

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
WIDENING PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE
RESTRICTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9.30-11.30am, 26 November 2019
Senate House Council Chamber

Present	Professor Christopher Hughes	CH	Pro Vice Chancellor (Education), (Chair)
	Paul Blagburn	PB	Head of Widening Participation (Secretary)
	Delyth Chambers	DC	Director of Student Recruitment, Outreach and Admissions Services
	Matt Ferguson	MF	Director of Development
	Dr Rebecca Freeman	RF	Dean of Students
	Dr Hannah Friend	HF	Director of Wellbeing and Safeguarding
	Professor Lorenzo Frigerio	LF	Head of Department, Life Sciences
	Dr Jonathon Heron	JHe	Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning Representative
	James Hutchinson	JHu	Head of Student Funding and Finance (until 11.00)
	Sam McClenaghan	SM	Deputy Finance Director Departmental Services
	Dr Ines Molinaro	IM	Academic Director, Warwick Foundation Studies (until 10.30)
	Dr Rachel Moseley	RM	Head of Department, TV and Film
	Professor Robin Naylor	RN	Director of Studies, Economics; Research and Evaluation Working Group Co-chair
	Professor Jeremy Smith	JS	Head of Department, Economics
	Professor Richard Tunstall	RT	Head of Clinical Anatomy and Imaging, WMS
	Attending	Dr Chris Twine	CT
Roberta Wooldridge Smith		RWS	Director of Student Opportunity
Amanda Bishop		AB	WP Faculty Co-ordinator, Science, Engineering and Medicine
Claire Edden		CE	WP Faculty Co-ordinator, Social Sciences
Cherryl Jones		CJ	WP Access and Lifecycle Manager, Student Success and Progression Working Group Co-Chair
Baljit Gill		BG	WP Manager (Assistant Secretary)
Dr Damien Homer		DH	WP Faculty Co-ordinator, Arts
Catherine Munn		CM	WP Manager
Dr Tammy Thiele		TT	WP Evidence and Evaluation Manager; Research and Evaluation Working Group Co-chair
Laura Duncalfe	LD	Cluster Manager (West Midlands and Oxford), Into University	
Sophie Houghton	SH	Cluster Manager (Midlands), Into University 019-WPC261119	
Ref	Item		
013	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Dr Anil Awesti (Centre for Lifelong Learning; Student Success and Progression Working Group Co-Chair), Chloe Batten (Education Officer, Warwick Students' Union), Alice Churm (Postgraduate Officer, Warwick Students' Union), Kate Ireland (Director of Centre for Teacher Education); Dr Anne Hollinshead (Director of the Centre for Lifelong Learning); Faye Murray (Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics); Kulbir Shergill (Director of Social Inclusion); Professor Colin Sparrow (Academic Director, Graduate Studies); Professor Pat Tissington (Academic Director of Employability and Skills)</p>		
014	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No new declarations were made.</p>		
015	<p>Minutes of last meeting on 8 October 2019</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2019 were received and approved.</p>		

016	<p>Matters arising from last meeting on 8 October 2019</p> <p>The matters arising were as follows:</p> <p>(a) 007 Teaching Excellence Group</p> <p>Discussions have been ongoing and will end in two weeks. This has proved to be a useful process, sharing information and demonstrating an institution-wide approach. A full report will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>1) The Head of Widening Participation to submit a summary paper on progress and outcomes of TEG discussions to the Committee at the February meeting.</p>
Chair's Business and Actions	
017	<p>(a) Approval for the removal of the means-testing condition of the bursary for Warwick Scholars</p> <p>Warwick Scholars participants are eligible for a 50% fee waiver and a bursary of £2000, which is currently means-tested. However Warwick Scholars already applies strict criteria for eligibility to the programme, firmly targeting financially disadvantaged young people. Therefore it is confident that the Bursary is being paid to those most disadvantaged.</p> <p>It was noted that medical students at the University, while fulfilling many widening participation criteria, are only measured on their age, as mature students, thus masking other criteria that they may meet.</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <p>1) The Chair approved the removal of the means-testing condition of the Bursary for Warwick Scholars</p> <p>(b) Widening Participation Committee Working Groups</p> <p>Due to industrial action during this meeting, WPC Working Groups will stand as a strategic item on the Committee agenda at the next meeting. The Committee will be able to focus on, and task, the important work undertaken by these groups.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>1) The Widening Participation Working Groups to be included as a substantive item on the agenda for the next meeting on 4 February 2020</p>
018	<p>Widening Participation Outcomes - University's access and participation 19/20 enrolment position</p> <p>The Committee received an overview of the University's progress towards 19/20 Access and Participation Plan targets (018-WPC261119) from the Head of Widening Participation and the Widening Participation Evidence and Evaluation Manager</p> <p>(a) The focus of this snapshot is on targets around access, examining the background characteristics of students who applied and enrolled this latest entry cycle, compared to previous years. Further exploration of differences in continuation and attainment by POLAR 3 and ethnicity, is compared to previous years. The report concludes by highlighting a number of data challenges and limitations that require consideration when utilising institutional student data and assessing trends over time.</p> <p>(b) This will be the final entrant cycle to monitor the outcomes for these targets as the University transitions to new targets as articulated in our access and participation plan. Yearly milestones for 2019-20: number of entrants from low participation neighbourhoods (LPN) (based on POLAR 3 Quintile 1), number of WBS</p>

