

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 15 September 2003

Present: Vice-Chancellor
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor Bassnett
Professor Dyson
Professor Jones
Mr R Jones
Professor Lauder
Professor Mullender
Professor Whitby

Apologies: Professor Easton, Professor McCrae, Professor Thomas, Registrar.

In Attendance: Finance Director, Academic Registrar, Administrative Secretary, Director of Personnel Services, Estates Officer, Ms A Goodall, for item 576/02-03 Mr P Greatrix, for item 578/02-03 Dr G Carden, for item 584/02-03 Mrs K Hughes.

573/02-03 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2003 be approved.

574/02-03 Reviews of Research and Teaching Funding (minute 561/02-03 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar and the Administrative Secretary discuss with Professor Dyson the membership and servicing of the Group established to prepare the University's response to the HEFCE consultation documents on the Review of Research and Teaching Funding methodologies.

575/02-03 UUK Annual Conference

RECEIVED:

A copy of the speeches delivered by the Minister for Higher Education, Mr Alan Johnson MP, and the President of Universities UK, Professor Ivor Crewe, at the Annual Meeting of UUK held at Warwick on 10 and 11 September (SC.284/02-03) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.

576/02-03 National Grid House

RECEIVED:

A progress report on the arrangements for occupation of National Grid House from Easter 2004 (SC.289/02-03) together with an oral report from the Director of Student and Ancillary Services.

RESOLVED:

That any comments or views from the members of the Committee on the broad proposals for the occupation of National Grid House be conveyed to the Director of Student and Ancillary Services for onward transmission to the Project Management Group noting that it was the view of the Committee that there would be value in reducing the number of departments to be located in National Grid House bearing in mind the need to provide adequate space for future expansion and to ensure the most effective delivery of services to the University community and visitors.

577/02-03 HEFCE Golden Hellos

CONSIDERED:

A paper prepared by the Director of Personnel Services setting out broad proposals for the allocation of the £272k 'Golden Hello' funding provided by the HEFCE over a three year period to enhance the starting salaries for new academic staff (SC.293/02-03).

RESOLVED:

That the utilisation of the allocation of the Golden Hello funding to offset existing University recruitment and promotion initiatives be approved in principle as set out in paper SC.293/02-03, that the award of time limited premia be not introduced and that the detailed arrangements for the allocation of the funding be determined by the Director of Personnel Services.

578/02-03 Roberts Review of Research Assessment

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the Roberts Review of Research Assessment (SC.281/02-03) prepared by the Group established by the Steering Committee following consultation with Chairs of Departments.

RESOLVED:

That the draft response be revised in the light of discussion at the meeting, in particular to ensure that the University's fundamental objections to the Review proposals as a whole were incorporated and highlighted in its response.

579/02-03 Reform of the 14-19 Curriculum

CONSIDERED:

UUK Circular 1-03-94 inviting the submission of responses to UUK to the DfES Working Group Consultation on Reform of the 14-19 Curriculum to inform the UUK response to the consultation (SC.292/02-03).

RESOLVED:

That the University make no response either directly to the DfES or to UUK on the Working Group Consultation document.

580/02-03 Warwick HRI Transfer Board

CONSIDERED:

Proposed terms of reference and membership of the Transfer Board overseeing the transfer of HRI Wellesbourne and Kirton to the University of Warwick (SC.286/02-03).

RESOLVED:

That the terms of reference and membership of the Transfer Board overseeing the transfer of HRI Wellesbourne and Kirton to the University of Warwick be approved as set out in paper SC.286/02-03 and, to avoid misunderstanding, that the illustrative chart incorporated in the paper be labelled information and decision making flow chart for HRI transfer.

581/02-03 Regulation 14

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to Regulation 14 governing Termination of Registration (SC.288/02-03).

RECOMMENDED:

That, subject to clarification of the position regarding students in Health and Social Studies and Education, the proposed amendments to Regulation 14 be approved as set out in paper SC.288/02-03.

582/02-03 Regional Resilience Forum

CONSIDERED:

An invitation from the Government Office of the West Midlands to nominate a member of the University to contribute to the Regional Resilience Forum (SC.290/02-03).

RESOLVED:

That the School of Engineering, WBS and WMS be asked to consider whether any member of their staff might have an interest in contributing to the Regional Resilience Forum.

583/02-03 Centre for Bioinformatics

RECEIVED:

A report from the Chair of the Faculty of Science on the initial notification of the award of funding from AWM to establish the Midlands Centre for Bioinformatics and the next steps required to take the initiative forward beyond the planning stage (SC.287/02-03).

584/02-03 University Research Ethics Committee

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for the establishment of a University Research Ethics Committee (SC.282/02-03).

RECOMMENDED:

That a University Research Ethics Committee be established with membership and terms of reference as set out in paper SC.282/02-03 subject to revision to exclude lay and external members, it being the intention to call on external advice on specific issues on a consultancy basis where the Committee deemed this to be necessary, and to indicate that the student member would be drawn from the postgraduate student body.

585/02-03 University Decision Making Structures

CONSIDERED:

A paper prepared by the Registrar on University Decision Making Structures (SC.282/02-03).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the broad proposals and objectives of the paper be welcomed and supported.
- (b) That members of the Committee forward any comments they might have on the paper to the Administrative Secretary by Monday 22 September 2003.
- (c) That the discussion paper be revised in the light of the comments made at the meeting and any further comments conveyed to the Administrative Secretary by members of the Committee.
- (d) That the revised paper be circulated for discussion at the Vice-Chancellor's awayday meeting with Chairs of Departments scheduled for 3 October 2003 it being the intention that, following discussion at the awayday meeting, detailed proposals would be brought forward to the appropriate University bodies for changes to the University decision making structures in both the short and medium term.

586/02-03 Heronbank Residences

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Director of Student and Ancillary Services and the Estates Officer on the progress of completion of Heronbank residences and the action being taken to accommodate off campus those students who would not be able to occupy their new rooms in Heronbank until after the beginning of the Autumn term.