

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 10 September 2007

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)  
Professor L Bridges  
Professor A Caesar  
Professor Y Carter  
Mr J Kirby  
Professor M Smith  
Professor H Thomas

Apologies: Professor R Higgott, Professor M Luntley, Professor S B Palmer,  
Professor M Whitby, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates.

In Attendance: Director of Communication, Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Ms H Sinclair, the Director: Warwick International, for item 662/06-07 the Director of Campus Affairs, for items 663/06-07 and 664/06-07 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality).

657/06-07 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2007 be approved subject to:

- (a) inclusion in minute 639/06-07(b) on the THES Analysis of Research Grant Applications and Awards of a '%' against the figure reported in the 'Success Rate' column for each Research Council.
- (b) revision of minute 640/06-07 as follows (amendments underlined, deletions struck through):

Review of Science in the Department of Health

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/07/98 on the review of the quality, management and use of natural and social science in the Department of Health (SC.475/06-07).

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

That discussions had already taken place with the Warwick Medical School on the preparation of a University response to the Review of Science in the Department of Health.

RESOLVED:

That the ~~Dean of the Medical School~~ prepare a initial draft University response to the consultation on the review, which was being prepared by the Senior Research Development Manager in the Warwick Medical School, be ~~for consideration~~ by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the Government Office for Science by 31 October 2007 and, if time permitted, submission to UUK by 19 October 2007.

658/06-07 Midlands Manufacturing Research Centre (minute 637/06-07 refers)

REPORTED:

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

- (a) That the Director of Administration (Academic) in the WMG was preparing an initial University response to the invitation from Rolls Royce Plc to become a collaborative partner in the development of the Midlands Manufacturing Research Centre (MMRC) for consideration by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine) by 12 September prior to submission to Rolls Royce Plc by 14 September.
- (b) That the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research: Science and Medicine) and the Director of Administration (Academic) in the WMG were scheduled to attend a meeting with Rolls Royce Plc on 19 September to present the University's proposal on its potential role in the MMRC.

RESOLVED:

That the Vice-Chancellor approve the initial proposal from the University on its potential contribution to the Midlands Manufacturing Research Centre on behalf of the Steering Committee prior to submission of the proposal to Rolls Royce Plc.

659/06-07 Prime Minister's Initiative 2

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That details of the second phase of the Prime Minister's Initiative for International Education (PMI2 Connect) would be announced in the next two to three weeks and that the funds available were expected to be similar to those available from the first phase of the Initiative.

660/06-07 University Strategy

RECEIVED:

A copy of the University Strategy document together with an oral report from the Director of Communication on the communication plan for the dissemination of the University Strategy internally and externally.

REPORTED:

(by the Director of Communication)

- (a) That the final version of the University Strategy had been distributed to University staff in advance of the presentation on the Strategy to be made at the Warwick Network event on 14 September 2007.
- (b) That articles had been published in the *Birmingham Post* and the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* about the University Strategy and that further coverage was expected in the coming week in *The Guardian*, *THES* and *The Independent*.
- (c) That external briefings on the University Strategy had taken place with Advantage West Midlands (AWM) and Marketing Birmingham

and that a briefing session with the Warwick Partnership was planned for later in the current week.

- (d) That a revised version of the University Strategy was being prepared for an external audience and would be published and circulated to external stakeholders from 12 September onwards.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (e) That the final text of the University Strategy document contained the target of attaining 45 highly cited researchers at the University by 2015.

(by the President of the Union of Students)

- (f) That the Union of Students was examining the alignment of the Union's Strategy with that of the University.

661/06-07 Survey on Misconduct in Research

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/07/100 inviting Universities to respond to a confidential survey by UUK on misconduct in research to support the work of the UK Panel for Research Integrity in Health and Biomedical Sciences (SC.488/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That Research Support Services and the Senior Research Development Manager in the Warwick Medical School prepare a draft response to the survey on misconduct in research for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to Universities UK.

