

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**  
**WIDENING PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE**  
**RESTRICTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2024**  
**9.30-11.30am**

Ref	Item		
<b>Present</b>	Professor Lorenzo Frigerio	LF	Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) (Chair)
	Paul Blagburn	PB	Head of Widening Participation (Secretary)
	Adam Child	AC	Academic Registrar
	Professor Matthew Clayton	MC	Head of PAIS, Faculty of Social Sciences representative
	Rosalyn Forbes	RFo	Head of Philanthropy
	Professor Rebecca Freeman	RF	Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)
	Baljit Gill	BG	Widening Participation Manager (Assistant Secretary)
	Associate Professor Lee Griffin	LGri	Academic Director, Postgraduate Taught Education
	Professor Ruth Hewston	RH	Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning
	Andy Hind	AH	Head of Academic Department, CTE
	Elizabeth Hough	EH	Head of Admissions
	Sue Jones	SJ	Head of Student Finance
	Mya Kaur	MK	Students' Union WP Part-Time Officer
	Professor Nina Anne Lawrence	NAL	Head of Academic Department, Warwick Foundation Studies
	Professor Tim Lockley	TL	Head of History, Faculty of Arts
	Vaishnavi Ravi	VR	Students' Union Representative (Postgraduate)
	Emily Reid	ER	Director of Student Experience, WMS
	Holly Roffe	HR	Students' Union Representative (Education)
	Kulbir Shergill	KS	Director of Social Inclusion
	Andy Smith	AS	Director of Wellbeing and Safeguarding
Professor Patrick Tissington	PT	Academic Director of Employability and Skills	
Professor Derrick Watson	DW	Head of Psychology, Faculty of SEM representative	
Roberta Wooldridge Smith	RWS	Director of Student Opportunity	
<b>Attending</b>	Amanda Bishop	AB	WP Faculty Engagement Manager, SEM
	Victoria Hill	VH	WP Faculty Engagement Manager, Arts
	Cherryl Jones	CJ	Widening Access and Lifecycle Manager
	Dr Tammy Thiele	TT	WP Evaluation and Evidence Manager; Research and Evaluation Working Group Co-Chair
045	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Adele Brown, (Director of Student Experience); Claire Edden, (WP Faculty Engagement Manager, Social Sciences); Catherine McNicholl, (Widening Participation Manager); Professor Letizia Gramaglia, (Head of Academic Development); Natalie Lloyd, (Deputy Director of Development); Sam McClenaghan, (Deputy Finance Director); Simon Stearn, (Chief Data Officer/IDG).</p>		
046	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>No new declarations were made.</p>		

047	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting on 30 January 2024</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2024 (047-WPC140524{Protected}) were received and approved.</p>
048	<p><b>Matters arising from last meeting on 30 January 2024</b></p> <p>There were no matters arising from the meeting on 30 January 2024 that were not covered in the agenda.</p>
<b>Chair's Update and Governance</b>	
049	<p><b>Chair's Business and Action</b></p> <p>a) The new Education and Student Experience Strategy is being developed in consultation with staff and students across the University, and recent workshops have been well-attended. It has been condensed into a White Paper which will go before the Warwick Leaders Forum. Feedback is welcome.</p> <p>There were no other updates from the Chair.</p>
<b>Strategy and Priorities</b>	
050	<p><b>Access and Participation Plan</b></p> <p>The Committee received a paper from the Head of Widening Participation, Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) and Academic Registrar (050-WPC140524{ Protected }) on the new Access and Participation Plan (APP).</p> <p>a) The Chair commended the Head of Widening Participation on the work that has gone into producing the APP. The revised financial package has been approved by the UEB and will go to Council next week. It will be submitted to the OfS on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>b) Through the APP Advisory Group, revised objectives have been set; <i>eliminating not reducing</i> awarding gaps such as the Black Awarding gap, by 2035, an although only around one fifth of this regulatory document covers access, this continues to be a core focus for the University as this is where the largest gaps exist. The group has been reviewing the eligibility criteria and levels of financial support for the bursary and has produced a set of recommendations for consideration. These recommendations are underpinned by the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- That our financial support provision is targeted to those in the greatest financial need and makes provision for those without family support (independent) and/or those with additional responsibilities.</li> <li>- That our financial support provision is equitable, transparent, and easily understood by prospective and current students.</li> <li>- That our financial support provision supports students, as far as possible, to engage effectively in their studies and wider student experience.</li> <li>- That our financial support is underpinned by robust evaluation (including a Theory of Change) and a strong evidence base.</li> <li>- That our financial support is competitive within the sector and reflects our strategic ambition to be sector leading in this space as indicated by the recently refreshed strategy to 2030.</li> </ul> <p>c) Financial support has been reviewed to ensure it is more streamlined, and levels of funding have moved into line with peer institutions. Household income categories have been widened, with an increase in bursaries for care leavers and estranged students, and financial support for all eligible MBChB students introduced. Around one thousand further students may now be eligible for financial support.</p> <p>d) The development of the financial support package has required a consideration of resource implications to ensure feasibility. The proposals are subject to OfS approval so will not appear on</p>

