UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Information Policy and Strategy Committee

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Information Policy and Strategy Committee held on 31st March 2005.

Present: Professor M Whitby (in the Chair), Professor A Easton, Professor M Luntley, Professor M Waterson, Director of IT Services, Librarian, Registrar

Apologies: Professor M Allen, Professor A Caesar, Professor Y Carter, Professor C Clark, Professor T Docherty, Mr K Mohaddes, Professor D Singer

In Attendance: Dr J Dale (for item 25/04-05 only), Professor D Griffin, Mr N Hull, Ms M Visser

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24/04-05   Minutes

CONSIDERED:

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 16th February 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved.

25/04-05   Chair's Business

HEFCE Funding for e-learning

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Chair informing the Committee that the University would be receiving approximately £344,000 to fund a one-off development in the area of e-learning following the collapse of the UKeU, it being noted that the Steering Committee would consider proposals for this money at its meeting to be held on 18th April 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair inform the Steering Committee that potential uses of this funding might be:

(a)   the provision of facilities at Walsgrave Hospital to permit three-way (with Warwick and Leicester) video conferencing and virtual lecture facilities,

(b)   the provision of handheld devices for medical students for the recording of notes or other useful items for group discussion whilst on placement,

(c)   the provision of online courses in, for example, basic mathematics and statistics for students from outside of these departments, noting that such a

development would alleviate the need for departments to provide service teaching in these subject areas.

26/04-05   Five-Year Plan for IT Services

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Director of IT Services (paper IPSC.20/04-05).

RECOMMENDED (to Strategy Committee):

That the paper be approved, it being noted that:

(a)   The Committee strongly support the bid for the additional resource needed to replace Novell Groupwise with either IBM Lotus Domino or Microsoft Exchange (for staff and research student use), it being noted that this item should be regarded as a high priority,

(b)   Under "Innovation and e-Learning" the Committee gave highest priority to the development of "e-Learning Content" if this development cannot be taken forward using the funds available from HEFCE (minute IPSC.25/04-05, above, refers),

(c)   Those projects supported by the Committee which contained a significant capital element should be re-presented as capital sums to be considered for funding through SRIF3 or Project Capital 4 with the recurrent elements retained in the IT Services five year plan,

(d)   Under "Corporate Information Systems" it was noted that development in these areas would lead to efficiencies in other parts of the University administration and that such efficiencies should be monitored by the Registrar as part of the annual ASDAR process, noting that the development would also assist academic departments,

(e)   In future, procedures for proposing new developments should ensure that IT costs are fully assessed, and that IT Services is involved in the planning process.

27/04-05   Five-Year Plan for the Library

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the University Librarian (paper IPSC.21/04-05).

RECOMMENDED (to Strategy Committee):

That the paper be approved, it being noted that the Committee supported:

(a)   The extension of vacation opening hours as a means to provide additional support, particularly to postgraduate and overseas students,

(b)   The Librarian in her long term planning for the development of the Library.

28/04-05   Library Refurbishment Proposal

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the University Librarian (paper IPSC.22/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the paper be approved, it being noted that:

(a)   Purchase of Milburn House by the University would provide one possible solution for the Library's storage needs, though careful consideration would need to be given to what and how much could be stored in the space which was likely to be available. Other possibilities should also be actively explored,

(b)   Since the paper was drafted it had been determined that the Learning Grid would remain in University House,

(c)   The Committee supported the Librarian in her bid obtain Project Capital 4 funding to refurbish the existing library building and to provide mobile shelving.