

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 21 February 2005

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Professor R G Dyson
Professor A Easton
Professor J Jones
Mr S Lucas
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Deputy Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 269/04-05 the Director of Student and Ancillary Services and the General Manager of Warwick Accommodation, for item 272/04-05 the Director of Development and Alumni, for items 273/04-05 and 274/04-05 the Director of IT and the University Librarian.

267/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2005 be approved.

268/04-05 Warwick in Asia

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor providing an update on the academic planning process of the full feasibility study into the establishment of a second University campus in Singapore, noting in particular:

- (a) That Dr C Sparrow had been appointed as Academic Co-Ordinator for the feasibility study, with support from Mr A Roadnight.
- (b) That a significant number of ideas for new interdisciplinary research clusters had been received from individuals and departments across the University and were currently being considered by the academic planning team, in consultation with Faculty Chairs and other senior academic colleagues and in the context of the University's overall strategic objectives.

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the Assistant Managing Director of the Economic and Development Board of Singapore (EDB) would be visiting the University on 1 March and that an itinerary for his visit would shortly be prepared.

269/04-05 Residential Accommodation Strategy

CONSIDERED:

A report on the development process of the University's Student Accommodation Strategy (SC.175/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Warwick Accommodation website be clearly signposted as the definitive source of information on the terms and conditions of student accommodation rental, including guarantees of on-campus accommodation to certain groups of students, and that steps be taken to ensure the accuracy of information available on the website.
- (b) That, notwithstanding resolution (a) above, consideration be given to the continued inclusion of accommodation guarantees for overseas students in the University's undergraduate and postgraduate prospectuses.
- (c) That a series of review and planning meetings be held in November, March and July each year, with a view to making recommendations to the relevant committees in regard to strategic and tactical directions for the University's Student Accommodation Strategy.
- (d) That a further report on the University's Student Accommodation Strategy, to include clear recommendations on the further development of residential accommodation and future accommodation guarantees, be brought forward for consideration by the Steering Committee following the residential accommodation review and planning meeting to be held in March.

270/04-05

International Issues

CONSIDERED:

- (a) UUK Information Note I/05/13 on Home Office revised proposals to target abuse of the student visa entry route into the UK (SC.176/04-05).
- (b) A briefing note from the Acting Director of the International Office on recent Home Office proposals for the increase of fees levied for the renewal of overseas student visas (SC.174/04-05).
- (c) UUK Information Note I/05/18 on the Home Office five-year strategy for asylum and immigration 'Controlling our borders: making migration work for Britain' (SC.177/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Academic Registrar and Professor Bridges prepare a draft response to the Home Office revised proposals set out in paper SC.176/04-05 and the Home Office five-year strategy for asylum and immigration as set out in paper SC.177/04-05 for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to UUK by 28 February 2005 and to the Home Office by 7 March 2005.
- (b) That consideration be given to the benefits of applications from overseas students for leave-to-remain extensions, currently overseen by the Students' Union Advice and Welfare Office, being managed by the University's central administrative services.

271/04-05

Sustainable Development in Higher Education

CONSIDERED:

An opinion piece on the HEFCE consultation document *Sustainable Development in Higher Education*, written by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Central England and published in *The Guardian* on Tuesday 8 February (SC.173/04-05).

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Registrar on the HEFCE Sustainability Seminar held on 16 February 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the University's institutional response to the HEFCE consultation exercise currently being prepared convey the Committee's general support for engagement with the sustainability agenda but desire for institutional autonomy in regard to university curricula.

272/04-05 Development and Alumni Issues

RECEIVED:

A report providing an update on University development and alumni relations activities (SC.170/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its thanks to those colleagues who had made personal donations to the University.

273/04-05 IT Update and Strategic Issues

CONSIDERED:

A report providing an update on current developments and achievements, collaboration and service developments and ongoing issues relating to IT within the University (SC.169/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of IT.

REPORTED: (by the Director of IT)

That the two alternative staff email systems currently being considered as replacements for the Groupwise software were Lotus Notes and Microsoft Exchange.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That steps be taken by IT Services to promote good practice guidelines in the creation of web forms by members of staff.
- (b) That a review of the support provided by IT Services to departments in the management of departmental webpages be conducted with a view to improving support arrangements.

274/04-05 Library Update and Strategic Issues

RECEIVED:

A report from the Librarian providing an update on the operation of the Learning Grid, the progress of implementation of other goals within the Library Strategic Plan and national developments relating to Library issues (SC.168/04-05) together with an oral report from the University Librarian.

275/04-05 Gateways to the Professions Consultation (the Langlands Review)

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/05/16 on the Gateways to the Professions Consultation led by Sir Alan Langlands (SC.167/04-05).

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on his attendance at the meeting of the CBI Regional Council held on 15 February 2005 at which the issue of FE education had been addressed.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Professor Whitby prepare a draft response to the Gateways to the Professions consultation for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to UUK by 11 March 2005 and to the Department for Skills and Education by 18 March 2005.
- (b) That the Director-General of the CBI be approached to gain his support for the University's institutional response to the Gateways to the Professions consultation.

276/04-05 Review of FE Colleges

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note 1/05/20 on the review of the future role of FE colleges led by Sir Andrew Foster (SC.172/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That Professor Dyson and the Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning prepare a draft response to the review of FE colleges for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to submission to UUK by 18 March 2005 and to the Foster review team by 8 April 2005.

277/04-05 Visit from the Director-General for Higher Education

RESOLVED:

That any suggestions for the programme for the Director-General's visit to the University on 21 April 2005 be forwarded to the University Secretary before the next meeting of the Steering Committee.

278/04-05 Malaysia Night

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the recent very successful Malaysia Night organised by the Malaysian Students' Association, which had been attended by close to 500 guests from across the University.

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