

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 3 November 2014

Present: Professor Stuart Croft (Provost (Chair)), Professor M Freely (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Professor T Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science and Engineering)), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education and Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences)), Professor M Taylor (Dean of the Warwick Business School), Professor P Thomas (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science), Professor P Winstanley (Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine).

Apologies: Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)), Professor N Thrift (Vice-Chancellor and President), Ms C Turhan (President of the Students' Union), Professor L Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources)).

In Attendance: Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Ms P Glover (Director of Governance and Assurance Services) (for item 51/14-15), Ms J Horsburgh (Deputy Registrar), Dr D Lamburn (Chair of the Collaborative, Flexible and Distributed Learning Sub-Committee) (for item 52/14-15), Dr P Roberts (Director of CADRE) (for item 53/14-15), Mrs C Silvester (Assistant Registrar, Governance (Assistant Secretary)), Mr K Sloan (Registrar and Chief Operating Officer (Secretary)).

45/14-15 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2014 be approved.

46/14-15 Staff Awards 2015

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That a University-wide staff award scheme had been launched in order to recognise the exceptional contributions made by individuals and teams who made the University's many successes possible.
- (b) That there were nine award categories, noting that all staff were eligible to both nominate and be nominated.
- (c) That students were invited to nominate their staff 'unsung heroes', and those who had made a significant contribution to the student experience at Warwick.
- (d) That the deadline for nominations, to be submitted via Insite, was 17 November 2014.

RESOLVED:

That colleagues be invited to promote and share the Staff Award information within their teams and networks.

47/14-15 Meeting of the Assembly

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (a) That a meeting of the Assembly had been held on Tuesday 28 October 2014, following a request from the Universities and Colleges Union (UCU) to discuss the consultation on changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).
- (b) That in view of the fact the final proposals from USS had yet to be confirmed, it was only possible to discuss the position known at the current time.
- (c) That there had been a collegial debate and atmosphere at the meeting, noting that UCU had recognised that the University had made its position on matters clear and transparent throughout the process to date.
- (d) That the UCU had proposed a detailed motion to the Assembly, the essence of which was to request that the University declare a clear belief in the importance of a good defined benefit pension scheme that provided a secure and predictable income to staff in retirement as an essential element of a world class university, and that it used its role in UUK and the Employers' Pension Forum to bring influence to pull back from the proposals that would "change USS beyond recognition".
- (e) That the Assembly had voted in favour of the motion by a clear majority, whilst Senior Officers had abstained in the absence of any formal proposals from USS at the current time.
- (f) That a Sub-Group of the University Council had been formed to provide an independent view of matters, especially around some of the technical aspects of USS reform, with a report going to Council in due course.

48/14-15 Public Consultation on Second WMG Academy for Young Engineers

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That a formal public consultation had opened on plans to develop a second WMG Academy for Young Engineers in Solihull, with a focus engineering with science.
- (b) That the proposed new school was being supported by organisations including the University, Solihull Council together with a large number of local employers including Jaguar Land Rover, Controls and Data Services, ARUP, Prodrive and Dassault Systemes.
- (c) That these partners would help to shape the curriculum and the project-based learning approach of the new Academy.
- (d) That pupils would take a problem-solving, practical approach to learning by working on real-world problems, set by the employer partners.
- (e) That the Academy partners were keen to encourage employers, potential students and parents, the local community and other interested parties to respond to the consultation, noting that meetings with a range of key stakeholders were planned, together with a public meeting on 3 November 2014.
- (f) That the consultation deadline was 5pm on Friday 30 November 2014.

49/14-15 Global Shakespeare

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That Queen Mary University of London and the University of Warwick would launch Global Shakespeare at The Barbican, London on Thursday 13 November 2014.
- (b) That the collaboration aimed to transform the research agenda on Shakespeare for the 21st Century by exploring the writer's extraordinary dissemination and appropriation in cultures and languages across the world, in text, performance, film and new media.
- (c) That the opening addresses would be given by Professor Jonathan Bate, Provost of Worcester College, University of Oxford and Professor David Schalkwyk, Academic Director for Global Shakespeare.
- (d) That there would be a play reading by professional actors from Matthew Hahn's play "The Robben Island Bible", based on the copy of Shakespeare signed by apartheid prisoners on Robben Island (including Nelson Mandela), and featured in the British Library exhibition, "Shakespeare - Staging the World" in 2012.