	<p>foundation year entrants, proportion of entrants from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups; and number of entrants from state schools, have been achieved or exceeded.</p> <p>(c) However access related targets for i) number of mature entrants; ii) applicants and entrants from low performing schools and iii) applicants and entrants from Coventry and Warwickshire schools have not been met.</p> <p>(d) Initial data suggests that the proportion of LPN students achieving a good degree (1st or 2.1) has decreased to 88.1% in 2018/19 compared to 90% in 2017/18 when LPN students achieved the highest proportion of good degrees out of all POLAR quintiles. Progression to year 2 rates for students from LPN (92.5%) were lower in 2018/19 compared to 2017/18 (93.5%) and are the lowest out of all the POLAR 3 quintiles.</p> <p>(e) The overall proportion of BAME students achieving a good degree (1st or 2.1) has slightly increased compared to 2017/18 from 82.3% to 84.9% in 2018/19 but is still lower compared to the proportion of White students achieving a good degree (92.7% in 2018/19). The progression to year 2 rate in 2018/19 for BAME students was slightly higher (95.7%) to the average progression rate for White students (95%).</p> <p>(f) The report highlights certain challenges, with significant work needed and is being discussed in the Research and Evaluation working group. It was noted that data on BAME students does not illustrate intersections with other characteristics. Furthermore the data on mature students includes students on the graduate entry medicine degree. The data also omits Degree Apprenticeships, although this would be complicated as the employer selects apprentices and data is difficult to obtain.</p> <p>(g) Overall the data provides a positive picture on access. These targets will be obsolete after the report is submitted to OfS, with new targets as set out in Warwick's Access and Participation Plan 2020-21.</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <p>1) The Committee noted the University's progress towards 19/20 Access and Participation Plan targets</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>1) The Committee will discuss where the focus should lie with this work, to fulfil APP obligations</p> <p>2) Further clarity on the data, especially around BAME and mature students, will be requested by the WP Evidence Evaluation Manager and analysed at an individual level by the Working Groups. This will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.</p> <p>3) The presentation to be circulated to Committee members</p>
019	<p>IntoUniversity Coventry Centre Annual report 18-19</p> <p>The Committee received an overview of IntoUniversity Coventry Centre Annual Report, set in the context of the IntoUniversity National Impact Report, presented by the IntoUniversity Cluster Managers (West Midlands and Oxford, Midlands)</p> <p>(a) Following a successful partnership launch year with the University of Warwick, the report details the activities and impact at IntoUniversity Coventry for the 2018/19 academic year, charting academic activity across Primary and Secondary schools, programme outputs and progression data for participants.</p> <p>(b) The report reflects the impact detailed in the IntoUniversity National Impact Report, at a local level; the Coventry Centre in Hillfields worked with 1,165 targeted students in 18/19 with ambitions to significantly increase this number next year. The report offers details of the Academic Support Programme, Mentoring and the well-established FOCUS events.</p> <p>(c) All activity is evaluated for impact, and the report incorporates both quantitative and qualitative data, sharing the experiences of young people, teachers, student mentors and parents. Destination data and OMR evaluation is utilised, reviewed independently by PWC. The National data demonstrates positive post-16 outcomes and a significant uplift to Russell Groups institutions.</p> <p>(d) The impact at the Coventry Centre is very positive, particularly as the Centre is in its first year of operation. Outcomes indicate an increased percentage of progression to HE, and improvements in achievement, metacognition, Maths and English skills and an increase in the confidence of the young people involved.</p>