662/06-07 Trust Schools (minute 431/06-07 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper providing an update on the progress of discussions with the University and a number of schools in the greater region on the potential involvement of the University in forming partnerships through the establishment of Trust Schools together with an analysis of the implications for the University of involvement in such partnerships and proposals for future developments in this area (SC.491/06-07).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University become a Foundation Member of the Kingswood Educational Trust comprising Kingsley School, Redditch and Woodrush High School, Birmingham.
- (b) That the Director of Campus Affairs be proposed, in the first instance, as the nominated Director to serve on the Trust Board until the University's relationship with the Trust is firmly established.
- (c) That the University continue to engage in discussions with Kenilworth, Westwood and Barrs Hill Schools noting that these schools represented a range of subject specialisms available within the University and that University staff were currently members of the Governing Bodies of two of these schools.

- (d) That the University limit its involvement to no more than five individual Trusts to enable the nature and purpose of such involvement to be properly tested and evaluated.
- (e) That the Registrar, the Director of Campus Affairs and the Director of the Institute of Education engage Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors from these five schools, and any other schools who approach the University in the meantime, in a workshop to explore:
  - (i) how to make a Trust/University partnership work to best effect;
  - (ii) whether a strategic shared Trust might offer a better mechanism for achieving greater synergies and impact;
  - (iii) whether there could be involvement with an international school in such a collaboration.
- (f) That any additional steps proposed or required to take forward substantive discussions on a strategic shared Trust, as highlighted in (ii) above, be not pursued prior to further consideration by the Steering Committee.
- (g) That the Director of Campus Affairs produce a short public document which captures the University's rationale for involvement in Trust Schools and how this involvement is being taken forward for dissemination to external stakeholders and public policy makers

663/06-07

QAA Draft Report: Audit of Warwick Manufacturing Group's Collaborative Courses with Hong Kong Polytechnic

CONSIDERED:

A letter from the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and the draft report from the QAA on their collaborative Audit of Warwick Manufacturing Group collaborative courses with Hong Kong Polytechnic University together with the draft University response to the QAA report (SC.493/06-07).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) prepare a revised and shortened response to the QAA on its audit of Warwick Manufacturing Group collaborative courses with Hong Kong Polytechnic University setting out the key points of concern and contention as highlighted in discussion at the meeting.
- (b) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs and Teaching and Learning) approve the revised University response on behalf of the Steering Committee prior to submission to the QAA by 14 September.
- (c) That the final University response to the QAA be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Steering Committee as an item for information.

664/06-07

National Student Survey 2007

CONSIDERED:

A paper on the National Student Survey 2007 (NSS), and an initial analysis of the University's performance in the Survey, in advance of the publication of the NSS data on 12 September 2007 (SC.492/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) prepare a more detailed breakdown of the results of the National Student Survey (NSS) for the University, using additional data once this is made available, for consideration by the Steering Committee at its meeting on 24 September with a view to determining what steps need to be taken by the University and individual academic, administrative and service departments to address the issues raised by the outcome of the NSS.

665/06-07

British Academy of Management Conference

REPORTED: (by the Dean of the Warwick Business School)

That the Annual Conference of the British Academy of Management was being held at the University, hosted by the Warwick Business School, from 10 September to 13 September 2007.

666/06-07

HEfCE Annual Conference 2008

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the HEfCE would hold its Annual Conference at the University in April 2008.

667/06-07

ESRC Research Centre 2007/08: Centre for Financial Innovation and Public Policy (minute 644/06-07 refers)

RECEIVED:

A copy of the University bid submitted in the ESRC Research Centre Competition 2007/08 for the establishment of a new ESRC Research Centre in the area of Financial Innovation and Public Policy (SC.489/06-07).

668/06-07

University-Business Collaborative Negotiations

RECEIVED:

A copy of a report by the independent group 'Streamlining University/Business Collaborative Research Negotiation' published by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) setting out the current issues and points of concern in University-Business collaborative negotiations (SC.494/06-07).

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21/09/07