

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 7 January 2008

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

Apologies: Professor H Thomas, University Secretary.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Campus Affairs, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Registrar, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, for item 224/07-08 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling), for item 225/07-08 the HR Policy Development Manager.

219/07-08 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2007 be approved subject to the revision of minute 206/07-08 as follows (amendments underlined):

Appointments to Committees of the Senate

RESOLVED (on behalf of the Senate)

(c) That Dr G Thomson and Dr M Hulse be appointed for terms two and three of 2007/08 as representatives of the Faculty of Arts to the Investigating Committee into Cases of Suspected Cheating).

220/07-08 University Access Agreement (minute 128/07-08 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the Office of Fair Access had advised the University that the proposed amendments to the University's Access Agreement had been approved.

221/07-08 New Year 2008 Honours List

REPORTED: (By the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University Honorary Treasurer, Brian Woods Scawen, had been awarded a CBE in the New Year 2008 Honours List.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee record formally its congratulations to the University Honorary Treasurer on his award in the New Year 2008 Honours List.

222/07-08

National Outbreak of Norovirus

REPORTED: (By the Vice-Chancellor)

That there had been a significant number of cases of the Norovirus reported nationally in recent weeks including an outbreak of the Norovirus on campus during the Christmas closedown period.

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee record formally its thanks to those staff who were involved in dealing with the virus outbreak on campus and those who had been involved in preparing the campus for the return of students for the start of term.

223/07-08

Centre for Analytical Science (Minute 600/06-07 refers)

REPORTED: (By the Vice-Chancellor)

That the success of the University's bid to the EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards to establish the Centre for Analytical Science had been confirmed publicly and that successful awards at other institutions and collaborations were in the areas of Energy (University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University); Operational Research (Lancaster University, University of Nottingham, Cardiff University and University of Southampton); Structural Ceramics (Imperial College London); and Tribology (University of Southampton).

224/07-08

Policy Issue for Discussion: Accommodation and Capital Update

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on strategic matters relation to Accommodation and Capital including current capital projects, SRIF and Teaching & Learning projects and space management (SC.177/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

(a) That the transfer of the Estates Department from Gibbet Hill to Argent Court was currently in process and that this would allow work on the proposed Clinical Trials Unit to begin once the existing Estates Building had been demolished.

(b) That work was well advanced to prepare Argent Court for occupation.

(by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

(c) That the University had not yet received details of its HEFCE capital funding allocation to take effect from 2008 but that when it was received a process for prioritising allocations against strategic priorities would need to be confirmed.

RESOLVED:

That information regarding the University's capital funding allocation from HEFCE be reported to the Committee as soon as possible after its receipt which was expected within the next few weeks.

- 225/07-08      Conducting Equality Impact Assessments in Higher Education
- CONSIDERED:
- An Equality Challenge Unit/HEFCE publication on conducting equality impact assessments in higher education (SC.169/07-08) together with an oral report from the HR Policy Development Management and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Regional Affairs) regarding the University's progress to date on the implementation of equality impact assessments .
- 226/07-08      Membership of the ESRC Board and Committees and the EPSRC Council
- CONSIDERED:
- UUK Post Box PB/07/23 inviting nominations for the ESRC Board and its Committees and the EPSRC Council (SC.170/07-08).
- REPORTED: (By the Vice-Chancellor)
- That Professor M Smith and Professor A Rodgers had been nominated for membership of the EPSRC Council.
- (By Professor Higgott)
- That nominations would be forthcoming for the ESRC Board and its Committees and the intention was to secure University representation on as many of these bodies as possible.
- RESOLVED:
- That proposed nominations to the ESRC Board and its Committees be considered at a future meeting of the Committee in advance of the closing date for nominations of 11 February 2008.
- 227/07-08      Wolfson Foundation: Call for Funding
- CONSIDERED:
- A copy of a letter from the Wolfson Foundation calling for proposals for the third round of funding for university libraries from institutions in membership of the Consortium of University Research Libraries, noting that the closing date for receipt of outline submissions was 7 July 2008 (SC.171/07-08).
- RESOLVED:
- That the Committee consider initial proposals from the University Librarian to respond to this call for funding at its meeting on 4 February 2008.
- 228/07-08      Update on 14-19 Curriculum Developments
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/07/145 providing an update on 14-19 Curriculum Developments (SC.172/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the UUK Information Note I/07/145 be circulated to professional colleagues within Undergraduate Admissions and that they be encouraged to engage with the QAA subject qualification review panels to be held later this term.

229/07-08 Universities UK's Response to HEFCE's Phasing-out of ELQs

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/07/146 containing UUK's response to HEFCE's Phasing-out of ELQs (SC.173/07-08).

230/07-08 Results of the 2007 UK HE Europe Unit Survey on UK HEIs Engagement in European HE Developments.

RECEIVED:

UUK Europe Note E/07/07 reporting on the results of the 2007 UK HE Europe Unit Survey on UK HEIs Engagement in European HE Developments. (SC.175/07-08).

231/07-08 Home Office Information on Highly Skilled Migrants

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/07/151 providing the latest summary on Home Office proposals regarding highly skilled migrants (SC.178/07-08).

232/07-08 UUK's Key Strategic Priorities for 2007-09

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/07/148 outlining UUK's key strategic priorities for 2007-09 (SC.179/07-08).

233/07-08 Testing Times: UK Health Research in a Global Marketplace

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/07/149 providing a policy briefing on UK Health Research in a Global Marketplace (SC.180/07-08).

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