	<p>the UoW website as yet, but should be published by September. Any approved changes to the Warwick Bursary will come into effect for the 2025-26 academic year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e) While there is no timeline for implementation, the plan will map out the process for the next four years, ensuring alignment to other strategies.</li> <li>f) The student submission is in progress and has been interrupted by quoracy concerns. It will go to the Student Council shortly to meet the APP submission deadline.</li> <li>g) The Chair further commended the Deputy PVC (Education).</li> <li>h) The Head of Widening Participation thanked colleagues who have been involved in the development of the APP.</li> </ul> <p><b>RECEIVED:</b></p> <p>The Widening Participation Committee <b>noted</b> the report.</p>
<b>Monitoring and Practice</b>	
051	<p><b>IntoUniversity Birmingham Update</b></p> <p>The Committee received an update from the Head of Widening Participation (051-WPC140524{Public}) on the new IntoUniversity Centre planned in Birmingham.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The new IntoUniversity Birmingham Centre is supported by the University of Warwick and University College Birmingham (UCB), further strengthening current links in the Joint Accreditation Award. The new partnership between UoW/UCB/IU will feature in the APP, to evidence the OfS focus on collaboration and address risks to equality of opportunity, including supporting academic attainment.</li> <li>b) The Centre will be based in East Birmingham near to the WMG Academy. The building has been secured with renovation underway, and Centre staff are currently being recruited. Budget for travel support from UoW has been agreed.</li> <li>c) It is anticipated that the Centre will be launched on 13 June 2024, Social Mobility Awareness Day. The Centre will open for teaching after October half term with a formal launch in Spring 2025.</li> </ul> <p><b>RECEIVED:</b></p> <p>The Widening Participation Committee <b>noted</b> the update.</p>
052	<p><b>Collaborative Partnerships Update</b></p> <p>The Committee received an update on Collaborative Partnerships (052-WPC140524{Public}) from the Widening Participation Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The OfS has focussed on the important role of collaboration in increasing equality of opportunity in English higher education and expect providers to consider partnerships in all the activity listed in their APP, firmly positioning collaboration at the heart of the work they are undertaking. Working in collaboration with other organisations is a core driver within our APP and a longstanding feature of the University's work to widening access to higher education and advance social mobility in the UK.</li> <li>b) Partnership-working significantly reduces duplication of interventions, and facilitates the sharing of resources, knowledge and expertise within the sector. Multi-intervention outreach is resource-intensive and requires a significant investment of time and effort from HE providers and partners. By aligning our principles, partners can achieve mutual benefits in achieving their strategic aims. Collaboration further provides access to opportunities we are not able to provide.</li> <li>c) <u>Experience Warwick Partnership Programme</u> – a sustained, progressive programme of outreach interventions in collaboration with partners, designed to raise pre-entry attainment, study skills development and awareness of, and aspirations to, higher education. The programme has been co-created with schools, offering evidence-led provision to enhance the skills and knowledge of pre-18 learners to facilitate informed decision-making and remove barriers to higher education,</li> </ul>

