

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Arts Centre Board

Minutes of the meeting of the Arts Centre Board held on 12 February 2009.

Present: Professor S Bassnett (Chair), Ms L Holmes, Mr N Matthews, Dr I Nussey, Mr R Perkins, Mr A Rivett, Professor M Waterson.

Apologies: Dr A Ainsworth, Mr J Baldwin, Professor O Bennett, Ms K Organ, Ms R Willis-Griffin.

In attendance: Mr N Darlison, Ms F Emery, Ms A Pulford, Mr I Rowley, Mr K Sloan.

10/08-09 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2008 be approved.

11/08-09 Matters Arising

REPORTED:

(a) Digital activity (minute 3/08-09 refers)

That an application submitted to the Arts Council for a research programme involving the Warwick Digital Laboratory would be developed following initial feedback.

(b) Writers' Programme (minute 3/08-09 refers)

That discussions with the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies about the development of the Writers' Programme were ongoing.

12/08-09 Events in the Arts Centre

REPORTED (by the Chair):

That recent events held in the Arts Centre, including a book launch in the Mead Gallery and an Ideas Café event held in the EAT restaurant space had been very successful, noting that forthcoming Warwick Prize for Writing award ceremony and a further Ideas Café event would also be held in the Arts Centre.

13/08-09 Learning and Education Programme

CONSIDERED:

A presentation from Brian Bishop, Education Director, on the Arts Centre's Learning and Education Programme, highlighting work with local schools through a Wellcome Trust funded project entitled 'Skin,

Blood and Bone', the second iteration of Cov Cool Kids, supported by the Coventry Children's Fund and Boys2Dance, a boys' dance project.

REPORTED (by the Chair):

That the Department of Chemistry was currently engaged in work with schools through the University's CAPITAL centre, noting that there may be themes in common with the Skin, Blood and Bone project.

RESOLVED:

That the Board was of the view that there was scope to promote this aspect of the Arts Centre's work more extensively within the University.

14/08-09 Catering and Retail plans (minute 34/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Director of Hospitality and Retail on the development of plans for the Arts Centre, noting that:

- (a) The re-opened Café-Bar was performing well.
- (b) Discussions over possible franchise opportunities in the EAT restaurant space had not been successful.
- (c) The results of the University catering survey would inform proposals for the development of the vacant space as part of a revised University catering strategy.

RESOLVED:

That the lack of an evening dining facility was a matter of continuing concern to the Board.

15/08-09 Director's report

RECEIVED:

A report from the Director of Warwick Arts Centre on developments since the last Board meeting and matters of strategic substance (paper ACB 5/08-09), noting that:

- (a) The complete withdrawal of the grant from Coventry City Council seemed likely.
- (b) The Arts Centre was participating in a scheme to give away tickets, noting that 2000 free tickets would be made available each year, with the costs to be met from government funding.

16/08-09 Butterworth Hall

RECEIVED:

An update on the redevelopment of the Butterworth Hall noting that the handover to Warwick Conferences for the Easter vacation was expected

to proceed as planned and that the extension was on schedule for completion in mid-August.

17/08-09 Fundraising

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Director of the Warwick Arts Centre on progress with the fundraising strategy, together with a confidential update on the current position (paper ACB 6/08-09, tabled at the meeting).

18/08-09 Annual Report and Accounts

CONSIDERED:

The statement of accounts prepared for Warwick Arts Centre's Annual Report for 2007-08 (paper ACB 7/08-09), noting that the narrative would be circulated to the Board at a later date.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the statement of accounts prepared for the Annual Report (paper ACB 7/08-09) be approved for consideration by the Council.
- (b) That the Arts Centre be asked to clarify the reason for the reduction in the central service charge.

19/08-09 Audience Research

RECEIVED:

A presentation on the Arts Centre's customer relationship management strategy, the results of recent research on audience and implications for marketing, including plans for the introduction of a new Box Office system and the development of the website.