3 of the Harris Report should be used to guide the work of the Implementation Group and others.

60/09-10 Report from the Steering Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Steering Committee (S.20/09-10 {parts 1 and 2}) and its resolutions recorded under the following items together with a report from the Vice-Chancellor:

(a) Withdrawal of the Warwick English Test

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(i) That, subsequent to the circulation of the report from the Steering Committee to members of the Senate, the Committee approved a recommendation from the Director of the Centre for Applied Linguistics and the Director of the International Office to withdraw the Warwick English Language Test (WELT).

(ii) That the WELT, as currently constituted, would not meet the enhanced English Language Test requirements being implemented by the UK Border Agency and would require significant investment to re-constitute it to do so, noting that also the test served only a small number of applicants and the withdrawal did not incur any staffing implications.

(iii) That a comprehensive communications plan was underway to communicate the decision to staff, partners, and particularly to allow potential WELT applicants to make alternative arrangements.

(b) Response to the HEFCE Revised Financial Memorandum Consultation

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(i) That, further to consideration of the final Russell Group response, it was decided that the University, along with a number of other institutions, should submit its own response directly to the HEFCE to ensure that their individual concerns were raised.

(ii) That HEFCE intended to apply any amendments from 1 August 2010 and the Senate would be informed of the outcomes of the consultation.
(c) HEFCE Consultation on Regulating HEIs as Charities

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(i) That the University had responded to HEFCE’s consultation on its role as the regulator of HEIs as charities with the key issue to be addressed in responding to this consultation being to ensure HEFCE did not go further than required under charities legislation when regulating the operation of universities in this regard.

(ii) That the Senate would be informed of the outcomes of the consultation at a future meeting.

(d) Research Strategy Update

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University continued to make positive progress in the strategic advancement of research activities enjoying considerable success in applications for European Research Council fellowships, winning two Young Investigator awards and three Advanced awards and securing an award of £17m of Advantage West Midlands funding to the Low Carbon Vehicle Technology Project.

(e) Proposal for an Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(i) That the Steering Committee had considered and supported a proposal to create an Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL) to galvanise focus and innovation in teaching across the University and to ensure that where initiatives were successful, they would be disseminated and encouraged more widely.

(ii) That an outline financial proposal had been given initial consideration by the Financial Plan Sub-Committee and while it was acknowledged that the precise details of implementation for the creation of the IATL would need to be further developed, commitment to the broad rationale and principles for the creation of an IATL was given.

(f) Admissions and Student Recruitment Update

(g) Carbon Reduction Targets and Strategy for HE (HEFCE 2010/01)

(h) New Student Residences

(i) Award of Queen’s Anniversary Prize

(j) Policy Review Articles by the Higher Education Minister and the Shadow Universities Secretary

(k) University of Warwick/University of Birmingham Bid for HEFCE Graduate Internship Funding

(l) HEFCE Circular 03/2009: Employer Co-Funded Additional Student Numbers for 2010/11

(m) Report from the Fees Working Group

(n) HEFCE EP 02/2010: New Student Number Control for 2010/11

(o) HEFCE 2009/49: Outcomes of HEFCE Review of Policy Relating to Disabled Students

(p) Draft of Revised University Information Security Policy

(q) Higher Education Early Student Statistics (HESES) Audit

(r) Visit of Sir Mark Walport

(s) International Update
61/09-10 Report from the Academic and Quality Standards Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (S.21/09-10 (parts 1 and 2)) and its resolutions and recommendations recorded under the following items together with a report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience):

(a) QAA Auditor Nominations

RESOLVED:

That the Senate record its thanks to Dr Lamburn for his engagement with the QAA auditor process on behalf of the University.
(b) National Student Survey

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the current response rate for the National Student Survey was some 10 percent lower than at the comparable point last year with two weeks of the survey remaining.

RESOLVED:

That academic colleagues encourage all eligible students to complete the survey prior to the closing date of 30 April 2010.

(c) Change to Regulation 37

RECOMMENDED: (to the Council)

That the proposal from the Academic Quality and Standards Committee to revise Regulation 37 governing Postgraduate Taught Degrees as set out in BGS 37/09-10 be approved.

(d) Change to Ordinance 13

RECOMMENDED: (to the Council)

That the proposal from the Academic Quality and Standards Committee to revise Ordinance 13 on Degrees and Diplomas as set out in GFSS 182/09-10 be approved.

