

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 12 September 2005

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter (until 10.45am)
Professor J Jones
Professor R Lindley
Ms K Stark
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby
- Apologies: Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor A Easton, Professor M Luntley, Academic Registrar.
- In Attendance: Professor M Smith, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 638/04-05 Professor Jan Aart Scholte.
- 628/04-05 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 August 2005 be approved subject to the inclusion of the Director of Warwick Ventures in the list of those in attendance at the meeting.
- 629/04-05 Email Replacement Project
- REPORTED: (by Professor Whitby)
- (a) That, following formal technical and user testing of each of the proposed replacement email systems, Microsoft Outlook and Squirrel Mail had been selected as the new staff and student email clients respectively.
- (b) That the migration of existing students to Squirrel Mail had commenced, noting that students in their final year of study would remain on the Groupwise system.
- RESOLVED:
- That Professor Whitby discuss with the Director of IT Services the possibility of encouraging the use of external free webmail services such as Google Mail for email archival purposes, noting that this would not preclude the University's provision of email accounts to all members of the University.
- 630/04-05 Appointment of new Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West of England
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That Sir Howard Newby, currently Chief Executive of HEFCE, had been appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West of England and would take up his position in 2006.
- 631/04-05 Warwick in Asia
- RECEIVED:
- An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the progress of the Singapore Feasibility Study and the meeting with the EDB to be held on the evening of 14 September and

noting that the report from the PA Consulting Group on Phase 2 of the market analysis strand of the feasibility study would shortly be available.

632/04-05 SRIF 2006-08 / Learning and Teaching Capital 2006-08

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That the University's proposals for the utilisation of its SRIF and Learning and Teaching capital funding for the period 2006-08 had been approved by the HEFCE.

633/04-05 Millburn House

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Director of Estates on the progress of design work on Millburn House, noting that the project schedule was on target and that discussions were taking place with the Department of Chemistry on the relocation of its NMR machines to the new NMR Centre in Millburn House.

634/04-05 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions

RECEIVED:

University data on home and overseas undergraduate and postgraduate intake projections against budget plan as at 1 September 2005 (SC.422/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of Academic and Student Affairs.

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That it was anticipated that there would be no significant shortfall in occupancy rates for University-managed residential accommodation for the academic year 2005/06.

635/04-05 RAE 2008: Departmental Responses to Draft Panel Criteria

CONSIDERED:

A draft letter prepared by the University's RAE Working Group to the RAE 2008 Manager outlining key issues arising from University departmental responses to the RAE 2008 consultation on main and sub-panel draft assessment criteria and working methods (SC.423/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of Academic and Student Affairs.

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) on the meeting of the '94 Group of Research PVCs held on 6 September, noting that concerns had been raised at the meeting in regard to inconsistencies in the draft assessment criteria between panels and their consequent impact on the credibility of the RAE.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft letter to the RAE 2008 Manager be approved subject to amendment along the lines discussed at the meeting.
- (b) That the key issues identified in the letter to be submitted to the RAE 2008 Manager be conveyed to Russell Group members.

636/04-05 NHS Research Strategy: Department of Health Consultation

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/05/115 on the Department of Health consultation 'Best Research for Best Health: a New National Health Research Strategy', a copy of the consultation document and a copy of the preliminary consultation response submitted

by the Warwick Medical School to the Council of Heads of Medical Schools (SC.417/04-05) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Medical School.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Vice-Chancellor attend the meeting of the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority Health and Education Strategic Partnership (WMSSHA HESP) to be held on 27 September to discuss the Department of Health consultation document.
- (b) That the Dean of the Warwick Medical School and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) prepare a draft institutional response to the Department of Health consultation for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the Department of Health by 21 October 2005.

637/04-05 Review of Non-Clinical Research Fellowships (Biomedical Sciences)

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/05/118 on the publication of the Academy of Medical Sciences report 'The Freedom to Succeed: A Review of Non-Clinical Research Fellowships in the Biomedical Sciences' (SC.416/04-05).

638/04-05 ESRC Research Centres Competition (minute 621/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The draft bid from the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR) for a third round of core funding under the 2005 ESRC Research Centres Competition (SC.408/04-05) together with an oral report from Professor Scholte.

RESOLVED:

That the draft CSGR bid for a third round of funding under the 2005 ESRC Research Centres Competition be supported and approved as set out in paper SC.408/04-05 for submission to the ESRC by the deadline of 16 September 2005.

639/04-05 European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning

CONSIDERED:

Europe Note E/05/09 from the UK HE Europe Unit on the European Commission's consultation on its proposals for a European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (SC.419/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) and the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) prepare a draft response to the European Commission consultation for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to the Commission by the deadline of end-December 2005.

640/04-05 Matched Funding Scheme for Pump-Priming Fundraising (minute 575/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/05/119 on the bidding process for the UUK/DfES matched funding scheme for HE institutions in England (SC.415/04-05).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the Director of Development and Alumni had indicated that the University was likely to qualify for an award under the UUK/DfES matched funding scheme.

- (b) That, pending confirmation of eligibility, the University would be submitting a bid for a match funded grant in the first phase of the bidding process.

641/04-05 TRAC Quality Assurance: Final Report

RECEIVED:

HEFCE Circular Letter 24/2005 setting out key findings from the final report on the quality assurance of implementation by institutions of the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) (SC.420/04-05).

642/04-05 Wellcome Trust Value in People Award

RECEIVED:

A copy of an email from the Wellcome Trust providing confirmation of a third year of funding for the University under the Wellcome Trust Value in People Award for the period 1 October 2005 to 30 September 2006 (SC.421/04-05).

643/04-05 International Competitiveness in UK Higher Education

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE) on a project being undertaken by the CIHE to assess the international competitiveness of UK higher education (SC.414/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs and Equal Opportunities) contact the Chief Executive of the CIHE to discuss the CIHE project further.

644/04-05 Subject Benchmark Statement on Careers Education: University Response

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the draft Subject Benchmark Statement on Careers Education published by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) together with a copy of the AGCAS consultation document (SC.405/04-05).

645/04-05 Pre-Consultation on HEFCE 2006-11 Strategic Plan: University and UUK Responses (minute 580/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the pre-consultation on the development of the HEFCE Strategic Plan for the period 2006-11 together with UUK Information Note I/05/126 on UUK's response to the pre-consultation (SC.418/04-05).

646/04-05 Aimhigher National Evaluation Survey: University Response

RECEIVED:

A copy of a letter from the HEFCE on the Aimhigher National Evaluation Survey together with a copy of the University's response to the survey (SC.411/04-05).

647/04-05 Institutional Survey on UUK Study of Part-Time Students: University Response

RECEIVED:

A copy of a letter from UUK inviting the University to participate in an institutional survey on a UUK study of part-time students together with the University's confirmation of its willingness to participate in the survey (SC.413/04-05).

648/04-05 HEFCE Report on Strategically Important and Vulnerable Subjects
(minute 548/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

A copy of UUK's response to the Registrar's letter on the University's concerns about the proposals for the potential adoption of a more proactive change management role for the HEFCE set out in the final report from the HEFCE Chief Executive's Strategically Important Subjects Advisory Group (SC.409/04-05).

649/04-05 UUK Teaching Quality and Lifelong Learning Strategy Group Membership
(minute 614/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

The membership list for the Universities UK Teaching Quality and Lifelong Learning Strategy Group (SC.410/04-05).

650/04-05 Review of Non-Medical Professional Regulation: UUK Response

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/05/121 on UUK's response to the Department of Health consultation on its review of regulation of the non-medical healthcare workforce (SC.412/04-05).

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