

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 3 December 2007

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Professor S Bassnett  
Professor L Bridges  
Professor A Caesar  
Professor Y Carter  
Professor R Higgott  
Professor K Lamberts  
Professor R Lindley  
Professor S B Palmer  
Professor M Smith

Apologies: Professor H Thomas, , Mr J Kirby, Professor M Whitby.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Communication (from item 177/07-08), Director of Estates (until item 178/07-08), Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Ms H Sinclair, for item 177/07-08 the Director of the Institute of Advanced Study and the Administrator of the Institute of Advanced Study, for item 178/07-08 the Director of Warwick HRI.

173/07-08 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2007 be approved.

174/07-08 Warwick Commission

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the final report of the Warwick Commission, *The Multilateral Trade Regime: Which Way Forward?*, would be launched on Thursday 6 December at the World Trade Organisation, Geneva.

175/07-08 Appointment of Dean of Engineering

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Jonathan Seville, currently Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Birmingham, had been appointed as the new Dean of the School of Engineering.

176/07-08 Extraordinary Meeting of the Senate

REPORTED: (by the University Secretary)

That an extraordinary meeting of the Senate to consider the initial draft University response to the HEFCE Consultation *Research Excellence Framework* would be held on 6 February 2008 and that Heads of academic Departments would be invited to attend the meeting.

- 177/07-08 Policy Issues for Discussion: Institute of Advanced Study
- RECEIVED:
- A paper providing an update on recent developments in the Institute of Advanced Study including space allocation, current programming, current planning and future programming (SC.133/07-08).
- 178/07-08 HRI Update and QE Report
- RECEIVED:
- A paper providing an update on recent developments for Warwick HRI including human resourcing issues, research grant awards, teaching and buildings, campus and infrastructure together with the HRI management accounts for the first quarter of 2007/08 (SC.134/07-08).
- 179/07-08 Membership of RAE2008 Panels
- RECEIVED:
- A copy of the publication *Membership of RAE2008 Panels* containing full details of the membership of the main and sub-panels which will peer review the research quality of submissions to RAE2008 (SC.137/07-08).
- 180/07-08 HEFCE Consultation: Research Excellence Framework (minute 159/07-08 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/07/138 summarising the key points of the HEFCE consultation *Research Excellence Framework* and requesting that responses to the HEFCE consultation be sent to UUK by 1 February 2007 in order to inform the UUK response to the HEFCE (SC.145/07-08).
- 181/07-08 Allocation of Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF4)
- RECEIVED:
- A copy of an email from the HEFCE providing further details on the allocation of the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF4) (SC.135/07-08).
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That the indicative allocation for the University was expected to be £1.5m for 2008/09, £1.7m for 2009/10 and £1.9m for 2010/11 representing a 37% increase in funding in comparison with the period 2005/06 to 2006/07.
- 182/07-08 QE Report: Academic Resourcing Committee
- CONSIDERED:
- An overview of the management accounts for non-devolved academic departments for the first quarter of 2007/08 including analysis of research grant and contract income and student fee income (SC.128/07-08).
- RESOLVED:
- That the proposal for the Academic Resourcing Committee (ARC) to establish a clear process for the ARC to initiate reviews of specific areas of

academic activity in individual Departments or Centres, including activities which fall outwith the scope of the ARC, be approved subject to the following conditions:

- (a) That any proposal from the Academic Resourcing Committee to undertake specific reviews under the proposed process set out above be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval together with the proposed Terms of Reference and membership of the Review Group.
- (b) That consideration of the need for any such review by the ARC take account of the timetable of the University's wide-ranging Strategic Departmental Review Process.

183/07-08 Natural Environment Research Council Environmental Strategy

RECEIVED:

A copy of a press release from the Natural Environment Research Council on the launch of its environmental Strategy *Next Generation Science for Planet Earth 2007-2010* together with a leaflet providing an overview of the strategy and its delivery (SC.138/07-08)

184/07-08 National Student Survey 2008 (minute 53/07-08 refers)

RECEIVED:

A copy of a letter from the HEFCE thanking the University for its work on the 2007 National Student Survey (NSS) and informing the University of the arrangements for the 2008 NSS (SC.139/07-08).

185/07-08 Senate Business

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 5 December 2007 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

186/07-08 Science Facilities Research Council

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

That it was expected that the Comprehensive Spending Review Settlement would result in a reduction of around 15-20% in funding from the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) for the University's Department of Physics.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine) take forward initial discussions with colleagues at the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham to determine whether it was appropriate to make representations to Government on the effects of the Comprehensive Spending Review Settlement on the funding allocation from the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

187/07-08 Devolved QE Report: Warwick Medical School

RECEIVED:

The management accounts for the Warwick Medical School for the first quarter of 2007/08 (SC.140/07-08).

- 188/07-08 RCUK Quality Assurance and Validation (QAV) of TRAC
- RECEIVED:
- A letter from the Research Councils UK confirming the final arrangements for the Research Councils UK (RCUK) Quality Assurance and Validation (QAV) exercise, including alterations to the QAV-DATA and the QAV-METHOD forms, and a request to submit the RCUK QAV-DATA form by 31 January 2008 (SC.136/07-08).
- 189/07-08 UUK Response to Review of Science in the Department of Health (minute 39/07-08 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/07/136 setting out the UUK response to the Review of Science in the Department of Health (SC.141/07-08).
- 190/07-08 Student Membership of Institutional Audit Teams (minute 162/07-08 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/07/137 setting out the responses received to the survey of UUK members on QAA proposals for student members of institutional audit teams (SC.142/07-08).
- 191/07-08 UUK Europe Unit Information Note: November 2007
- RECEIVED:
- Issue 41 of the UUK Europe Unit Newsletter for November 2007 providing an update on issues of interest including the European University Association autumn conference (SC.143/07-08).
- 192/07-08 Process for Appointing a New Chair of Advantage West Midlands (minute 135/07-08 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- A copy of a letter from the Vice-Chancellor to the Government Office for the West Midlands submitting a nomination for the appointment of the new Chair of Advantage West Midlands in 2008 (SC.144/07-08).

cec\hs\steer-share\Mins07-08\Dec07\stg03-12-07  
12/12/07