

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee held on 25 May 2006

Present: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair), Professor S Bassnett, Professor L Bridges, Professor A Caesar, Professor Y Carter, Sir Donald Irvine, Professor J D S Jones, Professor M Luntley, Dr I Nussey, Sir John Temple, Professor M Whitby.

Apologies: Mr C Foy, Mr J Leighfield, Professor M Smith, Professor H Thomas, Mr B Woods-Scawen.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Estates Director, Finance Director, Registrar, Senior Assistant Registrar (Governance), University Secretary.

20/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 May 2006 be approved.

21/05-06 University Financial Plan

CONSIDERED:

The first draft of the University Financial Plan for the period 2006 to 2010 (JCSSC 15/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of Finance and the Vice-Chancellor.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Finance)

- (a) That the resolution of the national pay dispute was expected to have a significant impact on the University Financial Plan should a settlement greater than 12.6% over 3 years be agreed.
- (b) That individual plans and proposals were being reviewed and discussed with relevant Heads of Department to increase the University surplus as a percentage of income.
- (c) That discussions with Advantage West Midlands were ongoing to resolve satisfactorily their error in awarding the University a grant as revenue rather than capital and that a safety factor of £500,000 had been incorporated into the plan to take account of this.
- (d) That University Safety Factors had not been implemented in full in the past including on those occasions when the University recruited lower than expected student numbers.
- (e) That £1m pa had been earmarked in the Financial Plan as a contingency fund for the incoming Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the levels of surplus in the draft Plan and the risks associated with the plan be noted.

- (b) That a revised draft of the University Financial Plan for the period 2006 to 2010 be prepared in the light of discussions at the meeting, and in the expectation that increased surpluses as a percentage could be achieved in the final draft of the Plan, for consideration at the next meeting of the Strategy Committee.

22/05-06 University Capital Plan (minute 16/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A summary University Capital Plan and commentary on accommodation issues (JCSSC.16/05-06)
- (b) A paper setting out the global priorities for the University's five year Capital Plan (JCSSC.17/05-06)

REPORTED:

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Campus and the Community) and the Director of Estates)

- (a) That, following consultation with representatives from all four Faculties the Accommodation Review Group had determined that the three highest priorities for physical development were the Millburn House extension, the Warwick Medical School expansion and the Mathematics and Statistics extension.
- (b) That the possibility of renovating Willow Lodge on the Westwood site was current being explored.
- (c) That the implementation of the proposed University Capital Plan would be the subject of consideration at the next meeting of the Building Committee including the provision of the necessary planning and development resources to ensure fulfilment of the Plan.
- (d) That there were a number of potential capital developments which were not yet included in the University Financial Plan since they were awaiting finalisation and approval of appropriate business plans.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (e) That it was necessary for consideration to be given to the long-term strategic development of the University and the accommodation requirements associated with that development, as well as the capital developments required in the short-term to resolve existing capacity constraints.
- (f) That three of the key medium to long-term strategic developments requiring further consideration within the Capital Plan and identified by the Accommodation Review Group were:
 - (A) office space for staff;
 - (B) study space for postgraduate research students;
 - (C) high specification, flexible teaching and conference rooms of an appropriate size.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That extension of the existing University nursery facilities was of a high priority.
- (b) That the inclusion of all those items incorporated in the summary draft Capital Plan be approved, in principle, for inclusion in the University Financial Plan subject to a full examination of costs associated with all of the projects by the Financial Director and the capacity to accommodate all of the projects within the Plan without compromising its viability.
- (c) That the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Campus and the Community) examine the medium to long-term strategic accommodation priorities for the University and develop a cost effective plan to meet those priorities for approval in due course.
- (d) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) give a presentation at the meeting of the Strategy Committee in the Autumn Term on the use of new technologies in teaching and learning.

23/05-06 Faculty Advisory Board Annual Reports (minute 7/05-06 refers)

(a) Faculty of Arts Advisory Board

CONSIDERED:

The annual report of the Faculty of Arts Advisory Board for 2005/06 (JCSSC.18/05-06) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts noting:

- (i) That discussions at the two meetings held during the year of the Faculty of Arts Advisory Board had been productive, covering issues relating to internationalisation, communication and space management, and European Funding for the Arts.
- (ii) That, while there were a number of members of the Board whose membership has been extended, the Board was seeking to appoint additional new members.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report for the Faculty of Arts Advisory Board be noted and welcomed.

(b) Faculty of Science Advisory Board

CONSIDERED:

The Annual Report of the Faculty of Science Advisory Board for 2005/06 (JCSSC.19/05-06) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Science Faculty Advisory Board noting:

- (i) That the assistance provided by the University Secretary and the new Chair of the Faculty had been of great benefit in reinvigorating the Advisory Board.
- (ii) That the Science Faculty Advisory Board had held two successful meetings during the last year which covered the topics of

understanding the needs of business in order to embed them in the curriculum and research collaboration and knowledge transfer.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Annual Report for the Faculty of Science Advisory Board be noted and welcomed.
 - (ii) That the structure of postgraduate research degrees and the possibility of securing company funding to support research degrees be proposed as a potential future topic for discussion at the Board.
- (c) Faculty of Social Studies Advisory Board

CONSIDERED:

The Annual Report for the Social Studies Faculty Advisory Board for 2005/06 (JCSSC.20/05-06) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies noting:

- (i) That the Social Studies Faculty Advisory Board had held one meeting during the year at which issues relating to postgraduate research students were discussed and that the second scheduled meeting had been cancelled at short notice.
- (ii) That, while the Social Studies Faculty Advisory Board was not yet operating as successfully as other Advisory Boards, the Board was taking steps to identify potential new members.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Annual Report for the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Social Studies be welcomed and noted.
 - (ii) That consideration be given to the co-option of members of the Advisory Boards of the Warwick Business School and the Institute of Education to membership of the Faculty of Social Studies Advisory Board.
- (d) Faculty of Medicine Advisory Board

CONSIDERED:

The Annual Report of the Faculty of Medicine Advisory Board for 2005/06 (JCSSC.21/05-06) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Faculty of Medicine and the Chair of the Faculty of Medicine Advisory Board, noting:

- (i) That a productive meeting of the Faculty of Medicine Advisory Board was held in February, mainly focussing on issues relating to the GMC Quality Assurance visit, and that another meeting was scheduled for June 2006.
- (ii) That a number of new nominations for membership were being pursued and additional members were being sought.

- (iii) That the participation by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) in the last GMC Quality Assurance visit had been invaluable and that the support for the Medical School's aspirations demonstrated by the wider academic community at the University was not typically found at other Universities.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Annual Report of the Advisory Board of the Faculty of Medicine be welcomed and noted.
- (ii) That consideration be given to inviting members of other Faculty Advisory Boards to a future discussion at the Faculty of Medicine Advisory Board to debate the issue of what is distinctive about a Warwick graduate of the MBChB and other University degree programmes.

24/05-06 Date of Next Meeting

REPORTED:

That the next meeting of the Committee would be held at 10:00am on Thursday 22 June.