(e) Collaborative Course Proposals

(i) Centre for Lifelong Learning: collaboration with AGCAS and NASES

RESOLVED:

That the proposal from the Centre of Lifelong Learning to introduce the MA in Career Education, Information and Guidance in Higher Education, and the MA in the Management of Student Work Experience, in collaboration with the Association of Graduate Careers Advisor Services (AGCAS) and the National Association of Student Employment Services (NASES), be approved as set out in papers CFDLSC 24-31/09-10.

(ii) Complexity Science: collaboration with the University of Gothenburg, Chalmers University and Ecole Polytechnique

RESOLVED:

That the proposal for a new MSc in Complex Systems Science (University of Warwick) in collaboration with the University of Gothenburg, Chalmers University and Ecole Polytechnique, be approved as set out in papers SGS 46-49/09-10.
RESOLVED:

That the proposal to introduce a new PGA, ‘Subject Pedagogy Development (Prince’s Teaching Institute)’ be approved as set out in papers GFSS 117, 119 and 121/09-10.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal from the Institute of Education to introduce a new Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation in Education (Advanced Teaching through Peer Coaching), as an extension to the existing collaboration with the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, be approved as set out in papers GFSS 145/09-10 and 147-151/09-10.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal from the Institute of Education to introduce a Masters in Teaching and Learning be approved as set out in papers GFSS 48, 133, 135 and 136/09-10, and paper AQSC 52/09-10.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal from Warwick Manufacturing Group to introduce a new post-experience franchise module, Lean Sigma – Basics, be approved as set out in papers SGS 23/09-10 and 24/09-10.

(62/09-10) Report from the Equality and Diversity Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Equality and Diversity Committee (S.22/09-10) and its resolutions and recommendations recorded under the following items together with a report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience):
(a) Revisions to Terms of Reference for the Equality and Diversity Committee

RECOMMENDED: (to the Council)

That the revisions to the terms of reference for the Equality and Diversity Committee be approved as set out in S.22/09-10 and as follows:

(...)

(ii) To ensure the effective communication and dissemination of the University’s equality and diversity related policies and action plans. To review, develop and monitor the implementation of the University’s equality and diversity Policies and to ensure that all such policy comply with the law and are effectively disseminated to University staff, and other members of the University.

(...)

(b) Promotion and Probation Monitoring Report 2008/09

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience))

That the age differential between female and male academic colleagues applying for and achieving promotion within the institution was standard across the sector.

(c) ECU Report “Governing Bodies – Equality and Diversity"
(d) Athena SWAN Charter
(e) Staff Statistics Report 2008/09
(f) Recruitment Data Monitoring Report 2008/09
(g) Student Attainment 2009

63/09-10 Report from the University Health and Safety Executive Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the University Health and Safety Executive Committee (S.23/09-10) and its recommendations and resolutions recorded under the following items together with a report from the Registrar:

(a) Annual Health and Safety Report for 2009

RECOMMENDED: (to the Council)

That the Annual Health and Safety Report for 2009 as set out in UHSEC.09/09-10 be approved.

(b) Fire Safety Policy

RECOMMENDED: (to the Council)

That the existing Fire Control Policy be withdrawn with immediate effect and that the Interim Fire Safety Policy be approved, with a view to further development work being undertaken on the Interim Policy following wider consultation and feedback across the University.
64/09-10  Report from the Board of the Faculty of Arts

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Board of the Faculty of Arts (S.24/09-10).

(a) Amendments to the Constitution of the Centre for Caribbean Studies

RESOLVED:

That the proposal to amend the constitution of the Centre for Caribbean Studies as set out in Paper BFA.11(revised)/09-10 be approved, it be noted that the University’s commitment to name the Centre the “Yesu Persaud Centre for Caribbean Studies” until 2024 should not take precedence over the University’s scope to continue to measure the sustainability of the Centre on grounds of academic performance.

(b) Translation Studies
(c) Festival of Arts
(d) Faculty of Arts Advisory Board

65/09-10 Honours Degree Classification Conventions

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to the 2008 honours degree classification convention (S.25/09-10) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Resourcing).