	<p>The engagement with Warwick was commented on favourably, with the positive engagement of young people and their families on campus.</p> <p>(e) IntoUniversity take a holistic approach, working intensively with cohorts from a young age in a sustained progression, enabling the young person to make informed choices about their next steps.</p> <p>(f) The Committee were interested in the potential of a tracking system, which is currently being explored at a national level.</p> <p>(g) All institutional enquiries regarding engagement with the Coventry Centre should be sent to Baljit Gill (B.Gill.2@warwick.ac.uk) who will co-ordinate requests and liaise with the Centre Manager.</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <p>1) The Committee noted and thanked the IntoUniversity Cluster Managers for an inspiring overview of the success of the Coventry Centre. The Committee continue to endorse the partnership with the University.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>1) The Committee expressed interest in a visit to the Centre, and engagement in on-campus events, to be co-ordinated by the Head of Widening Participation and circulated in due course.</p>
020	<p>Proposal to review Undergraduate Bursary Criteria for MBChB students</p> <p>The Committee received a report from the Pro Dean Education and Deputy Dean, Medical School, presented by the Head of Clinical Anatomy and Imaging, WMS (020-WPC261119)</p> <p>(a) The Widening Participation Committee is invited to reconsider the criteria applied for UG bursaries to enable those MBChB students who would otherwise qualify for support through background (including additional care leaver support considerations) and financial factors to be entitled to do so.</p> <p>(h) Although this is an undergraduate award the MBChB offered by Warwick Medical School is a four-year accelerated graduate entry programme. The programme has a strong track record in terms of widening participation and access to medicine. In enabling a further route to entry and in discounting school level qualifications entirely WMS provides access to medical training for those whose early education did not enable their full potential.</p> <p>(i) Accelerated programmes leave little opportunity for paid work and deliver 42-45 weeks of teaching compared to the usual University terms, meaning students cannot take up paid work outside of term. Clinical placements include weekend and evening work which further impacts income generation activity. Although students in clinical years receive an NHS bursary this covers only the essential expenses such as travel costs to NHS placements around the region. This bursary in the last 7 years has not kept pace with inflation.</p> <p>(j) Students on this course are excluded from the Warwick Bursary Scheme, including the Additional Bursary (specifically Care Leavers), which is open to students studying their first undergraduate degree only. Furthermore, as they are classed as independent, applicants could not be assessed on family income as is currently the case. Students have reported how this exclusion negatively impacts their studies.</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <p>1. The Committee recognises the compelling argument to mitigate challenges faced by this group of students; however further modelling is required on the size of the cohort linked to eligibility of the Warwick Bursary, the practicalities involved in the administration of any future bursary and a breakdown of potential costs. There is currently no budget to accommodate this.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>1. The Committee agreed that the proposal complements the University's strategic principles of widening participation, and welcome further information at the next meeting.</p>

021	<p>Progression to PGT report</p> <p>The Committee received an overview by the Head of Widening Participation of the findings from a collaborative OfS funded project supporting progression to, and success in, taught postgraduate study (021-WPC261119)</p> <p>(a) The project, delivered in partnership between the Universities of Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield, Warwick and York, involved the design and evaluation of non-financial interventions which aimed to support student progression onto Postgraduate Taught study.</p> <p>(b) The summary of findings develops institutional and sector understanding of the challenges faced by this group, but also raises a number of issues:</p> <p>(i) The critical mass of the numbers involved in the research programme was not large enough to determine statistical significance. However, finance remains a significant barrier to progression to PGT study, and the introduction of postgraduate loans may have made a positive contribution</p> <p>(ii) Effective information, advice and guidance is necessary, and at an earlier point. There is a lack of understanding of postgraduate pathways, and postgraduate study is not necessarily viewed as a career choice for undergraduates at the end of their studies.</p> <p>(iii) Focus should be given to pre-arrival support. The consortium developed a pre-entry module targeted at BAME students, however this could also benefit all potential postgraduate students</p> <p>(iv) Randomised Control Trials may not necessarily be best placed to evaluate a new or pilot activity. Using a mixed methodology in terms of evaluation, ensuring the collection and analysis of qualitative data, alongside the RCT findings, is also highly important.</p> <p>(c) Findings of this study support a more focused institutional approach to enhancing access for home PGT students from widening participation groups. Moreover, further data and insight should be presented at a future Widening Participation Committee meeting which provides context of our PGT population, including how some institutional provision i.e. the Warwick Taught Masters Scholarship Scheme, contributes to enhancing outcomes.</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <p>1) The Committee noted the report on Progression to Postgraduate Taught study</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <p>1) The Head of Widening Participation to discuss findings of the project with the Postgraduate Officer. 2) An update to be presented at the next meeting.</p>
022	<p>Student Advisory Working Group</p> <p>The Head of Widening Participation presented draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Student Advisory Group (022-WPC261119)</p> <p>(a) Following discussion at the last WP Committee meeting, the Head of Widening Participation has met with the SU Postgraduate Officer to develop a transitional arrangement, whereby the current Postgraduate Officer will chair this group, with a view to fitting in to the new sabbatical officer's priorities next academic year.</p> <p>(b) The group will be steered by students not the Committee, in an inclusive and transparent model of engagement. It is anticipated that membership of the group will encompass a diverse range of potential and current students from widening participation backgrounds, and representation across all Faculties. While it will not be possible to have representation from all groups, it is hoped that membership will expand over time.</p> <p>(c) The group will provide a mechanism to elicit information and understanding from the student body, and will be a vehicle for increased student engagement in strategic matters. Members will be supported through training at the start of the year to equip them to fulfil their role. It is possible that the group would provide valuable input into the Faculty Education Committees.</p>