	<p>and supports schools in meeting their Gatsby Benchmarks. Interventions include in-school activity, campus visits, subject tasters, information, advice and guidance, reading programmes, work experience opportunities, and mentoring.</p> <p>d) <u>The Sutton Trust Pathways to Professions (Banking &amp; Finance, Engineering, Law)</u> - developed by the Trust after their research showed that in each of these professions, the top echelons were still drawn by those from a narrow range of social backgrounds. The aims of the programmes are to provide students with the opportunity to explore the professional and academic aspects of each sector.</p> <p>e) <u>UK Sutton Trust Summer School (STSS)</u> - the Sutton Trust's flagship programme has been running since 1997, with Warwick first taking part in 2016. The programme offers school-age students the opportunity to immerse themselves in university life, providing them with the confidence and skills to choose where to apply and what to study, be competitive applicants wherever that is, and find support with a network of like-minded peers.</p> <p>f) <u>Realising Opportunities</u> - a collaboration of fourteen highly selective, research-intensive universities, who have made a long-term commitment to, and demonstrated impact in, supporting access to and transition into selective universities. A single, national supported entry route targets the most able 16–18-year-olds at risk from inequalities of opportunity.</p> <p>g) Wider concerns were raised about the requirement for GCSEs in applications for the more competitive subjects; the Head of Admissions reassured that those applicants applying with contextual offers (CO) were assessed in a different category to non-CO applicants. New scoring systems mean that some factors carry more weight (eg free school meals, care-experienced).</p> <p>h) Considering the number of initiatives across the University a query was raised on how/what to prioritise; oversight is needed to enable departments to support in a joined-up way, balancing institutional priorities with departmental expertise.</p> <p><b>RECEIVED:</b></p> <p>The Widening Participation Committee <b>noted</b> the update.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b></p> <p>The Head of Admissions to bring further information on applicant selection.</p>
053	<p><b>Widening Participation Conference</b></p> <p>The Committee received an update from the WP Faculty Engagement Managers – Arts, SEM and Social Sciences, on the Widening Participation Conference (053-WPC140524{Public})</p> <p>a) As part of internal stakeholder engagement, an annual conference is held to provide an opportunity for staff and students to share lived experiences and examples of effective practice. Initially this was through the joint collaboration between the WP Staff and WP Student networks, but over the last three years, this has expanded to a whole university wide approach. This year's conference, '<i>Student Success: A WP Perspective</i>' was held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</p> <p>b) Objectives include: awareness raising; sharing good practice; empowerment; networking; addressing and identifying barriers; engagement; evaluation and reflection; policy influence; inspiration and motivation. The key focus was to highlight lived experience from WP students and to showcase good practice from staff around Student Success.</p> <p>c) The programme opened with a Student Panel followed by a choice of 18 workshops (9 student led or co-delivered sessions) and a closing with an alumni panel. A big success of the event is how it responds to and resonates with current students, bringing to life lived experiences, as well creating an environment that appeals to those interested in WP and inclusion. A key driver for the conference themes has been to ensure that they reflect the voice of WP students at Warwick, through taking a collaborative and flexible approach that allowed us to create a meaningful framework for the conference. The date of next year's conference will be shared after room bookings open.</p>

	<p>d) It was suggested that this joins up with wider Inclusive Education work to maximise engagement. Many conferences are being held at the University; not only should timing be considered at planning stage, but also the potential of support in the form of sponsorship from Campus &amp; Commercial Services Group</p> <p><b>RECEIVED:</b> The Widening Participation Committee <b>noted</b> the presentation.</p>
<b>Other</b>	
054	<p><b>Academic Governance Review <a href="#">White Paper</a></b></p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
055	<b>Any other business</b>
<p><b>Close by 11.30</b> <b>Next meeting: 27 June 2024</b></p>	