RESOLVED:

(a) That the proposed amendments to the 2008 Honours Degree Classification Convention and University Regulation 8 Governing First Degrees as set out in S.25/09-10 and below be approved:

(i) Additional classification conventions for the following degrees:

(A) BA History, Literature and Cultures of the Americas
(B) LLB European Law
(C) First Degrees in the School of Engineering

(ii) Revisions to the Convention relating to the Seymour Formula

(iii) Amendments to Regulation 8 to permit students to carry forward the 40 percent pass mark achieved via a resit examination
(b) That proposals concerning the classification conventions applicable to joint degrees, issues relating to additional credit and the Seymour formula and proposals for University-wide progression requirements to apply to students who joined Warwick in autumn 2009 or later be submitted for the consideration of the Senate in the summer term.

66/09-10 Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(a) That the current period of office of Professor Whitby as Pro-Vice-Chancellor would expire on 31 July 2010 and he was not eligible to seek reappointment having served the maximum period allowed under Ordinance.

(b) That Professor Higgott had informed him of his intention, due to family reasons, to step down from his post as Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

(c) That, dependent on the decision of the Council, Professor Smith would step down from his position as Pro-Vice-Chancellor to take on the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor from a date to be agreed.

(d) That, in accordance with Ordinance 3, the Senate was advised that would be at least two and up to three vacancies for the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor from this summer, noting that all such vacancies would be advertised using the University’s intranet (Insite) and all eligible Professors would be advised by email in the first week of April.

(e) That the Committee on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors would be constituted as specified in Ordinance 3, inclusive of the Vice-Chancellor, three members of the Senate and a lay member of the Council, would undertake a selection process early in the Summer Term with a view to recommending to Council candidate(s) for the role of Pro-Vice-Chancellor commencing 1 September 2010.

67/09-10 Revisions to University Ordinances and Regulations

CONSIDERED:

Proposed revisions to the following governing instruments of the University (S.26/09-10):

(a) Ordinance 7 on the constitution of the Boards of the Faculties
(b) Ordinance 10 on departments
(c) Regulation 9 on the constitution on Boards of Examiners
(d) Regulation 15 for Higher Doctorates
(e) Regulation 22 - General Library Regulations
(f) Regulation 28 covering the Patenting and Commercial Exploitation of Research Results
(g) Regulation 30 on the Procedure for appointment of Heads of Joint Schools in the Faculties of Arts & Social Sciences
(h) Regulation 31 governing the Use of University Computing Facilities

RECOMMENDED: (to the Council)

That the proposed revisions to University Ordinances 7 and 10 and Regulations 9, 15, 22, 28 and 31 as set out in S.26/09-10 be approved.
Awards and Distinctions

RECEIVED:

A paper setting out the awards and distinctions that have been conferred upon members of the University since the meeting of the Senate held on 27 January 2010 (S.27/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That in addition to those awards and distinctions presented in S.27/09-10, Professor Pat Unwin, Department of Chemistry, had been awarded a European Research Council Advanced Investigator award – bringing Warwick’s total to three.

Conferral of Title of Emeritus Professor

REPORTED:

(a) That the Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate, had recommended the conferral of the title of Emeritus Professor on the following colleagues with effect from their retirement (given in brackets below):

Professor Lynne Roberts, Department of Biological Sciences (2 July 2010)
Professor Bernard Capp, Department of History (30 September 2010)

(b) That the Pro-Chancellor had taken Chair’s action on behalf of the Council to approve the above recommendations.

Sabbatical Officers in the Students’ Union

REPORTED:

(a) That the results of the election for Sabbatical Officers in the Students’ Union for the academic year 2010/11 were as follows:

President: Daniel Stevens, Philosophy (PPE)
Education Officer: Sean Ruston, Politics and International Studies
Democracy and Communications Officer: Chris Luck, History
Sports Officer: George Whitworth, Mathematics
Finance Officer: Stuart Stanley, Computer Science
Societies Officer: Andy White, Accounting and Finance
Welfare Officer: Leo Boe, Politics and International Studies

(b) That, in accordance with Regulation 36.1 (12), it would be necessary for the Senate at its meeting on 7 July 2010 to consider the conferral of registered student status on the students named above.

(c) That the second student representative on the Senate will be Sean Ruston, 3rd year Politics and International Studies student noting that the third student representative, Matthew Smalley, 2nd year Engineering student, had been appointed subsequent to the circulation of papers to the Senate.