

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Arts Centre Board  
held on Thursday 30 November 2005

Present: Professor S Bassnett (Chair); Dr A Ainsworth, Professor O Bennett, Ms L Holmes, Mr N Matthews, Ms K Organ, Mr R Perkins, Mr A Rivett, Professor M Waterson

Apologies: Mr J Baldwin, Mr C Foy, Mr B Woods-Scawen

In attendance: Mr N Darlison, Mr R Gray, Dr J Moss

1/05-06 Terms of Reference, Constitution and Membership

RECEIVED:

- (a) The Terms of Reference of the Board agreed by the University Council at its meeting on 16 March 2005, along with the Constitution and Membership for 2005-06, paper ACB 1/05-06;

REPORTED (by the Director of the Arts Centre):

That a representative of the Arts Council was invited to attend meetings of the Board.

RESOLVED:

That the importance of the Board in strategic thinking, and in advising the Arts Centre management and the University be particularly noted;

- (b) Biographies of members of the Board for 2005-06, paper ACB 2/05-06.

2/05-06 Minutes

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The Minutes of the meeting of the Arts Centre Board Membership Sub-Group held on 9 June 2005, paper ACB 3/05-06.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Arts Centre Board Membership Sub-Group held on 9 June 2005 be approved.

- (b) The Final Report of the Membership Sub-Group to the University Council, paper C.41/04-05.

3/05-06 Matters arising

Office space (note 5 in Membership Sub-Group Minutes of 9 June 2005 referred)

REPORTED (by the Chair):

That, following the University's purchase of Millburn House on the University of Warwick Science Park and the consequent relocation of a number of academic departments from the Humanities building, it was possible that extra office space may become available outside the Arts Centre for Music Centre and Mead Gallery staff.

RESOLVED:

That securing appropriate additional office space for Arts Centre staff be considered a matter of urgency.

4/05-06 Chair's Business

(a) Campus Life Committee

REPORTED (by the Chair):

That the Director of the Arts Centre had joined the Campus Life Committee, a committee of the Senate with wide-ranging responsibilities.

(b) Censorship

REPORTED (by the Chair):

That Professor A Caesar, Chair of the Faculty of Arts had proposed the organisation of a one-day event on censorship and the arts.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair and the Director of the Arts Centre take forward discussions with Professor Caesar on an event or series of events on censorship and the arts, it being noted that:

- (i) there were possible links with other projects currently ongoing in academic departments;
- (ii) events of this nature would help to raise the University's profile as a venue for wide-ranging topical debate;
- (iii) ideas from members of the Board on possible themes and events were always welcome, while programming lay outside the Board's remit.

5/05-06 History and Assets of Warwick Arts Centre

RECEIVED:

A presentation by the Director of the Arts Centre on the history and assets of Warwick Arts Centre (copy of slides attached).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the issue of audience relations be a topic for strategic discussion at a future meeting of the Board, including questions of the real and perceived accessibility of the Arts Centre from the rest of Coventry, and the visitor experience and opportunities for visitors to spend money while at the Arts Centre;
- (b) That the following points be noted:
  - (i) That the Arts Centre was developing its capacity to investigate audiences more thoroughly;
  - (ii) The programme is organised in “strands”, with some events advertised in more than one strand;
  - (iii) The Arts Centre does not cover all genres; there are no facilities for some types of event, for example chamber music, while the presence of the Birmingham Royal Ballet within 25 miles explains the absence of ballet from the programme.
  - (iv) That there may be potential to develop relationships with broadcasters for the broadcasting of events and the commissioning of new works or productions.

6/05-06 Annual Report 2004-05

RECEIVED:

The Arts Centre Annual Report for 2004-05, paper ACB 4/05-06.

RESOLVED:

That the Arts Centre Annual Report for 2004-05 be approved as set out in paper ACB 4/05-06.

7/05-06 Future Strategy

CONSIDERED:

- (a) The future development of Cinema at Warwick Arts Centre, informed by a presentation by the Director of the Arts Centre (copy of slides attached);

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the next meeting of the Board consider a strategic review of the current operation of the cinema;
  - (ii) That the Arts Centre management consider new or revised ticketing and marketing schemes for cinema events, possibly to include season tickets, and the opening hours of the bar.
- (b) Progress on refurbishing the Butterworth Hall, informed by a presentation by the Director of the Arts Centre (copy of slides attached).

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Director of the Arts Centre prepare a briefing sheet for members of the Board on the current state and usage of the Butterworth Hall;
- (ii) That in considering fund-raising opportunities it be noted that there are naming opportunities in the Arts Centre, including the cinema, the theatre and the studio.

8/05-06 Next Meetings

REPORTED:

- (a) That future meetings of the Board were scheduled for:
  - 4.30pm on Thursday 9 February 2006
  - 4.30pm on Thursday 20 April 2006
  - 4.30pm on Thursday 22 June 2006
  - 4.30pm on Thursday 2 October 2006 (tbc)
  - 4.30pm on Thursday 7 December 2006 (tbc)
- (b) That the Director of the Arts Centre intended to initiate discussions with members of the Board outside the formal meetings, individually or in groups, on the development of the Arts Centre's strategic plan and other issues where their expertise would be particularly helpful;
- (c) That members of the Board would be invited to a number of events at the Arts Centre, to inform them of the work of the Arts Centre and to provide opportunities for advocacy.