

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 20 March 2006

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges
Professor Y Carter
Professor J Jones
Professor R Lindley
Professor M Luntley
Professor M Smith
Ms K Stark
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Estates, Director of Personnel, Deputy Registrar, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass.

389/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2006 be approved.

390/05-06 Degree Congregation Dinner

RESOLVED:

That the Summer Degree Congregation Dinner for the academic year 2005/06 be a black-tie event.

391/05-06 Regional Power Failure and IT Services Distribution Failure

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the regional power failure that had occurred on 17 March 2006 and the consequent loss of all IT services within the University, noting that the loss of these services had arisen as a result of component failure of a local distribution board within the IT Services mainframe room and that this was likely to have been caused by an electrical surge following the reinstatement of the mains power supply under full load conditions.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

That steps were being taken by the Estates Office to investigate alternative infrastructure arrangements for the supply of critical services such as telecommunications and alarm systems with a view to ensuring the uninterrupted operation of these services in the event of any future major power failures.

392/05-06 Visit of Sir Alan Wilson: 22 March 2006

CONSIDERED:

The draft programme for the visit of the Director-General for Higher Education to the University on 22 March 2006 (tabled at the meeting).

RESOLVED:

That the draft programme of topics for discussion for the visit of the Director-General for Higher Education to the University on 22 March 2006 be approved.

393/05-06 UK-India Education and Research Initiative (minute 286/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED

An oral report from Professor Bridges on the outcome of the conferences held in New Delhi from 13-14 and 16-17 March 2006 as part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative, noting that it was expected that full guidelines on bidding for funding available through this initiative would be released on 16 April 2006.

394/05-06 Warwick Business School Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The second quarter statement from the Warwick Business School for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.251/05-06) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Business School.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the second quarter statement for the Warwick Business School Devolved Budget for the financial year 2005/06 and the variations between revised forecast and original budget be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.251/05-06.
- (b) That the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) discuss with the Dean of the Warwick Business School the lower-than-anticipated quarter-end out-turn for research grant and contract income with a view to addressing and resolving any issues in this area.

395/05-06 Grenzebach Glier Feasibility Study Report

CONSIDERED:

The full report from the feasibility study undertaken by Grenzebach Glier Associates to evaluate the University's potential to conduct a major fundraising campaign (Council paper C.35/05-06) together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That, further to its recent review of its governance and management structures, the University would shortly be establishing a Board of Advocates which was intended to provide a focus for external involvement in the University, including its fundraising activities.

RESOLVED:

That the feasibility study report be endorsed by the Steering Committee and that the importance of the commitment of both the academic and administrative leadership of the University to the success of its fundraising activities be noted.

396/05-06 Publication of JM Consulting Study on Costs of EU Framework Programme

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/23 on the recent publication of a research study by JM Consulting to identify the costs of EU framework programme projects to UK HEIs (SC.255/05-06).

397/05-06 Leadership Foundation Fellowships Programme (minute 351/05-06 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper setting out the rationale behind and outline details of the University's application for funding under the Leadership Foundation Fellowships Programme (SC.256/05-06, tabled at the meeting) together with oral reports from the Registrar and the Academic Registrar.

RESOLVED:

That the University's application for funding under the Leadership Foundation Fellowships Programme be supported and endorsed by the Steering Committee subject to amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting and that any further comments or suggestions on the proposed project be forwarded to the Academic Registrar.

398/05-06 Ambulance Service Configuration

CONSIDERED:

The draft institutional response to the Department of Health consultation on the reconfiguration of ambulance services in England and the establishment of eleven ambulance trusts across England (SC.252/05-06) together with oral reports from the Registrar and the Dean of the Warwick Medical School.

RESOLVED:

That the draft institutional response to the Department of Health consultation be approved as set out in paper SC.252/05-06 for submission to the Department of Health by the deadline of 22 March 2006.

399/05-06 Appointment to the Research Councils 2006

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/06/24 on the invitation by the Appointments Panels for the ESRC, AHRC and NERC for applications from suitably qualified academics and experienced individuals from commercial sectors to fill a number of vacancies in the part-time membership of these Research Councils (SC.254/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Registrar, in consultation with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Chairs of the Boards of the Faculties, coordinate the preparation of nominations from the University for appointment to the membership of the ESRC, AHRC and NERC for submission to the Office of Science and Technology by the closing date of 31 March 2006.

400/05-06 Board Nominations for the UK Panel for Health and Biomedical Research Integrity

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/06/20 inviting Universities UK members to make nominations to the Board for the UK Panel for Health and Biomedical Research Integrity (SC.253/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the Dean of the Warwick Medical School discuss with the Registrar potential University nominees for appointment to the UK Panel for Health and Biomedical Research Integrity.