

The University of Warwick

Campus Life Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 November 2006

Present: Professor S Bassnett (Chair), Professor L Bridges, Professor R Burns, Ms K Chevis, Professor G Jones, Mr T Monnington, Mr D Persaud, Mr A Rivett, Dr C Rodgers, Mr K Sloan, Mr B Wilson.

Apologies: Rev M Bratton, Ms A Darowska.

In Attendance: Ms J Abson, Mrs S Crookes, Mr C Dove-Dixon, Mr P Edkins, Rev. S Jennings, Mr C Jones, Mrs E Meininger, Mr M Scott.

1/06-07 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Campus Life Committee meeting held on 31 May 2006 be approved.

2/06-07 Matters Arising

Complaints procedure (minute 34/05-06 refers)

REPORTED:

- (a) By the Accommodation Manager that full details of the complaints procedure is now available on the Warwick Accommodation web site: www.warwick.ac.uk/accommodation and that 11 complaints had been received since the start of the 2006/07 academic year.
- (b) By Professor Burns that there were concerns surrounding the provision of short-term accommodation on campus.

3/06-07 Membership and Terms of Reference

CONSIDERED:

The Membership and Terms of Reference of the Committee, paper CLC 1/06-07.

REPORTED:

That Mr Ken Sloan had been appointed as the Director of Campus Affairs with effect from 1 January 2007

RECOMMENDED:

That the Director of Campus Affairs replaces the Director of Student and Ancillary Services as a member of the Committee.

4/06-07

Lakeside Social facilities

REPORTED:

That the Director of Estates would submit proposals for the creation of a social space at Lakeside together with the expansion plan of the Nursery for consideration by the Building Committee at its next meeting.

5/06-07

The Appointment of an Islamic Chaplain

REPORTED:

That arrangements are now in place to establish an Appointments Panel and that it is hoped to appoint an Islamic Chaplain early in the spring term.

6/06-07

One World Week

REPORTED: (by the Co-ordinator of One World Week)

- (a) That One World Week, which will take place during Week 2 & 3 of the spring term (19th -27th January 2007), is a celebration of cultural diversity and is considered the world's largest student-run international event.
- (b) That the event, unique to Warwick, allows Home and Overseas students to interact in a 'special' way and helps foster greater understanding.
- (c) That the following speakers had confirmed their participation in the event:

Professor John Hume (Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 1998)
Professor Sir Clive Granger (Nobel Economics Prize Laureate 2003)
Mrs Wijdam Salim (Acting Minister for Human Rights, Iraq)
Professor Nigel Thrift (Vice-Chancellor, University of Warwick)
Mr Martin Bell (UNICEF UK, former BBC Correspondent)
Mr Georges Haddad (Director of Education, UNESCO)
Recorded video address by Archbishop Desmond Tutu

7/06-07

Annual Report from the Senior Tutor

CONSIDERED:

- (a) Annual Report of the University Senior Tutor 2005/06, paper CLC 2/06-07.
- (b) A report from the Mental Health Co-ordinator, paper CLC 3/06-07.

REPORTED:

That an increasing proportion of International and EU students are seeking appointments with the Senior Tutor rather than the Counselling Team.

That there had been an increase in the number of parents wishing to make direct contact with the Senior Tutor and that Personal Tutors had also expressed concern about the increase in requests from parents.

RESOLVED:

That Senior Tutor and Mental Health Co-ordinator be thanked for their reports and the Committee offer its special thanks to the Senior Tutor on his retirement for his contribution to the University.

8/06-07

Warwick Sport

REPORTED: (By the Director Physical Education and Sport)

- (a) That Warwick Sport had proved to be a huge success with a membership of over 8,000 students and 800 staff an increase on the membership for 2005/06.
- (b) That the planned surplus for 2005/06 had been achieved, it being noted that income is 'ring fenced' to be invested in sport participation and support for both students and staff.
- (c) That it had proved possible to invest £120,000 in sports club activities, a significant increase on the previous year's investment of £89,000.
- (d) That it had proved possible to purchase new boats for the Sailing club to the value of £27,000.

9/06-07

Issues arising from the Wardens' Liaison Group

REPORTED: (By the Head of Residential Life)

- (a) That the Arrivals Weekend had been successful and that it had been possible to offer all new first year undergraduates accommodation on campus from the start of term.
- (b) That all planned works to the students' residences had been completed in time for students' arrival.
- (c) That positive feedback had been received from parents who had attended the Vice Chancellor's welcome address.
- (d) That Security staff had undertaken a Risk Assessment of the residences, and although due to their location, some Halls of Residence were more vulnerable than others, the overall risks across campus were low.
- (e) That although there was concern from the Wardens about the extension of the serving hours at Costcutter, incidents logs pertaining to students behaviour on campus show that the situation is calmer than in previous years.
- (f) That the Head of Residential Life had recently met with representatives from Coventry University and Coventry Area Health Protection and as a result will be convening a group to discuss the University's response to a pandemic flu outbreak.
- (g) That a rolling programme of training for Residential Staff is being developed to compliment the training received prior to the beginning of the academic year.

