

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

SENATE

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Wednesday, 9 November 2016

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair), Ms S Crookes, Professor A Dowd, Professor C Ennew, Professor S Gilson, Professor L Gracia, Mr R Green, Professor L Green, Mrs K Hughes, Professor S Jacka, Professor D Leadley, Professor G Lindsay, Mr L Pilot, Professor R Probert, Professor A Reeve, Professor P Roberts, Professor A Rodger, Dr N Shiers, Professor J Solomos, Professor H Spencer-Oatey, Professor S Swain, Professor P Thomas, Ms H Worsdale.
- Apologies: Professor M Balasubramanian, Professor D Branch, Dr D Britnell, Professor S Bruzzi, Professor A Clarke, Professor A Cooley, Professor C Davis, Professor F Griffiths, Professor G Hartshorne, Professor Christopher Hughes, Professor M Freely, Professor S Jacka, Professor S Kumar, Professor A Lockett, Professor J Millar, Professor J Palmowski, Professor K Seers, Professor M Shipman, Professor C Sparrow, Professor L Roberts, Dr Thijs van Rens, Professor L Young.
- In attendance: Academic Registrar, Administrative Officer (Academic Registrar's Office), Deputy Academic Registrar, Group Finance Director, Registrar, Secretary to Council.

27/16-17 Warwick Welcome Week

RECEIVED:

- (a) A paper providing an updated proposal for a Warwick welcome week (S.22/16-17), together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar noting:
- (i) That the proposal to offer a co-ordinated welcome week to undergraduate students in addition to postgraduate and overseas students had been developed in response to feedback that a lecture-free first week would provide the necessary time to support orientation and transition.
 - (ii) That the proposal had been discussed at the most recent meetings of the Boards of the Faculties, and that the model of having a welcome week in the current week zero had received wide support.
 - (iii) That the Boards of the Faculties had requested that departmental engagement with the proposal be developed; that more detail be added to the proposed content of the week; that there should be a balance of activities avoiding a tendency towards alcohol-based socialising, and that there should be a strong 'wellbeing' theme.
 - (iv) That further work was required to ensure that conference bookings and major work to the estate could be appropriately accommodated, and to create a clear project plan to ensure successful delivery.
 - (v) That the Senate would be invited to consider a detailed implementation plan at its meeting to be held on 1 February 2017.

CONSIDERED:

- (b) Observations from Mr Luke Pilot that the Students' Union and the University had worked together to explore possibilities around an extended welcome event, and that the wellbeing of students had been a motivating factor for this process.
- (c) In response to a query from Professor David Leadley regarding analysis undertaken of other universities' practice, that as part of operational planning to be taken forward, other institutions with well-regarded welcome week provision be consulted on the reasons to which they attributed to their success.
- (d) An observation from Professor Simon Gilson that the Students' Union had been thoughtful in their engagement with the project, noting that the University and Union should remain alert to the possible need to defer implementation in the event that there was any concern about the ability of the project to deliver a high calibre welcome week experience.
- (e) In response to a query from Professor Alison Rodger, that in the light of the Senate's contentment with planning to date, a project team would be assembled to work towards a delivery plan which would be brought forward for consideration on 1 February 2017.

28/16-17 Teaching Excellence Framework

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A paper from the Academic Registrar considered by the Council at its meeting on 20 October 2016, seeking approval for submission by the University to the TEF 2 assessment process, and requesting that authority be delegated to the Steering Committee to approve the submission on behalf of the Senate and the Council, together with a coversheet authored by the President of the Students' Union proposing that the University not make a submission to the TEF 2 assessment process (S.23/16-17).
- (b) Oral reports from the President of the Students' Union, the Postgraduate Sabbatical and the Education Officer, noting;
 - (i) That the TEF was based on flawed metrics and would constitute an inadequate measure of teaching quality serving neither students, the University nor the Higher Education sector.
 - (ii) That the TEF would entrench the marketisation of higher education, and that rejection of the TEF by the University whilst there was an opportunity to do so was encouraged in order to send a clear signal of the University's opposition to a flawed assessment model.
 - (iii) That some other Russell Group institutions were believed to be considering opting out of the TEF, and that Warwick should lead the sector by proposing more appropriate measures of teaching quality.
- (c) In response to the inputs from the Sabbatical Officers, observations from the Vice-Chancellor that he had regularly provided counter arguments to Government regarding the TEF, but that the landscape had changed recently and he now knew of no Russell Group institution that planned to opt out of TEF; that not being included in the TEF would in future preclude the recruitment of overseas students in line with recently-articulated Government policy and that

whilst the Senate was the University's supreme academic authority, as the University's governing body, the Council was required and empowered to act in the long term interests of the health of the University and to act in a way which would jeopardise the University's financial sustainability would be negligent.

- (d) An observation from Professor Amanda Dowd that if the University was prevented from recruiting international students, it would have catastrophic results for both Warwick Business School and WMG with implications for the cross-subsidisation of other Warwick departments.
- (e) An observation from the Vice-Chancellor in response to comments from Professor Helen Spencer-Oatey that a Government consultation was expected to be announced shortly arising from the policy statements made in the recent speech by the Home Secretary at the Conservative Party Conference in relation to international student recruitment.
- (f) An observation from Professor John Solomos that to opt not to participate in TEF would be detrimental to the University.
- (g) In response to an observation from Professor Penny Roberts that non-participation would be problematic, but that she would appreciate reassurance that the University would continue to make representations about problems inherent in the TEF, that the Provost had been invited to join a group of Russell Group institutions convened to assist the Government in designing future iterations of the TEF, and that participation would enable her to make a contribution of shaping the TEF.
- (h) In response to a query from Professor Laura Green regarding whether the Sabbatical Officers had discussed their stance with other universities' students' union', and the engagement of the National Union of Students with Government, that students' unions nationwide had been campaigning against current educational reforms.
- (i) In response to a request from the Sabbatical Officers for a vote on whether the Senate supported the recommendation of the Students' Union that the University not participate in the TEF, that contributing speakers had demonstrated a clear sense that the meeting favoured participation and thus a vote not be granted.

29/16-17 * Prevent

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A draft of the University's Annual Report to the HEFCE on the implementation of the Prevent Duty (S.24/16-17), due to be considered by the University Council at its meeting on 17 November 2016.
- (b) An oral report from President of the Students' Union, noting;
 - (i) That the Prevent at Warwick web pages (<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/supportservices/prevent>) set out the University's Prevent Action Plan, shaped by a working group including students and administrative colleagues.
 - (ii) That Islamophobia and racism was integral to the Prevent Duty and institutional training in identification and avoidance of these behaviours would be necessary.

- (iv) That the latest version of the University's Annual Report to the HEFCE on the implementation of the Prevent Duty should be published on the Prevent at Warwick webpages as soon as possible.
- (v) That there were concerns relating to the role of the Chaplaincy in connection with the Prevent Duty.
- (c) Observations from the Vice-Chancellor that the University's priority was appropriate compliance with the Prevent Duty; that training for staff had been delayed due to concerns previously reported and the importance of identifying an appropriate training package; and that he and the Registrar were to meet collectively with the Chaplains presently.
- (d) An observation from Professor John Solomos that the University espoused inclusiveness and that messages relating to the University's commitment could perhaps benefit from strengthening so as to reassure sections of the community liable to feel more vulnerable as a consequence of the Prevent agenda.
- (e) An observation from Professor Laura Green that a Warwick welcome week agenda should include an equality and diversity theme which made explicit Warwick's beliefs and attitudes and the responsibilities of all members of the Warwick community.