

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Strategy Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Strategy Committee held on 24 February 2005

Present: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair), Professor L Bridges, Professor A Caesar, Professor Y Carter, Professor R G Dyson, Professor A Easton, Mr C Foy, Professor J Jones, Mr J P Leighfield, Mr S Lucas, Professor M Luntley, Professor S B Palmer, Professor H Thomas, Professor M Whitby.

Apologies: Ms V Gooding, Ms S J Hobson, Dr I Nussey, Mr B Woods-Scawen.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Student and Academic Affairs, Estates Director, Finance Director, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary.

8/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2004 be approved.
- (b) That the notes of the joint meeting of the Council and the Strategy Committee held on 24 November 2005 be approved.

9/04-05 External Developments

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the following significant developments in the Higher Education sector and their projected impact on the University:

- (a) Future HEFCE funding, supported by the HEFCE press statement on HE funding for 2005-06 to 2007-08 and the letter from the Secretary of State to the Chairman of the HEFCE dated 13 December 2004.
- (b) The introduction of full economic costing of University research grants funded by the Research Councils which was expected to benefit the University financially, with effect from summer 2005, by a sum of around £1m per annum greater than that originally projected.
- (c) The introduction of Top Up Fees, the Warwick Undergraduate Aid Programme and the University's Access Agreement which was under consideration by OFFA and which the University expected to be approved on 11 March 2005.
- (c) The Tomlinson Report: Review of 14-19 Education and the Government's decision to retain A level qualifications notwithstanding the recommendations contained within the Report.
- (d) The proposed Post Qualifications Admissions System and the steps which the University and the Vice-Chancellor had taken to propose alternatives to the proposed system as currently framed.

- (e) The recent Home Office ruling on visa renewals and the imposition of substantial additional costs on students seeking visa renewals.
- (f) The progress of University development and fundraising activities of which the University's 40th Anniversary celebrations comprised a significant component in the current academic year.
- (g) The allocation of funding to the University by the Research Councils and the HEFCE of £23m from the Science and Research Investment Fund (Round 3) and the Project Capital 4 Fund, which had to be supported by a further £2.6m contribution from the University to secure the release of funding, and the proposed allocation of funding to specific projects which was under consideration by a Group chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

10/04-05 Financial and Strategic Planning Round

RECEIVED:

- (a) A report on the conduct of the University's Financial and Strategic Planning Round for the current academic year (JCSSC.7-04/05).
- (b) An oral report from the Registrar on the successful introduction of the Administrative and Service Departments Annual Review (ASDAR) process during the current academic year.

11/04-05 University Capital Developments

CONSIDERED:

A report on University Capital Developments and priorities over the coming planning period (JCSSC.8-04/05) together with an oral report and presentation from the Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That immediate steps be taken to investigate the opportunity to purchase the building on the Science Park land.
- (b) That consideration of the remaining options contained within section 4 of the paper be reviewed in the context of the University's emerging Capital Development Plan, taking into account the points raised in discussion at the meeting, and where appropriate brought forward for consideration in the coming Financial and Strategic Planning round.

12/04-05 University Academic Profile

CONSIDERED:

A report on the University's Academic Profile incorporating data on League Table ratings, teaching grant per student fte, income and expenditure by Faculty, research grant and contract income and staff and student numbers (JCSSC.9-04/05).

RESOLVED:

That the following key points raised in discussion at the meeting be notes to inform future University strategic planning and the development of the University's Financial and Strategic plan in the forthcoming planning round:

- (a) That a key priority for the University should be to expand its Science base and that developing initiatives in health might assist to support such expansion.
- (b) That opportunities should be sought to develop new collaborative opportunities with other HEIs at a regional, national and international level.
- (c) That the development of new interdisciplinary activities, within and across faculties, should be a high priority for the University.
- (d) That there was a need to develop a University strategy for securing large research external grants.

13/04-05 Date of Next Meeting

REPORTED:

That the next meeting of the Committee would be held at 10.00am on Thursday 5 May.