

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 2 July 2012

Present: Vice-Chancellor,  
Professor A Caesar,  
Professor S Croft,  
Professor T Jones,  
Professor J Labbe,  
Professor S Swain,  
Professor M Taylor,  
Professor P Winstanley.

Apologies: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Mr L Bøe, Professor C Hughes, Professor P Thomas.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance and Financial Strategy, Director of Development, Communications and Strategy, Director of Estates, Head of Corporate Governance, Head of Governance Support Services, Executive Officer (VC's Office), Administrative Officer (Governance), Senior Assistant Registrar (Governance, Risk, and Continuity) (for item 587/11-12), Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies (for item 588/11-12).

586/11-12 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2012 be approved.

587/11-12 University's Risk Identification and Assessment for Summer 2012 (minute 570/11-12 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft University Risk Register and Departmental Risk Assessment Returns Summary 2012 (SC.408/11-12)

REPORTED: (by the Head of Corporate Governance)

- (a) That engagement with several committees regarding the University Risk Register had proven useful in the identification and assessment of risks.
- (b) That the Research Committee had proposed that risk Res1 (Lack of sustained growth in the University's quality and capacity for research, innovation and knowledge transfer), be replaced with two newly defined risks; Res3 regarding research output and quality, and Res 4 regarding research income.
- (c) That general concern regarding differential student recruitment impacting some departments had led to the proposal that the overall status of Risk T7, concerning number, quality and diversity of applications and enrolments, be raised to 6 (amber).
- (d) That the impact and sub-risks associated with academic staff recruitment would be more explicitly reflected within Risk S1.
- (e) That comments from the Board of Graduate Studies, regarding stronger identification of postgraduate programmes within the key actions identified to address the teaching and student recruitment related risks, had been incorporated where appropriate.
- (f) That risks within the Register that were marked with an asterisk would be considered by the Council at its meeting on 11 July 2012.

(by the Senior Assistant Registrar (Governance, Risk, and Continuity))

- (g) That Heads of Departments would receive over the summer a summary of key observations from the current risk assessment round, inclusive of any particular feedback relevant to their submission.

(by the Dean of Warwick Business School)

- (h) That there was a need for the University's dynamism and flexibility to continue to be renewed and for this to be reflected within the Risk Register.

(by the Registrar)

- (i) That work was being undertaken to better understand performance within the administration, to ensure optimal performance in a context of new strategic developments and growth in institutional size and complexity.
- (j) That the methodology used for the Risk Register was under review, and that feedback from the Dean of Warwick Medical School on the funding landscape following changes to the NHS in the context of the University's risk environment would be welcome.

RESOLVED:

That the proposals outlined in the University's Risk Identification and Assessment for Summer 2012 be approved, as set out in paper SC.408/11-12.

588/11-12

Institute of Advanced Study Update

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Director of the Institute of Advanced Study (IAS), providing an update on activities, together with an oral report (SC.407/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Director of IAS)

- (a) That, in response to comments from the Research Committee, a new Research Grant Leave Scheme was being designed to increase the number of external research bids, by offering applicants the opportunity to buy-in replacement teaching for one term to provide the space and time to compile ambitious external bids.
- (b) That the Global Research Fellowship Scheme had attracted a high level of interest, with thirty candidates short-listed for interview.
- (c) That the Early Career Fellows Scheme had also attracted a high level of interest.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (d) That the Global Research Fellowship Scheme should be used to continue to leverage talented researchers, and that more than ten fellowships should be offered if there were a significant number of outstanding candidates.

(by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (e) That, when she had been on a selection panel for the Global Research Fellowship Scheme, the high calibre of applicants was evident.

RESOLVED:

That the Dean of Warwick Business School may wish to investigate the relatively low number of applicants to Warwick Business School as part of the Global Research Fellowship Scheme.

589/11-12

Strategic Plan for Monash-Warwick Alliance 2012-2017

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Deputy Registrar, with a Strategic Plan for the Monash-Warwick Alliance 2012-2017, that identifies priority activities and associated Key Performance Indicators (SC.410/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the Strategic Plan had been approved by both Vice-Chancellors and would be received by both University Councils in July 2012.
- (b) That the Key Performance Indicators were profiled to provide a sense of trajectory and scale within the first five years of the establishment of the Alliance.
- (c) That the detailed monitoring of the strategy would be the responsibility of the Alliance Steering Committee and the management framework of both universities, culminating in an annual report to both Councils at the end of the calendar year.
- (d) That the Strategic Plan reflected the need to be engaged with industry and commercial activity as part of the partnership.
- (e) That the visibility of the partnerships' activity was intended to be visible to students and staff.

RESOLVED:

That the Strategic Plan for the Monash-Warwick Alliance be endorsed for recommendation to the Senate and the Council in July 2012, noting that the Strategic Plan will also be considered within the Monash governance framework for consideration by the Monash Council in the same period.

590/11-12

Honorary Degrees Committee Report

CONSIDERED:

The report from the meeting of the Honorary Degrees Committee held on 20 December 2011, 31 January 2012 and 26 June 2012 (SC.409/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Dean of Warwick Medical School)

- (a) That consideration should be given to the award of Honorary Degrees to individuals off-campus and overseas, and that the site of potential locations for this would be helpful.

(by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (b) That further consideration should be given to the gender diversity of the Honorary Graduands.

(by the Registrar)

- (c) That work was underway to strengthen the quantity and quality of nominations, and that consideration should be given now for nominations to be awarded in 2015, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University.

RESOLVED:

That members of the Steering Committee identify individuals for consideration by the Honorary Degrees Committee, particularly in order to access the highest calibre graduands for the University's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 2015.

591/11-12 Fees Working Group Report: Non-Standard Fee Recommendations for 2013/14

CONSIDERED:

The annual report from the Fees Working Group of proposed changes to non-standard fee levels for 2013/14 (SC.402/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

- (a) That Warwick Manufacturing Group had proposed a 10.5% increase in its non-standard fees for Home/EU students, to partly be used where national scholarship funding does not cover WMG fees and to encourage applications from new markets.
- (b) That the Departments of Statistics and Mathematics had proposed a shift from Band 1 to Band 2, and that this proposal was supported by the Fees Working Group.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed increases in non-standard tuition fees for undergraduate and postgraduate courses for 2013/14, as set out in the schedules of paper SC.402/11-12, be approved.

592/11-12 Research Councils UK School-University Partnerships Initiative

CONSIDERED:

Invitation to consider the Call for Proposals to the Research Councils UK School-University Partnerships Initiative, worth £1.5million over three years to create and build partnerships between universities and secondary schools (SC.402/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (a) That Early Career Fellows would be well placed to contribute to this initiative, between finishing their PhD and their viva.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Knowledge Transfer, Business Engagement and Research (Science & Medicine))

- (b) That the Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies could also contribute to the University's response to the Call for Proposals to the Research Councils UK School-University Partnerships Initiative.

RESOLVED:

That the University's response to the Call for Proposals to the Research Councils UK School-University Partnerships Initiative be compiled by the Student Admissions and Recruitment Office, and considered by the Steering Committee prior to the deadline of 25 September 2012.

593/11-12

Regional Impact Study

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That a Regional Impact Study was to be undertaken noting that he would be engaging with departments following Examination Boards, to request co-operation with consultants on data collection.

KMS/KP/steershare/minutes/201112/July12/19July12