

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Strategy Committee

Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Strategy Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 26 June 2003.

Present: Professor S B Palmer (in the Chair), Mr M Angle, Professor S Bassnett, Mr P Dent, Professor M Devereux, Mr P Dodd, Professor R G Dyson, Mr C Foy, Professor J Jones, Professor M McCrae, Professor A Mullender, Dr I Nussey, Mr P Varney, Professor M Whitby, Mr B Woods-Scawen.

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor A Easton, Ms S J Hobson, Professor I Lauder, Professor A Mullender.

In Attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Administrative Secretary, Finance Director, Estates Officer, General Manager of the Union of Students, Deputy Finance Director, Chief Management Accountant, Head of Financial Reporting.

20/02-03 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2003 be approved.

21/02-03 University Financial Plan

CONSIDERED:

The final draft of the University Financial Plan for the period 2003 to 2007 (JCSSC14/02-03) revised following reconsideration of the Plan by the Budget Sub-Group of the Finance and General Purposes Committee in the light of the resolution of the Strategy Committee that the Plan provide a target surplus of 1% of turnover in the years 2003/04 and 2004/05 and a rising trend thereafter and incorporating the following additional assumptions, policies and proposed new items of expenditure:

- (a) inclusion of the Warwick Medical School devolved budget with a target to achieve a 4% central tax and a 3% annual contribution to departmental reserves.
- (b) allocation of a proportion of the costs of the new HR/Payroll system to be set against the HEFCE HR grant.
- (c) £4.031m of the Project Capital Round 3 grant to be applied to the £2.5m Westwood redevelopment project, an assumed provision of £913k for the student learning and resource centre in National Grid House and £618k to offset the costs of the annual programme of teaching room refurbishment.
- (d) re-phasing of IT expenditure across the period of the Plan leading to an improvement in surplus in 2003/04 of £405k and consequent modest additional spending in 2005/06 and 2006/07.
- (e) no inclusion of savings associated with the transfer of a proportion of research support staff costs from central to other sources on income pending an analysis by the Estimates and Grants Committee of the options available to meet the target transfer.

- (f) carried forward unspent long term maintenance expenditure in 2003/04 of £500k.
- (g) provision for costs associated with Warwick in America of £160k per year across the period of the Plan.
- (h) adjustment to the Central Administrative Budget of £320k in 2003/04 and £220k per year thereafter to meet the costs of examinations, professional fees, staff long service awards, skills training, occupational health and a new IT system for Careers.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Financial Plan, incorporating the assumptions and provisions agreed by the Committee at its last meeting and the changes proposed by the Budget Sub-Group following the meeting of the Committee on 9 June, be recommended to the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Senate and the Council for approval and submission to the HEFCE, as set out in paper (JCSSC14/02-03), noting that the version submitted to the HEFCE would incorporate guidance on EU applicant countries and the introduction of a £3000 Home/EU undergraduate fee in 2006/07, and subject to:

- (a) the inclusion within the Plan of provision for additional employer's contribution to the University of Warwick Pension Scheme from 2003/04 for each year of the Plan.
- (b) the inclusion within the Plan of final agreed figures for AEG and CRAG activities and other minor adjustments.
- (c) a general review during the course of the forthcoming academic year of the contingency provision within the Plan in the context of the current uncertain economic climate.
- (d) the preparation of detailed proposals for the operation and management of the University Endowment Fund for consideration by the Strategy Committee at its meeting in the Autumn Term.
- (e) the preparation by the Estimates and Grants Committee in the Autumn Term of proposals on the transfer of a proportion of research support staff costs from central University costs to other sources of funding.

22/02-03 University Corporate Plan

CONSIDERED:

The draft University Corporate Plan for the period to 2006/07 (JCSSC15/02-03).

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That the Corporate Plan submitted to the HEFCE would be published on Insite and circulated widely within the University as the basis of discussion and debate on the development of University's Strategy from 2004 and it was intended that an 'awayday' would be held in the latter part of the Autumn Term for the Strategy Committee, Council and key members of the University to facilitate this process.

RECOMMENDED:

That the draft University Corporate Plan be approved and submitted to the HEFCE subject to amendment to incorporate additional references to external factors affecting the University's strategy, including national League Tables, further information on the University's collaborative and widening participation activities and its strategy in regard to governance and management.

23/02-03 Estate Development Plan

CONSIDERED:

A presentation on the University Estate Development Plan from the University Development Plan Architect on proposals for the integration of National Grid House within the University campus, including the construction of a square and road alignment around the proposed new 'landmark' building.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Development Plan Architect and the Estates Officer develop further the proposals set out in Scheme 2 (Plan no 135/160) with a view to:

- (a) limiting vehicular traffic to the southern edge of the new square.
- (b) creating new road and footpath links to the National Grid site ahead of construction of the main scheme for the new square and 'landmark' building.

24/02-03 National Health Service University

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Registrar on the progress of discussions with the National Health Service University to identify potential areas in which an academic partnership might be developed between the NHSU and the University and the need to identify potential space on the University campus to accommodate activities which might emerge from such a partnership.

RESOLVED:

That the allocation of a proportion of space within the Senate House to accommodate activities which might emerge from the development of new initiatives with the National Health Service University be approved in principle, the precise allocation of space to be determined by the Accommodation Review Group in the light of other demands on the space following the relocation of central administrative departments within National Grid House.