

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 3 April 2006

Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Professor S Bassnett  
Professor A Caesar  
Professor Y Carter  
Professor J Jones  
Professor R Lindley  
Professor M Luntley  
Professor M Smith  
Ms K Stark  
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor L Bridges, Director of Estates.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Deputy Registrar, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 425/05-06 the Industrial Development Officer (Research Support Services), for items 426/05-06 and 427/05-06 the Director of Warwick Ventures.

419/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2006 be approved.

420/05-06 Research Council Success Rates (minute 409/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Research})

That the data on Warwick's research council success rates published in Research Fortnight and set out in paper SC.267/05-06 had been checked by Research Support Services and validated as broadly consistent with figures maintained by the University.

421/05-06 Email Replacement Project

CONSIDERED:

An oral update from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) on the progress of the email replacement project.

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor {Teaching and Learning})

(a) That a pilot for the migration of staff from Novell GroupWise to Microsoft Exchange was scheduled to commence after Easter 2006 and that Information Technology Services, Research Support Services and the Department of Economics would be participating in this pilot.

(b) That it was expected that the migration of all staff to Microsoft Exchange would be complete by the end of the calendar year.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of IT Services ensure that information on the timetable for migration of staff from Novell GroupWise to Microsoft Exchange together with detailed information and guidance on the implications of the new system for email storage and archival be circulated and publicised to all members of staff as soon as practicable.
- (b) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) discuss with the Director of IT the timings of the pilot migration with a view to accelerating the completion of migration of all staff to Microsoft Exchange.

422/05-06 Appointment to the Research Councils 2006 (minute 399/05-06 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That no suitable nominations from the University for appointment to the Board/Council membership of the ESRC, AHRC and NERC for 2006 had been forthcoming, noting that steps were being taken to prepare potential nominations for appointments to the research councils for any 2007 vacancies and that Research Support Services were continuing to encourage involvement by members of staff at other levels within the research councils.

423/05-06 RAE 2008

CONSIDERED:

A copy of an article published in the *Times Higher* on 31 March on the proposed move towards a metrics-based system for assessing research quality and its potential impact on institutional QR allocations (SC.281/05-06, tabled at the meeting) together with an oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That data circulated by the 1994 Group on the potential impact of a move to a metrics-based system of research assessment on institutional QR allocations had indicated a projected loss for the University of approximately £5m - £6m in QR funding per annum.
- (b) That the Russell Group, at its meeting held on 30 March, discussed the feasibility of the incorporation of metrics into the 2008 RAE for selected departments or Faculties.

RESOLVED:

That the 1994 Group data on the potential impact of the introduction of a metrics-based system on institutional QR allocations be circulated for the information of members of the Steering Committee.

424/05-06 EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards (minute 410/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

A paper outlining the timetable and procedures for the internal submission and assessment of draft outline proposals for the EPSRC Science and Innovation Award scheme (SC.271/05-06).

425/05-06

Reform of European Structural Funds

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing notification of the publication of the DTI consultation document 'Draft National Strategic Reference Framework EU Structural Funds Programmes: 2007-2013' outlining plans for the development of European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) and European Social Funds (ESF) (SC.272/05-06) together with an oral report from the Industrial Development Officer (Research Support Services).

RESOLVED:

That the Industrial Development Officer (Research Support Services) continue to keep the Steering Committee informed of developments in the ERDF programme and potential opportunities for the University arising from proposed changes to ERDF.

426/05-06

HEIF3: Bioventures (minute 361/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The detailed bid submission to the HEFCE under the competitive funding element of HEIF3 for the Warwick-led collaborative project Bioventures (SC.273/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of Warwick Ventures.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Warwick Ventures)

That the institutions collaborating with the University in the proposed Bioventures programme were the Universities of Aston, Keele, Loughborough, Leicester, Nottingham, Nottingham Trent, Cambridge, Cranfield and Oxford.

RESOLVED:

That the detailed bid for the proposed Bioventures programme be approved as set out in paper SC.273/05-06 for submission to the HEFCE subject to amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.

427/05-06

Gowers Review of Intellectual Property

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/06/30 on the call for evidence by the Treasury for the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property together with the draft institutional response to the Review (SC.274/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the draft institutional response to the Gowers Review be approved as set out in paper SC.274/05-06 for submission to UUK by 7 April 2006 and to the Treasury by 21 April 2006 subject to minor amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.

428/05-06

Measuring and Recording Student Achievement: Second Consultation on National Credit Arrangements for England

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/06/36 on the publication by the Measuring and Recording Student Achievement Steering Group (the Burgess Group) of a follow-up consultation document on national credit arrangements for England (SC.275/05-06) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning).

RESOLVED:

That the Acting Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality), in consultation with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning), prepare the draft institutional response to the Burgess Group follow-up consultation for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to UUK by the deadline of 2 May 2006.

429/05-06 Health Committee Inquiry into Workforce Needs and Planning for the Health Service

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/06/33 setting out the UUK response to the Health Committee inquiry into workforce needs and planning for the health service (SC.276/05-06) together with oral reports from the Registrar and the Dean of the Warwick Medical School.

RESOLVED:

That the concerns expressed at the meeting in regard to paragraph 7 of UUK Information Note I/06/33(a) be noted and that the Dean of the Warwick Medical School and the Registrar check the precise status of Service Increment for Teaching (SIFT) funding.

430/05-06 Review of Teaching Funding Method

RECEIVED:

The executive summary of HEFCE document 2006/12 on the outcomes of the first cycle of the HEFCE consultation on changes to its teaching funding methodology (SC.277/05-06).

431/05-06 European Commission Call for Proposals: Erasmus Mundus and Higher Education Reform

CONSIDERED:

Europe Note E/06/03 on calls for proposals by the European Commission for Actions under the Erasmus Mundus programme and for projects contributing to higher education reform under the Lisbon Strategy and the Bologna Process (SC.278/05-06) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

RESOLVED:

That the University not submit bids to the European Commission in response to the Commission's current call for proposals for the Erasmus Mundus programme and for projects contributing to higher education reform under the Lisbon Strategy and the Bologna Process.

432/05-06 Procurement Data Capture and Benchmarking in the HE Sector

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/06/32 on the establishment of a project to determine benchmarks for procurement in the HE sector and requesting the completion by institutions of a questionnaire to support the project (SC.279/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Registrar and the Acting Director of Finance prepare a robust response to the questionnaire on procurement data capture and benchmarking for submission to Proc-HE by the deadline of 7 April 2006.

433/05-06 NUS HE Funding Policy

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

That the National Union of Students (NUS), at its 2006 Annual Conference held from 28 to 30 March, voted for a shift in the NUS policy on HE funding towards more targeted, means-tested maintenance grants for students.

434/05-06 Budget 2006

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/35 providing a summary of elements in the 2006 Budget pertaining to or having an impact on UK HE (SC.280/05-06).

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