

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
WIDENING PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE
RESTRICTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2022
9.30-11.30AM
CMR 1.0 UNIVERSITY HOUSE

Present	Professor Christopher Hughes	CH	Pro Vice Chancellor (Education), (Chair)
	Paul Blagburn	PB	Head of Widening Participation, (Secretary)
	Adele Browne	ABr	Director of Student Experience
	Dr Rebecca Freeman	RFr	Dean of Students (until 10.00)
	Baljit Gill	BG	Widening Participation Manager; Assistant Secretary
	Dr Letizia Gramaglia	LGra	Head of Academic Development (until 10.30)
	Professor Ruth Hewston	RH	Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning
	Dr Elizabeth Hough	EH	Head of Admissions
	Jenny Hughes	JH	Director of Student Opportunity (interim)
	Chih-Hsiang Lo	CL	Students' Union Representative (Education)
	Natalie Lloyd	NL	Deputy Director of Development
	Professor Tim Lockley	TL	History, Faculty of Arts
	Samuel McClenaghan	SM	Deputy Finance Director
	Hamza Rehman	HR	Students' Union Representative (Postgraduate)
	Professor Patrick Tissington	PT	Academic Director of Employability and Skills (until 11.00)
	Professor Gwen Van Der Velden	GV	Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) (from 9.45)
Professor Derrick Watson	DW	Head of Psychology, Faculty of Science, Engineering & Medicine	
Roberta Wooldridge Smith	RWS	Academic Registrar (interim) (until 11.00)	
Attending	Amanda Bishop	ABi	WP Faculty Co-ordinator, SEM
	Claire Edden		WP Faculty Co-ordinator, Social Sciences; WP Student Advisory Group Co-Chair
	Rosalyn Forbes	RFo	Leadership and Regular Giving Manager, Development, (observing)
	Dr Damien Homer	DH	Head of Disability Services, representing Director of Wellbeing
	Cherryl Jones	CJ	WP Access and Lifecycle Manager; Student Success and Progression Working Group Co-Chair
	Catherine McNicholl	CMc	Widening Participation Manager
Ref	Item		
001	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Professor Celia Brown, (Professor, Warwick Medical School); Jackie Clarke, (Director of Administration, Social Sciences); Associate Professor Lee Griffin, (Academic Director, Postgraduate Taught Education); Ruth Hewston, (Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning); Kate Ireland, (Director of Centre for Teacher Education); Sue Jones, (Head of Student Finance); Nina-Anne Lawrence, (Head of Academic Department, Foundation Studies); Faye Murray, (Director of Strategic Planning & Analytics); Faye Murray, (Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics); Kulbir Shergill, (Director of Social Inclusion); Professor Emma Smith, (Director of Education Studies; Research and Evaluation Working Group Co-chair); Dr Tammy Thiele, (WP Evidence and Evaluation Manager; Research and Evaluation Working Group Co-chair).</p>		
002	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No new declarations were made.</p>		

