

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 11 February 2008

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor R Higgott
Mr J Kirby
Professor K Lamberts
Professor R Lindley
Professor M Smith
Professor L M Whitby

Apologies Professor S Bassnett
Professor Y Carter
Professor H Thomas

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Communications, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Registrar, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Administrative Officer (Campus Affairs), Director Of Management Information and Planning (for item 299/07-08), Head of the Department of Statistics (for item 300/07-08), Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) (for item 307/07-08), Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment (for item 308/07-08), Director of Research Support Services (for item 309/07-08), Industrial Development Officer (for item 310/07-08)

298/07-08 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2008 be approved.

299/07-08 Consultation on the Research Excellence Framework (minute 284/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft response to the HEFCE Consultation on the Research Excellence Framework (S.27/07-08 {Revised}).

RESOLVED:

That the draft response to the HEFCE Consultation and proposals for the covering letter be approved subject to some minor amendments as discussed in the meeting.

300/07-08 Quinquennial Review of Statistics (minute 262/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The Department of Statistics Response to the Quinquennial Review Report (SC.224/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations for the University contained within the report be passed to relevant committees and Officers for consideration and response, noting that progress against the recommendations would be monitored through the established follow-up processes for quinquennial and departmental reviews.

301/07-08

HEFCE Capital Allocation (minute 283/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The HEFCE Capital Funding Information Update (SC.225/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University's capital funding allocation from HEFCE was in line with expectations, but that the much higher levels of funding received by the University's main competitors presented a challenge for the University going forwards.

302/07-08

Theatre Archive (minute 285/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A proposal to develop a Performance Archive at the University (SC.221/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the Chair of the Faculty of Arts bring forward a paper to the Committee in March with a more detailed proposal, noting that the Committee acknowledged that a 'Live Archive' would be preferable to a more traditional paper archive.

303/07-08

DIUS Consultation on Innovation (minute 265/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University Response to the DIUS Consultation on Innovation (SC.232/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the response be re-submitted including the amendments as discussed at the meeting, including:

- a) reference to the Arts Faculty and the benefits that being a multi-disciplinary institution can bring to innovation.
- b) reference to relevant Warwick Business School programmes.

304/07-08

The 1994 Group

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the Vice-Chancellor had sent a letter to the Chair of the 1994 Group confirming that the University wished to withdraw from the Group with effect from 31 July 2008.

305/07-08

Professor Michael Edwards

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Michael Edwards had been granted membership of the Academie Francaise.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee write to Professor Edwards congratulating him on his achievement.

306/07-08

Security Incident

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That there had been a security incident the previous week involving external visitors to the Students' Union which had resulted in injuries being sustained by Students' Union and University Security staff, and that a review of events in the Students' Union targeting non-Warwick students and staff would be undertaken as a result.

307/07-08

Policy Update: Teaching Quality

CONSIDERED:

An update on Teaching Quality issues including the pilot of the proposed new marking scale for undergraduate modules, the National Student Survey, the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy, preparations for the QAA Institutional Audit and other QAA audit activity (SC.228/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the Chair of Ipsos MORI had invited the University to identify any concerns about the NSS should it be appropriate to do so.

308/07-08

Policy Update: Admissions

CONSIDERED:

An update on Admissions issues including a summary of applications received and offers made, a summary of 14-19 curriculum reform, reforms to A Levels, Advanced Diplomas, Extended Projects and the Cambridge Pre-U (SC.227/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment update the Committee at its next meeting concerning national trends in admissions data following publication of UCAS data.

309/07-08

Policy Update: Research

CONSIDERED:

An update on Research issues including the development of the research strategy, increasing engagement with Research Councils and external funding bodies and Research Income Generation (SC.226/07-08).

310/07-08

Higher Education Innovation Fund Round 4

CONSIDERED:

HEFCE Higher Education Innovation Fund Round 4 - Invitation and Guidance for Institutional Strategies (SC.229/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That any process for the allocation of HEIF Round 4 funds should be as light touch as possible and must ensure that approved bids were closely aligned to the implementation of the University Strategy.

311/07-08

Border Immigration Agency Consultation on Visitors to the UK

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/08/006 concerning the Border and Immigration Agency consultation on visitors to the UK (SC.230/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That a letter would shortly be sent to the Minister of State for Immigration outlining the key concerns of the University, whilst noting that it appeared unlikely from meetings with officials that the proposals would change significantly.

312/07-08

Students' Union Officer Elections

REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)

That the Officer Elections had been held and the Sabbatical Officers for the next academic year had been elected.

RESOLVED:

That details of the elected Sabbatical Officers for 2008/09 be reported to the Committee once they have been confirmed.

313/07-08

Ethnicity, Gender and Degree Attainment

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/08/004 informing institutions of the publication of the final report of the Ethnicity, Gender and Degree Attainment Project (SC.231/07-08).

314/07-08

Universities UK Annual Review 2006/07

RECEIVED:

The Universities UK Annual Review 2006/07 (SC.233/07-08).

315/07-08

Beacons for Public Engagement

RECEIVED:

Information from the UK higher education funding councils, Research Councils UK and the Wellcome Trust about the Beacons for Public Engagement initiative (SC.234/07-08).

316/07-08

Who's Who at HEFCE

RECEIVED:

An organogram detailing key personnel at HEFCE (SC.235/07-08).