	<p>DECISION:</p> <p>1) The Committee approved the draft Terms of Reference for the Student Advisory Group.</p>
023	<p>WP Working Groups Updates</p> <p>Update on Student Success and Progression Working Group</p> <p>The Committee received and noted the verbal report from the Co-chair of the student Success and Progression Working Group:</p> <p>1) The group have formed two sub-groups to identify areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The development of a survey to specific Widening Participation groups exploring the transition to Warwick (ii) Researching examples of good practice across the sector in support students, and understanding why some interventions may not be translatable to Warwick (iii) Undertaking an audit examining WP activity across departments – it is anticipated that examples given by departments would not necessarily support widening access and participation <p>Update on the Research and Evaluation Working Group</p> <p>This will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting</p>
Other	
024	<p>Any other business</p> <p>The Head of Widening Participation informed the Committee that the OfS guidance for monitoring Access and Participation Plans has been delayed, due to the upcoming election. Therefore the deadline has been extended to the end of February 2020. This will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.</p>
<p>Close: 11.30am</p> <p>Next meeting: Tuesday 4 February 2020, 09.30am-11.30am, Senate House Council Chamber</p>	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
016 Matters arising: 007 Teaching Excellence Group	<p>ACTION:</p> <p>1) The Head of Widening Participation to submit a summary paper on progress and outcomes of TEG discussions to the Committee</p>	PB Feb 2020	WPC meeting 4 February 2020
017 Chair's Business:	<p>DECISION:</p> <p>1) The Chair approved the removal of the means-testing condition of the Bursary for Warwick Scholars</p>		
	<p>ACTION:</p> <p>1) The Widening Participation Working Groups to be included as a substantive item on the agenda for the next meeting on 4 February 2020</p>	PB/CH	WPC meeting 4 February 2020

<p>018 – University’s Access and Participation 19/20 enrolment position WP outcomes</p>	<p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Committee will discuss where the focus should lie with this work, to fulfil APP obligations 2) Further clarity on the data, especially around BAME and mature students, will be requested by the WP Evidence and Evaluation Manager and analysed at an individual level by the Working Groups. This will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting. 3) The presentation to be circulated to Committee members 		
<p>019 – IntoUniversity Coventry Centre Annual Report</p>	<p>ACTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Committee expressed interest in a visit to the Centre, and engagement in on-campus events, to be co-ordinated by the Head of Widening Participation and circulated in due course. 	<p>PB</p>	<p>TBC</p>
<p>020 – Proposal to review Undergraduate Bursary Criteria for MBChB students</p>	<p>DECISION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Committee recognises the compelling argument to mitigate challenges faced by this group of students; however further modelling is required on the size of the cohort linked to eligibility of the Warwick Bursary, the practicalities involved in the administration of any future bursary and a breakdown of potential costs. There is currently no budget to accommodate this. <p>ACTION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Committee agreed that the proposal complements the University’s strategic principles of widening participation, and welcome further information at the next meeting. 	<p>WMS</p>	<p>WPC meeting 4 February 2020</p>
<p>021 – Progression to PGT report</p>	<p>ACTIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Head of Widening Participation to discuss findings of the project with the SU Postgraduate Officer. 2) An update to be presented at the next meeting. 	<p>PB</p>	<p>WPC meeting 4 February 2020</p>
	<p>Items for next meeting: Widening Participation Working Groups OfS guidance for monitoring the Access and Participation Plan</p>	<p>PB/CH</p>	<p>WPC meeting 4 February 2020</p>