

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Widening Participation Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Widening Participation Committee
Thursday 12th October 2017

Present: Professor Chris Hughes (Chair, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Education), Sue Bennett (Director of Student Careers and Skills), Paul Blagburn (Secretary, Head of Widening Participation and Outreach), Delyth Chambers (Director of Student Recruitment Outreach and Admissions Service), Emily Dunford (Postgraduate Officer, Warwick SU), Professor Louise Gracia (Dean of Students), Professor Geraldine Hartshorne (Head of Clinical Faculty, WMS), Liam Jackson (Education Officer, Warwick SU), Mary McGrath (Director of Fundraising, External Affairs), Rory McIntyre (Senior Assistant Registrar, Strategic Planning and Analytics), Dr Fergus McKay (Director of Centre for Lifelong Learning), Dr Ines Molinaro (Academic Director, Warwick Foundation Studies), Dr Nick Monk (Director of Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning), Catherine Munn (Assistant Secretary, Widening Participation Manager), Professor Jeremy Smith (Head of Department, Economics), Professor Colin Sparrow (Academic Director, Graduate Studies), Teng Zhang (Head of Student Finance and Funding)

Apologies: Giles Carden (Director of Strategic Planning and Analytics), Professor Lorenzo Frigerio (Head of Department, Life Sciences), Kate Hughes (Partnerships Director, External Affairs), Kate Ireland (Director of Centre Teacher Education), Roberta Wooldridge-Smith (Academic Registrar), Shirley Crookes (Director of Wellbeing Support Services), Dr Rachel Moseley (Head of Department, TV and Film)

In attendance: Angela Gibson (Senior PA, PVC)

1/17-18 **Conflicts of Interest**

REPORTED:

That, should any members or attendees of the Senate have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with the CUC Guide for Members of Higher Education Governing Bodies in the UK, available at <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2009/200914/>

2/17-18 **Chair's Business**

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education).

REPORTED:

- (a) That the decision to dis-establish the Widening Participation Strategy Steering Group and replace with the Widening Participation Committee had been taken

following an academic governance review at the end of the 2016/17 academic year, which was approved by Senate in July.

- (b) That a decision had been taken to involve representation from senior colleagues on the Committee, providing a more strategic approach and helping to position widening participation at the forefront of the University agenda.
- (c) That the establishment of the Committee was a reflection of the University's commitment to widening participation at Warwick.

3/17-18 **Terms of Reference and Membership**

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining the Committee's Terms of Reference and Membership, (WP.1/17-18).

REPORTED:

- (a) That the Committee Terms of Reference be updated to include the following additions:
 - i. To raise awareness across the University of widening participation activity, including the breadth of work that is currently undertaken in this area and progress against Access Agreement targets
 - ii. To improve knowledge amongst University staff of the make-up of the student body with regard to WP indicators, at faculty and departmental level
 - iii. To raise awareness within the local community of our commitment to widening participation
 - iv. To align the new WP strategy with University development goals
- (b) That the Committee Terms of Reference be updated to include the following amendments:
 - i. To be explicit when referring to the student life-cycle with regard to post-graduate study
- (c) That the following considerations be taken into account when developing the Widening Participation sub-groups:
 - i. That the sub-groups be made up of a range of academic colleagues and professional service departments with a view to supporting the implementation of the WP strategy and helping to operationalise the work of the group
 - ii. That each sub-group should include terms of reference and an agreement from the Committee as to the purpose and direction of the group
 - iii. That the commitment of colleagues who currently deliver outreach activity be considered in the planning of sub-groups so as not to adversely impact the engagement of these colleagues

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Terms of Reference and Membership paper (WP.1/17-18) be updated to reflect the above proposals and suggestions, for approval by the Committee at the next meeting

- (b) That the plans for sub-groups one (Widening Participation and Access group) and two (Student Success and Progression group) be put on hold until we have a better indication of the direction of the new WP strategy
- (c) That a paper be brought to the next Widening Participation Committee meeting for discussion, outlining the key tasks, representation and resourcing of Widening Participation Sub-group three (Widening Participation Research and Evaluation group)

4/17-18 **Widening Participation Strategy Development**

CONSIDERED:

A paper and oral report from Paul Blagburn, Head of Widening Participation, on a proposed Widening Participation Strategy refresh process (WP.2/17-18 {Restricted}).

REPORTED:

- (a) The following proposals were made with regard to the direction of the new WP strategy:
 - i. That the focus should be on an institutional approach which is embedded within departments
 - ii. That the purpose should be to provide structure to departments, with the flexibility to apply the new strategy within the context and individual circumstances of a department
 - iii. That consultation with staff members throughout the development of the new strategy would be crucial in ensuring engagement and buy-in from colleagues
 - iv. That the Committee should consider the issue of academic attainment for WP students and the importance of embedding any recommendations within our admissions policy and access activity
 - v. That the Committee should consider the amount of additional fee income put towards financial support for students, using the analysis of the impact of bursaries on students currently being undertaken to help inform this
 - vi. That the strategic priorities should reflect support for UG and PG students, as well as access, success and progression
 - vii. That the Committee should consider internal communication as part of the new strategy, including the need for the strategy to be embedded across the institution and how to ensure the strategy is acted upon
- (b) The following proposals were made with regard to the operational implementation of the new WP strategy:
 - i. That the way departments receive WP data should be reviewed, with consideration given to how aggregate level data is presented, tracking students throughout the lifecycle and storing historical data
 - ii. That the evaluation sub-group should consider departmental level WP data in other institutions as a point of comparison, where this information is available

RESOLVED:

That the Widening Participation Strategy development paper (WP.2/17-18 {Restricted}) be updated to reflect the above proposals and suggestions, for approval by the Committee at the next meeting.

5/17-18 **Any other business**

REPORTED:

That the Students' Union were opposed to the statement within the University's 2018-19 Access Agreement regarding a proposed fee increase for future years in line with inflation.

6/17-18 **Dates of future meetings**

RECEIVED:

Confirmation of the dates of future meetings of the Widening Participation Committee.

REPORTED:

That the Committee will meet twice per term on the following dates:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, 30 November 2017	11:00 – 13:00	CMR 1.0
Tuesday, 20 February 2018	13:00 – 15:00	Senate House Council Chamber
Tuesday, 10 April 2018	13:00 – 15:00	CMR 1.0
Tuesday, 22 May 2018	13:00 - 15:00	CMR 1.0
Tuesday, 03 July 2018	14:00 – 16:00	CMR 1.0