003	<p>Minutes of last meeting on 30 June 2022</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2022 (003-WPC111022{Protected}) were received and approved.</p>
004	<p>Matters arising from last meeting on 30 June 2022</p> <p>The Chair informed the Committee that the University's APP has been submitted, with no response as yet.</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the meeting on 30 June 2022 that were not covered in the agenda.</p>
Chair's Update	
005	<p>Chair's Business and Action</p> <p>a) <u>Education Priorities</u> The University will embark on the Institutional Teaching and Learning Review (ITLR) this academic year. This will provide quality assurance and enhancement, and focus the University's future strategic direction. Departments' Inclusive Education action plans will further feed into the ITLR. Colleagues are encouraged to get involved with this review. A TEF institutional submission will be made by January 2023, including comment on OfS data on attainment and demographics of our student population.</p> <p>There were no other updates from the Chair.</p>
Monitoring, Policy and Practice	
006	<p>Terms of Reference and membership</p> <p>The Committee received a paper (006-WPC111022{Protected}) from the Chair.</p> <p>a) The Chair welcomed new members to the Committee, representing the Faculty of Arts, Warwick Medical School, Student Opportunity and the Students' Union.</p> <p>b) The Committee Terms of Reference remained unchanged and were agreed.</p> <p>RECEIVED:</p> <p>The Committee approved the Terms of Reference and membership.</p>
007	<p>Students' Union Education Priorities 2022-23 (007-WPC111022{Protected}) HR/CL</p> <p>The Committee received a report from the Students' Union Postgraduate and Education Officers outlining priorities for 2022-23.</p> <p>a) Following a Students' Union (SU) awayday in September, a draft paper detailing SU priorities has been drawn up, with focus over this academic year on the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Cost of Living (Education Based)</u> - more proactive monitoring of UKRI to facilitate faster responses to any changes to PGR support; more support available to international students in general who have limited access to funds; funding for extensions for PGR students undertaking PhDs; compulsory texts available for free; identification of hidden course costs ii. <u>Course Rep System</u> - enhancing the sense of belonging that course reps have with the SU; review of the Academic Rep structure throughout the year; development of a good engagement, and mapping, structure for reps; encouraging Reps to be proactive in the student experience iii. <u>Departmental Consistency</u> – on Mitigating Circumstances and Self Certifications; within University policy; sharing of good practice and implementation across departments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. <u>Lecture Capture</u> - ensuring that this is available across all departments; ensuring that lecture capture recordings are automatically deleted after one year; defining what Lecture Capture means; ensuring that lecture capture across departments is of a high quality. v. <u>Study Space</u> - the type of study spaces available on campus, including space available to commuter students vi. <u>Decolonizing the Curriculum</u> - resuming the SU decolonization program. <p>b) The SU and the Widening Participation Committee hope to work actively and productively together over this year.</p> <p>RECEIVED: The Committee noted the key educational priority areas in the report.</p>
008	<p>Cost of Living</p> <p>The Committee received a verbal update from the Director of Student Experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Two Cost of Living working groups have been established to identify University priorities in supporting students and staff during the current climate. The working groups are broadly focussing on three areas: the visibility of what is already available; the enhancement of our current offer, and the development of new offers in both the immediate and longer term. b) It was noted that the visibility of support needs to be addressed more generally as existing provision is not widely known about. The committee discussed the promotion and increased visibility in a number of ways: promoting webpages to departments, through the WP Student Network, and flagging University schemes such as 'Too Good To Go'. c) The process for accessing the hardship fund has been made clearer and less intimidating following national guidelines, with a payment of £250 while waiting to be means tested. The availability and visibility of 'dwell' spaces where staff and students can heat up their food is being assessed, identifying and promoting existing spaces. Targeted support has been developed, with more UG students from lower income brackets; direct financial support for students, with a ten percent increase in the level of the Warwick Bursary and raising the household income threshold. d) Areas that raised concern included the issue of food outlets on campus, and the need to balance income generation with reducing costs. The cost of food on campus, with few cheaper alternatives and a cashless campus makes it harder to budget. A call for monitoring what works and who are not being reached is key as students and staff are not coming forward. Regarding the low number of 'dwell' spaces, the Dean of Students is in discussion with departments to further this priority by costing additional equipment. Furthermore, the SU raised concerns over access to funds for PGR students and requested information-sharing on repayments plan of loans if PG students are unsuccessful for the hardship fund. The student perspective will be crucial in these discussions, with the Students' Union playing a key role. <p>RECEIVED: The Committee noted the update on the Cost of Living working groups.</p>
009	<p>OfS Access and Participation Consultation</p> <p>The Committee received a paper from the Head of Widening Participation (009-WPC111022{Protected})</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Office for Students (OfS) launched a consultation on a new direction for access and participation plans as part of its approach to regulate equality of opportunity in higher education. It was published on Thursday 6th October with responses required by 10th November. A formal response to the consultation will arrive in Spring 2023 with formal guidance published for the development of new access and participation plans (APP) for 2024-25 onwards, with an expected submission deadline in Summer 2023. Access and participation plans set out how individual

