

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 26 April 2004

Present: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair)
Professor Carter
Professor Dyson
Professor Easton
Mr R Jones
Professor Luntley
Professor McCrae
Professor Palmer
Professor Thomas
Professor Whitby

Apologies: Professor Jones, Professor Lauder, Professor McFarlane, Academic Registrar, Director of Personnel Services, Ms A Goodall.

In Attendance: Acting Registrar, University Secretary, Finance Director, Estates Officer, Miss E Clewlow, for items 362-363/03-04 Assistant Registrar (Accommodation and Timetabling), for items 364-366/03-04 Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office, for item 368/03-04 Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) and for item 369/03-04 Director of Research Support Services.

357/03-04 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2004 be approved.

358/03-04 Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (minute 347/03-04 refers)

REPORTED: (by Professor Whitby)

That the University had submitted four bids to the HEFCE for funding to establish Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning as outlined in draft form at the meeting held on 19 April.

359/03-04 AC21 International Forum (minute 344/03-04 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That the University had received a letter from the Chief Executive of Advantage West Midlands indicating that Advantage West Midlands was keen to support the University in hosting the third International Forum of AC21 in 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Vice-Chancellor write to the Chief Executive of Advantage West Midlands to welcome and encourage Advantage West Midlands support for the project.

360/03-04 Links with Singapore

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

(a) That a delegation from the Economic Development Board of Singapore would be visiting the University on 27 April.

- (b) That a delegation of academic staff, including the Chair of the Board of Social Studies, would be visiting Singapore from 18 May.

361/03-04 Visit of Richard Lambert, 29 April

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Richard Lambert, author of the Review Report on Business University collaboration, would be visiting the University on 29 April; an outline programme for which had been circulated to members of the Committee, all of whom had been invited to attend.

362/03-04 Accommodation/Capital Issues

CONSIDERED:

An update on strategic developments in matters relating to accommodation (SC.187/03-04) together with an oral report from the Assistant Registrar (Accommodation and Timetabling) noting, in particular, that:

- (a) The NHS University would occupy most of the accommodation released in Senate House, however, additional space had been released elsewhere on the campus as a result of the occupation of University House.
- (b) University representatives would be meeting with local authority planners on 29 April to discuss the broad proposals for the University's Development Plan, the outcome of which would be reported to the Committee at a future meeting.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Dean of the Warwick Medical School)

That the Warwick Medical School had established a Group to consider the formulation of a five year plan for accommodation in the Medical School, proposals from which would be brought forward for consideration by the Accommodation Review Group.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Vice-Chancellor establish a Group, which would report to the Strategy Committee following consultation with the Steering Committee, to evaluate and prioritise aspirations for capital expenditure.
- (b) That the Estates Officer liaise with the Acting Registrar to identify appropriate mechanisms for providing the Community Relations Manager with the institutional information necessary to articulate effectively the regional and national case for implementation of the University's Development Plan.

363/03-04 University House

REPORTED: (by the Assistant Registrar (Accommodation and Timetabling))

That clearer signage to and within University House would be installed in the course of the next week.

RESOLVED:

That an informal gathering for staff in University House would be held in the atrium of University House on Friday 30 April.

364/03-04 Undergraduate and Postgraduate Admissions

RECEIVED:

University data on home and overseas undergraduate and postgraduate applications by course for entry in October 2004 as at the end of March 2004 (SC.190/03-04) together with an oral report from the Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office noting, in particular, the positive feedback received from attendees at the University-wide Spring Open Day which was the first of such events to be held on a Saturday.

365/03-04 Fair Admissions to Higher Education

CONSIDERED:

The second consultation paper on Fair Admissions to Higher Education, chaired by Professor Steven Schwartz, together with an information note from Universities UK, 1/04/55 (SC.189/03-04).

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar and the Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office draft a robust University response to the draft recommendations of the Review Report on Fair Admissions to Higher Education along the lines discussed at the meeting for consideration by the Committee prior to submission.

366/03-04 HE Bill: Access Agreements and Bursaries

RECEIVED:

Universities UK information note 1/04/53 on developments relating to access agreements and bursaries with respect to the Higher Education Bill (SC.193/03-04).

367/03-04 Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning – Phase 5

CONSIDERED:

A draft University Stage 2 bid from the Centre for Academic Practice for submission to the HEFCE as part of Phase 5 of the Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning (SC.191/03-04).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Stage 2 bid from the Centre for Academic Practice be approved for submission to the HEFCE as part of Phase 5 of the Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning as set out in paper SC.191/03-04.
- (b) That Professor Whitby act on behalf of the Committee to approve the Stage 2 bid from the Department of Politics and International Studies for submission to the HEFCE as part of Phase 5 of the Fund for the Development of Teaching and Learning.

368/03-04 Length of the Teaching Year

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Working Group established by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee to examine the issue of the duration of the teaching year (SC.178/03-04).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University re-affirm its commitment to providing at undergraduate level an educational and learning experience of thirty weeks duration in each academic year.
- (b) That the Working Group be asked to investigate further current teaching patterns in academic departments with a view to bringing forward a report for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting.

369/03-04 Ten Year Science and Innovation Review

CONSIDERED:

A draft University response to the Government consultation on a ten year investment framework in UK science and innovation (SC.188/03-04) together with an oral report from the Director of Research Support Services.

RESOLVED:

That the University response to the consultation on a ten year investment framework in UK science and innovation be approved for submission to the Treasury as set out in paper SC.188/03-04.

370/03-04 Warwick Medical School Students

REPORTED: (by Professor Carter)

That the intervention of Warwick Medical School students had been instrumental in saving the life of a member of the public who had collapsed in a hospital car park.

371/03-04 Financial Plan 2004-2008

RECEIVED:

A report from the Financial Plan Sub-Committee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee (SC.192/03-04) together with extracts from the five year plans for the following University activities as background information to consideration by the Committee of the University's Financial Plan at the end of May:

- Overseas students/International Office
- Research contracts and grants
- Research-related activities
- Warwick Ventures
- Mercia Institute of Enterprise
- Estates premises
- Development Office.