

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 8 March 2010

Present: Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor L Bridges,  
Professor S Bruzzi,  
Professor A Caesar,  
Professor R Higgott  
Professor C Hughes,  
Professor K Lamberts,  
Professor M Smith,  
Professor M Underwood,  
Professor M Whitby  
Professor D Wilson,  
Mr A Bradley.

Apologies: Professor S B Palmer

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Finance Director, Director of Development, Communication and Strategy, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), the Director and the Administrator of the Institute of Advanced Studies (for item 359/09-10)

352/09-10 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2010 be approved.

353/09-10 University Response to the HEFCE Financial Memorandum Consultation (minute 336/09-10 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University response to the HEFCE consultation on proposed revisions to the Financial Memorandum (SC.245/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That subsequent to its consideration by the Steering Committee and the Council, the Russell Group response had been revised and took a less robust approach which the University, and others, had required to supplement with their own individual concerns.

354/09-10 Midlands Physics Alliance

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the Midlands Physics Alliance, a strategic alliance between Warwick and the universities of Birmingham and Nottingham, had been awarded an additional £3m of funding, of which Warwick would receive £1m.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its thanks to those colleagues involved in securing the additional funding.

355/09-10 European Research Council Advanced Investigator Award

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its congratulations to Professor Pat Unwin, Department of Chemistry, on his award of a European Research Council Advanced Investigator Award, bringing the University's total to three such awards.

356/09-10 Muslim Chaplain

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the interviews for the vacant position of Muslim Chaplain would be held on 8 March 2010.

357/09-10 Restructure of the School of Engineering and Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG)

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science)

- (a) That, on the recommendation of the Board of the Faculty of Science at its meeting held on 10 February 2010, a Working Group had been established to investigate the proposed restructure of the School of Engineering and WMG with a view to reporting its findings to the next meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science in May 2010;
- (b) That the members of the Working Group were the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science (Chair), Professor Tim Jones (Deputy Chair), the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Resourcing), the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine) and two other members of the Board of the Faculty of Science from outside the School of Engineering, Professors Sparrow (Department of Mathematics) and Cooper (Department of Physics).
- (c) That a period of consultation had been launched to gather the perspectives of colleagues within the School of Engineering and WMG with a deadline of 22 March 2010 and that interviews with key individuals would be conducted thereafter.

358/09-10 HEFCE Consultation on Regulating HEIs as Charities

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the HEFCE consultation on regulating HEIs as charities (SC.242/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the University response was direct and robust in addressing the issue of HEFCE seeking to consolidate its role as funding body and charity regulator, it being noted that it was in the interest of universities for these roles to remain distinct.
- (b) That the Warwick response raised concerns around the lack of clarity in the definition of and relationship between 'serious incident' and 'beneficiary'.

RESOLVED:

That the University response to the HEFCE consultation on regulating HEIs as charities as set out in SC.242/09-10 be approved for submission to HEFCE by the deadline of 12 March 2010.

359/09-10

Institute of Advanced Studies Update

RECEIVED:

A report from the Director and the Administrator of the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) updating on key activities and developments including Africa@Warwick, outputs from IAS-funded projects and the Impact Awards 2009/10 (SC.236/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Director of the IAS)

- (a) That the recent Africa@Warwick event had been a great success and had showcased research themes and teaching programmes connecting Warwick to Africa, with input from the University's strategic partner institutions, Monash and Boston universities.
- (b) That work was being undertaken to develop reporting mechanisms for 'impact activities' and other outputs of IAS-funded projects across the institution in collaboration with the Library and Research Support Services.

RESOLVED:

That the Registrar and the Director of IAS discuss further potential additional support for the Hippocrates Medical Poetry competition to optimise the external visibility and impact of the event.

360/09-10

Proposal for an Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning

CONSIDERED:

Proposals from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience), the Deputy Registrar and the Academic Registrar to establish an Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (SC.244/09-10).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience))

- (a) That the proposed Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning would enhance the distinctiveness and excellence of teaching and learning at Warwick and would build on the work undertaken by the two Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning and the King's-Warwick project, noting that funding for these would expire shortly.
- (b) That the Institute would send a powerful message of the priority and weight given to teaching and learning at Warwick, a research-led institution.

(By the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science)

- (c) That the inclusion of postgraduate research provision within an Institute charged with a holistic agenda might be problematic due to the specific training requirements of such students.

(By the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Resourcing))

- (d) That the proposed Institute should be accessible and relevant to academics with pedagogic research being carried out only as a natural product of activities being undertaken in the Institute and not as a discipline in its own right.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee endorse the broad rationale and principles for the creation of an Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning at Warwick, it being noted that financial case had been submitted to the Financial Plan Sub-Committee for its consideration.

361/09-10 Equality and Diversity Update

RECEIVED:

A report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience) and the Director of Human Resources updating the Committee on activities relating to Equality and Diversity at the University including the progress of the application for an Athena SWAN Bronze award, the Inclusive Fitness Initiative and revisions to the University's disability policy (SC.243/09-10).

362/09-10 Senate Business

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 17 March 2010 be approved as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate, noting that the summary paper on the discussion of, and feedback relating to, the Harris Report would be circulated to members of the Steering Committee at its next meeting for information.

363/09-10 Final Application for Warwick IKC in Quantum Technologies for Energy and the Environment

RECEIVED:

The final outline proposal to the ESRC for a Warwick Innovation and Knowledge Centre in Quantum Technologies for Energy and the Environment (SC.235/09-10).

364/09-10 Changes to Tier 4 of the Points Based Immigration System

RECEIVED:

An announcement from the UK Border Agency outlining five changes made recently to Tier 4 (students) of the Points Based System (SC.241/09-10).

JFB/jf/steersshare/minutes2009-10/Mar10/08Mar10