

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

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

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Professor S Bassnett  
Professor Y Carter  
Professor J Jones  
Professor R Lindley  
Professor S B Palmer  
Professor H Thomas  
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Professor L Bridges, Professor A Caesar, Professor M Luntley, Professor M Smith.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Communication, Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Mr B Duggan, Ms N Snodgrass.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Mr Brian Duggan, the incoming President of the Union of Students, to his first meeting of the Committee.

610/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2006 be approved subject to amendments to minute 589/05-06 as follows: (amendments underlined, deletions struck through)

RESOLVED:

(a) That the costs of Warwick Postgraduate Research Fellowships (WPRFs) be included in the budgets for the University's devolved units, including the Academic Resourcing Committee, and deducted from the central service charges for departments that are awarded WPRFs allocated via the Academic Resourcing Committee for all non-devolved departments as set out in Option 2 of paper SC.393/05-06 and that separate schemes be introduced for devolved departments.

(~~b~~) That the selection of WPRF award holders remain centrally administered for the academic year 2006/07.

(~~b~~) That the first round of allocations of awards under the WPRF scheme be completed by the end of the Autumn Term 2006/07 and that the costs of the awards be accounted for in departments' first-quarter revised budgets.

611/05-06 2006 AC21 International Forum

RECEIVED:

The participant list and conference highlights for the 2006 AC21 International Forum "Global Education: Universities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" to be held at the University from 4 to 7 July 2006 (tabled at the meeting) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Communication)

That members of the Committee were welcome to attend conference plenary sessions and the conference dinner if they so wished.

612/05-06 Academic Resourcing Committee Five-Year Plan (minute 598/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The five-year financial plan summary for the Academic Resourcing Committee for the period 2005/06 to 2009/10 (SC.396/05-06) together with an oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Finance)

- (a) That the forecast out-turn for the financial year 2006/07 for the Centre for Systems Biology was conservative and that the Centre could be expected to deliver a more positive out-turn than that currently reflected within the Plan.
- (b) That the Finance Office was currently investigating the feasibility of separating income and expenditure relating to the Warwick Learning Account and courses for staff as individual line items within the management accounts for the Centre for Lifelong Learning.

RESOLVED:

That the ARC five-year plan be recommended for approval as set out in paper SC.396/05-06.

613/05-06 Departmental Awards Ceremonies

CONSIDERED:

A proposal for the development of a protocol governing the conduct of departmental award ceremonies for sub-degree qualifications (SC.398/05-06) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposed development of a protocol governing departmental award ceremonies be approved in principle as set out in paper SC.398/05-06 on the understanding that such events would receive coordination and support from the central administration but that individual participating departments would be responsible for the administration and running of such ceremonies and the costs associated with each event.
- (b) That the Deputy Registrar and the University Secretary, with support from the Degree Congregation Team in the Academic Office and addressing in particular the courses for which local award ceremonies would be appropriate, undertake the development of the protocol outlined in (a) above and bring back full proposals for consideration by the Steering Committee in the Autumn Term.

614/05-06 DfES Arrangements to Recover Loans from EU Students

RECEIVED:

Europe Note E/06/05 from the UK HE Europe Unit on details of the DfES plans to recover fee loans from EU students studying in the UK (SC.403/05-06).

615/05-06 Warwick Digital Laboratory (minute 579/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The revised outline bid to Advantage West Midlands (AWM) for capital funding to support the construction of the Warwick Digital Laboratory (SC.397/05-06) together with oral reports

from the Director of Finance and the Deputy Director of Research Finance (Research Support Services).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That the University's bid to AWM for funding under the Birmingham Science City initiative to support the establishment of a collaborative research centre in the area of energy efficiency would be submitted to AWM imminently.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University's bid to AWM for funding to support the construction of the Warwick Digital Laboratory be approved for submission to AWM subject to minor amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.
- (b) That the schedule of payments for the Warwick Digital Laboratory take into account any constraints placed by AWM upon the expenditure of AWM capital funding as well as the deadline for the expenditure of SRIF funding in March 2008.

616/05-06 Steering Committee Schedule

REPORTED: (by the University Secretary)

- (a) That the meeting of the Steering Committee on 10 July would be held from 9.00am to 10.00am prior to the first Summer Degree Congregation.
- (b) That the proposed Steering Committee schedule of meetings and timetable of policy issues for discussion for the 2006 summer vacation and academic year 2006/07 would be brought forward for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting on 10 July.

617/05-06 Research Assessment and Funding

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/65 providing an overview of the proposals set out in the DfES consultation document on the reform of higher education research assessment and funding and inviting HEIs to submit comments on the proposals in order to inform a UUK response to the consultation (SC.402/05-06).