	<p>higher education providers will improve equality of opportunity for students to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.</p> <p>b) Overall, the proposed approach appears to build on themes of continuous improvement and reducing burden on institutions, whilst principally safeguarding the interests of students. Core features build on the new A&P priorities as articulated by the OfS earlier in 2022, with providers subsequently seeking a variation to their existing plans for the 2023-24 academic year to address these new priorities. The new framework will focus on 'equality of opportunity' with a risk register to record sector-wide risks to this.</p> <p>RECEIVED: The Committee noted the update.</p>
010	<p>Indicative APP Access outcomes 2021-22</p> <p>The Committee received a presentation by the Head of Widening Participation and the Widening Participation Access and Lifecycle Manager.</p> <p>a) Although the data is provisional, with additional data being awaited, PB outlined progress against milestones. While the progress has stalled a little, the distance travelled is positive. Q1 and Q5 gaps remain at the same rate. EH – acceptances better. The POLAR 4 Ratio Gap Q5-Q1 provisionally stands at 6.8:1, against a milestone of 5.5:1. POLAR 4 Q1 -2 and BAME Entrants provisionally stands at 7.3%, against a milestone of 8%. Entrants from Coventry and Warwickshire State Schools provisionally sits at 3.7 against a milestone of 5%, although the number of local state school entrants has doubled since 2017-18.</p> <p>b) CJ provided an update on the Warwick Scholars programme. This year there are 108 first years Scholars, 13 from priority groups, 52 from our national access programmes Realising Opportunities (RO) and Pathways, 18 of whom were also WSA participants. 185 year 13 pupils have joined the programme for 2023-24 entry. CJ explained it was difficult to set future targets, as some departments put limits on numbers of Warwick Scholars, particularly the most competitive courses. NL noted that it would be useful to know the percentage of RO nationally who come to the University, and also the possibility of students from Into University being included in Warwick Scholars; however CJ explained that our programme sets stricter criteria so that would not be possible, neither would reciprocal arrangements with other universities' access programmes.</p> <p>RECEIVED: The Committee noted the outcomes.</p>
011	<p>Widening Participation and Social Mobility Division update</p> <p>The Committee received a paper from the Head of Widening Participation (011-PC111022{Protected})</p> <p>a) The paper provides an overview of reforms and changes within the Widening Participation Team that will enhance our institutional approach. The developments are to build a stronger brand and identify for our institutional policy and practice, ensure stakeholders have clear idea of who to engage with and for what purpose, and finally ensure our university messaging and impact is celebrated. The paper gives details on structure position, principal areas of focus, and an outline of the benefits the changes will bring, with a shift towards social mobility, both within the WP team and more broadly across the University.</p> <p>b) The division is now formed of five pillars (areas) which have identified ownership and responsibility, aligned to our WP strategic priorities and access and participation approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Widening Participation and Social Mobility Evidence, Evaluation, and Impact</u> - to enhance and evolve the evidence-base through effective evaluation and research. ii. <u>Academic Engagement and Internal Community (Inreach)</u> - to promote a whole institutional approach to Widening Participation and Social Mobility. iii. <u>WP Educational and Collaborative Partnerships</u> - to develop, enhance, and expand Warwick's key WP partnership provision.

	<p>iv. <u>Widening Participation and Social Mobility Sustained Engagement</u> - to enhance equality of opportunity for key target groups to progress to higher education.</p> <p>v. <u>Access and Student Success</u> - to remove barriers to a Warwick education and enable upward social mobility for underrepresented groups.</p> <p>ACTION: Due to time constraints this paper will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>
012	<p>AOB The next meeting on 1 December will be held on Microsoft Teams.</p>
<p>Close by 11.30 Next meeting: 01 December 2022</p>	