50/14-15 Disestablishment of the Intellectual Property Committee

REPORTED: (by the Registrar and Chief Operating Officer)

- (a) That it was proposed to disestablish the Intellectual Property Committee, noting that at its meeting on 9 October 2014 the University Council had been supportive of the proposal and that the matter had been referenced at the meeting of the Senate on 1 October 2014.
- (b) That the proposal was being made to the Steering Committee on behalf of the Senate.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal to disestablish the Intellectual Property Committee be approved.

51/14-15 *Autumn Term 2014 Institutional Risk Update

CONSIDERED:

The Autumn term 2014 institutional risk register update (SC.16/14-15).

RESOLVED:

That the Autumn term 2014 institutional risk register be approved as discussed at the meeting and as set out in paper SC.16/14-15.

52/14-15 Proposed Collaboration with London Film School

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining a proposed collaboration with the London Film School (SC.17/14-15).

REPORTED: (by the Provost)

- (a) That initial discussions regarding a collaboration between the London Film School (LFS) and the University had been held over the past year at senior level, with proposals consisting initially of validation of two MA courses.
- (b) That the new Director of LFS was supportive of the proposal, noting that in addition to the proposed course validation, which would stand within its own terms, the provision of support for LFS's overseas recruitment and potential further course development over the next five years had been discussed.

(by the Chair of the Collaborative, Flexible and Distributed Learning Sub-Committee)

- (c) That the University did not normally validate courses offered by other HE providers, noting however that as the potential existed for further development of the relationship with LFS, the proposal was being brought to the Steering Committee for approval in principle, following consideration by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee at its recent meeting.
- (d) That the proposal would be considered by the Senate at its next meeting in January 2015.
- (e) That while it was noted that there was limited academic expertise in the relevant practical areas within the University, measures would be put in place to ensure appropriate scrutiny of courses.
- (f) That the Department of Film and Television Studies at Warwick would need to provide assurance of sufficient academic expertise to support the programme.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed collaboration between the London Film School and the University of Warwick be approved in principle.

53/14-15

Strategic Plan and Progress Update on the Creation of the Centre for Arts Doctoral Research Excellence

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing a progress update on the creation of the Centre of Arts Doctoral Research Excellence (CADRE), together with the strategic plan for the Centre (SC.20/14-15).

REPORTED: (by the Director of CADRE)

- (a) That since its creation CADRE had received support and funding at an institutional and Faculty level, enabling the Centre to engage with staff and students across the University.
- (b) That strategic discussions were underway to consider ways in which CADRE could present an attractive proposition for future external funding, from bodies such as the AHRC, the Wellcome Foundation and the Wolfson Foundation.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences))

- (c) That the Centre's regional activity to date should be commended, noting that going forward it would be important to develop sustainable national contracts.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of CADRE and her team be thanked for their work towards the establishment and development of the Centre.

54/14-15

*WMG Bids

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining four funding proposals that WMG intended to submit to funding bodies during November 2014 (SC.19/14-15).

RESOLVED:

That the submission by WMG of the four proposals be approved, subject to the financial aspects and risk of each proposal being approved via the major projects approval process prior to submission.

55/14-15

Student Financial Information

RECEIVED:

A paper outlining the presentation of University financial information for the student audience (SC.18/14-15).

REPORTED: (by the Group Finance Director)

That the paper would be considered at a future meeting of the Steering Committee when the President of the Students' Union was present.

56/14-15

Membership of Senate Committees

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That the Chair of the Senate had taken Chair's Action to approve the addition of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences), Professor Simon Swain, to the membership of the Academic Resourcing Committee, with immediate effect.

57/14-15

NUS Sustainability Projects

RECEIVED:

A communication from the National Union of Students (NUS) (SC.21/14-15).

REPORTED:

- (a) That the National Union of Students (NUS) ran various programmes to help universities and colleges embed sustainability within their campus, curriculum and community.
- (b) That the NUS had written to the Vice-Chancellor and President in recognition of the success and impact of Warwick's contribution to various projects such as the Student Switch Off, Green Impact and Student Eats.
- (c) That the NUS would be running such programmes again in 2014/15 and encouraged the University to continue its support.

