

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 19 April 2004

Present: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair)
Professor Easton
Professor Jones
Mr R Jones
Professor Lauder
Professor Luntley
Professor McCrae
Professor McFarlane
Professor Whitby

Apologies: Professor Dyson, Professor Palmer, Professor Thomas, Academic Registrar.

In Attendance: Acting Registrar, University Secretary, Finance Director, Director of Personnel Services, Director of Communication, Ms A Goodall, Miss E Clewlow, for item 345/03-04 Professor D Rand and the Director of Research Support Services.

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed Professor Luntley, the new Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies, to his first meeting of the Steering Committee.

341/03-04 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2004 be approved.

342/03-04 Higher Education Bill (minute 330/03-04 refers)

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the parliamentary progress of the Higher Education Bill.

343/03-04 Schwartz Report on HE Admissions

RESOLVED:

That the Review Report of the Admissions to Higher Education Steering Group be brought forward for consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 26 April.

344/03-04 AC21 International Forum (minute 335/03-04 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the response received from Advantage West Midlands with regard to the provision of a financial contribution to funding of the third International Forum of AC21 in 2006 be reported at the next meeting of the Committee.

345/03-04 Research Income Incentives Scheme

CONSIDERED:

A proposal for the establishment of a University Research Income Incentives Scheme (SC.182/03-04) together with a presentation from Professor Rand.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal for the establishment of a University Research Income Incentives Scheme be approved in principle and referred to the Research Opportunities Group for further development, noting, in particular, the Committee's support for the use of HESA research income figures as the point of calibration together with a simple mechanism for setting high and moderate targets for research income growth.

346/03-04 UCEA Consultation on Resolution of AUT Industrial Action

CONSIDERED:

A consultation document from the Universities and Colleges Employers Association on the key elements of the Memorandum of Understanding recently agreed with the AUT (SC.184/03-04) together with an oral report from the Director of Personnel Services.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University support the UCEA recommendations:
 - (i) To adopt the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the AUT as set out in paper SC.184/03-04.
 - (ii) To add the proposed inflation 'safety-net' to the terms of the Framework Agreement.
- (b) That the Director of Personnel Services take steps to facilitate the implementation of the cost of living pay increase backdated to August 2003, subject to the outcome of the AUT ballot on acceptance of the Memorandum of Understanding.

347/03-04 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

CONSIDERED:

Draft University bids in the following areas for submission to the HEFCE for funding to establish Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (SC.180/03-04) together with an oral report from Professor Whitby:

The Capital Centre: Creativity and performance in teaching and learning
 The InSOL Centre: Integrating speakers of other languages
 THEOREM: Transitions to higher education in mathematics
 Researching as Learning: Reinvention centre for undergraduate education .

RESOLVED:

That, subject to further development of the bids and final approval by Professor Whitby, the four University bids for funding to establish Centres for Teaching and Learning be approved in principle for submission to the HEFCE as set out in paper SC.180/03-04.

348/03-04 Quality Assurance of TRAC Methodology

RECEIVED:

A report on the implications for the University of the HEFCE's circular letter 05/2004 on quality assurance processes relating to the implementation of the Transparent approach to costing (TRAC) methodology in higher education institutions (SC.179/03-04).

349/03-04 RAE 2008

CONSIDERED:

A circular from the Funding Councils, RAE 02/2004, on issues relating to panel configuration and recruitment in the next Research Assessment Exercise (SC.181/03-04).

RESOLVED:

That Professor Jones and the Assistant Registrar (Planning) draft a University response to the Funding Council's and Universities UK's consultations on the configuration of units of assessment and their grouping under main panels in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting.

350/03-04 Academic Fellowships Scheme

CONSIDERED:

An invitation from the Research Councils to submit applications for funding to support Academic Fellowships (SC.183/03-04) together with a briefing note from Research Support Services (SC.183/03-04 {additional part}, tabled at the meeting) and an oral report from Professor Jones.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Professor Jones and the Chairs of the Boards of Faculties, with support from Research Support Services, continue to develop a list of institutional priorities for a University bid to RCUK's Academic Fellowships Scheme for consideration by the Steering Committee at a future meeting.
- (b) That members of the Committee submit any suggestions for inclusion in the University's bid to Professor Jones outside the meeting.

351/03-04 Working Group on Setting of Student Fees (minute 333/03-04 refers)

RESOLVED:

That a Working Group with the following constitution be established to give systematic consideration to the University's approach to setting fees for future years and to evaluate the implications and risks associated with significant changes in fee structures to report back to the Committee in June:

Chair of AEG (Chair)
 Academic Registrar
 The Director of the International Office
 The Finance Director or the Deputy Director
 Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies
 Representatives from the Warwick Business School and the Warwick
 Manufacturing Group
 Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning) (Secretary).

352/03-04 Termination of Partnership Agreement

REPORTED:

That the Vice-Chancellor had taken Chair's action on behalf of the Committee to approve the cessation of a partnership agreement with the Institute of Technology Management in India to deliver the BEng and MEng in Electronic Engineering and the BEng and MEng in Electronic and Communication Engineering.

353/03-04 Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

REPORTED: (by Professor Whitby)

That Dr C Rutter had agreed to serve vice Professor Mulryne as the University's representative on the Governing Body of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

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