- (h) That at the end of the academic year the Head of Residential Life would produce an Annual Report for the consideration of the Committee.

10/06-07

Piazza Development

REPORTED:

- (a) By the Director of Retail & Hospitality that in conjunction with the Students' Union outline plans were being prepared for the redevelopment of the central campus.
- (b) By the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies that it is important that the outskirts of the campus are not neglected when redevelopments plans are being considered.

11/06-07

Arts Centre

RECEIVED:

A report from the Director of the Arts Centre, papers CLC 5/06-07 and CLC 6/06-07.

12/06-07

Warwick Volunteers

RECEIVED:

The Warwick Volunteers Handbook 2006/07, paper CLC 7/06-07.

13/06-07

Finance and General Purposes Committee

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A proposal to refurbish Willow Lodge to create a staff and student well-being centre. (FGPC 10/06-07)

RESOLVED:

That the committee approve a budget of £180k (from the £1m minor refurbishment budget in the financial plan) to refurbish Willow Lodge, with the cost of asbestos removal to be met through Estates recurrent budgets, as well as an additional £30k should it prove sensible and cost effective to upgrade lighting and data at the time of the refurbishment.

- (b) Nursery Business Plan

CONSIDERED:

A paper requesting approval of the financial plan for expanded nursery provision (FGPC 17/06-07).

REPORTED (by the Deputy Registrar):

That the plan allowed for future expansion and for potential overflow provision in local nurseries of good quality.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the expansion plan be approved in principle, as set out in paper FGPC 17/06-07, subject to satisfactory building plans being approved by the Building Committee within the funding envelope.
- (b) That the business plan be resubmitted at that time for final approval.

14/06-07

Residential Accommodation

- (a) Allocation of accommodation for the 2006/2007 academic year

RECEIVED:

A report from the Accommodation Manager, paper CLC 8/06-07.

REPORTED:

- (i) That the number of first year undergraduates applying for campus accommodation for the 2006/07 academic year exceeded the number of rooms reserved in the allocation plan and to ensure that 106 first years were offered the option to share a single room at Westwood for the first few weeks of the autumn term.
- (ii) A further 27 first year undergraduates, who applied for accommodation just before the start of the autumn term, were offered accommodation at Arden House on a B&B basis for the first few days of the autumn term.
- (iii) In addition, a further 42 final year undergraduates volunteered to share single rooms at Westwood on the basis they would be offered single campus rooms within the first few weeks of the autumn term.
- (iv) That the number of students sharing single rooms had been reduced to 30 (14 first years 16 finalist) by the end of week 4, rooms becoming available through 'no-shows' or withdrawals.
- (v) That all students required to share had been charged half rent for the duration that they were sharing and were offered assistance in moving their belongings to their permanent accommodation.
- (vi) That in order to ensure that no new postgraduate students would arrive at the University and find themselves homeless, an agreement had been reached with the Ramada Hotel to supply short term emergency B&B accommodation and that 26 postgraduates took advantage of this facility, moving to campus accommodation during the first two weeks of the autumn term.
- (vii) Warwick Accommodation will manage a portfolio of 1626 beds in off-campus housing in 2006/07 and that by the end of the week 4 there were 19 vacancies which had arisen through 'no-shows' or withdrawals.
- (b) Allocation of accommodation for the 2007/2008 academic year

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for the allocation of campus accommodation 2007/08 prepared by the Accommodation Manager, paper CLC 9/06-07).

REPORTED:

- (i) That campus accommodation had been reserved for the various categories of student who had a guarantee.
- (ii) That in the light of our experience over the past few years, 1000 rooms have been reserved for overseas fee paying postgraduates for the 2007/08 academic year.
- (iii) That Warwick Accommodation had been able to significantly improve the 'off-campus product' that rent now included:
 - A. Basic insurance cover against theft to the value of £3,000
 - B. All properties to include a washing machine with service contract (except where physically impossible)
 - C. All properties meet Local Authority Accreditation standards.
 - D. Students no longer required to pay a damage deposit.

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposals set out in paper CLC.9/06-07 be approved it being noted that Warwick Accommodation may need to adjust the allocation plan to reflect revised forecasts of student numbers in order to achieve maximum occupancy levels.

15/06-07

Proposed amendments to Regulation 27: Residential Accommodation Regulations

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to Regulation 27: Residential Accommodation Regulations, paper CLC10/06-07 (attached)

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposed amendments to Regulation 27, as set out in paper CLC10/06-07, be approved.

16/06-07

Academic Satisfaction Review: the postgraduate research student experience

RECEIVED:

A copy of the introduction to the Academic Satisfaction Review and the section relating to Student support and guidance, paper CLC 11/06-07 (attached)

17/06-07

Chaplaincy

REPORTED:

That consideration was being given to making an application to register the Chaplaincy as a space where a civil marriage could take place.

18/06-07

UK Schools Games

REPORTED:

That the next UK Schools Games is due to take place in Coventry during the summer of 2007 and that the University is to provide accommodation for approximately 1500 children and be the venue for a number of the events.

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