

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 6 March 2017

Present: Professor Stuart Croft (Vice-Chancellor and President (Chair)), Professor A Clarke (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor C Ennew (Provost), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor C Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)), Professor D Leadley (Academic Member of the Senate), Professor M Nudds (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Mr L Pilot (President of the Students' Union, from item 236/16-17), Ms R Sandby-Thomas (Registrar), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of Science), Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement)), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)), Professor L Young (Academic Vice-President).

Apologies: Professor J Palmowski (Academic Vice-President)

In Attendance: Mr J Breckon (Director of Estates), Dr G Carden (Director of Strategic Planning & Analytics, for item 236/16-17), Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Mrs P Glover (Secretary to Council), Ms J Horsburgh (Strategy Director (Secretary)), Ms G McGrattan (Director, People Group), Mrs E Morrison (Projects Officer (Strategic Programme Delivery)), Mr I Rowley (Director of Development, Communications and External Affairs), Mrs C Wightman (Administrative Officer (Governance) (Assistant Secretary)), Mrs R Wooldridge Smith (Deputy Academic Registrar).

226/16-17 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2017 be approved.

227/16-17 Conflicts of Interest

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That, should any members or attendees of the Steering Committee have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with the Committee of University Chairs (CUC) Higher Education Code of Governance (2014).

NOTE: No declarations were made.

228/16-17 Students' Union Election Results

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

(a) That results of the recent Students' Union election had recently been announced noting that Hope Worsdale, the current Sabbatical Officer for Education, had been elected as the incoming President of the Students' Union.

(by the President of the Students' Union)

(b) That he hoped that the new President and Sabbatical team would continue to champion the wellbeing agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to the 2017-18 Sabbatical team elect.

229/16-17 Annual Grant Letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

- (a) That the Government had outlined its priorities to the HEFCE and announced what support it would give to the sector in 2018-19 noting that the letter would be discussed as an agenda item later in the meeting.
- (b) That the Chair wished to particularly highlight that the diversity agenda surrounding tackling violence, sexual harassment and hate crime, including anti-Semitism was a Government priority at the moment.

230/16-17 Students to be Offered Degree Courses Over Two Years

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Government had announced plans to allow two year degrees with the same overall fee level as a three year course, noting that providers would be required to demonstrate the same investment in two year degrees as for the traditional three year degrees.

231/16-17 Higher Education and Research Bill 2016-17

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the Bill continued to be discussed in the Lords and that the key amendment which peers were proposing related to breaking the link between TEF and fees.

232/16-17 Visit by Delegation from California

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That a senior delegation from the University Development Foundation (UDF) visited the University between 25 February and 3 March 2017, noting that the delegation included a major project donor, a UDF Board member, the President of the Greater Sacramento Economic Council, an advisor to UC Davis' Provost and the project's Chief Development Officer. That the visit had been very productive and beneficial in terms of progressing the project.

233/16-17 QS World Sector Rankings

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the QS World Sector rankings had recently been released. That the Department of English, at position 16, was in the Top 20, noting that Warwick had an additional 10 subjects in the World Top 50 and that departments are to be congratulated for this positive result.

234/16-17 University to Partner with Warwickshire County Council to Host Stage 2 of Aviva Women's Tour

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That, as part of the ongoing strategy to engage with the county, the University is to partner with Warwickshire County Council in hosting Stage Two of the forthcoming Aviva Women's Tour for a second year, which would be coming through campus on 16 June 2017 between 10:30 and 11am.

235/16-17 27th Varsity Win for the University

REPORTED: (by the Chair)

That the University had claimed a 27th Varsity win in the annual competition with Coventry University and that congratulations of the committee be extended to those taking part and those involved in organising the tournament.

236/16-17 *Draft Institutional Response to the HEFCE's Consultation on the Second Research Excellence Framework

CONSIDERED:

The University's response to the HEFCE's Consultation on the Second Research Excellence Framework (SC.90/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That clarification surrounding the submission of outputs by groups of co-authors should be added to the response.
- (b) That the Chair of the Faculty of Arts would send suggested amendments to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Director of Strategic Planning & Analytics.
- (c) That the response to question 38 relating to institutional impact should be strengthened.
- (d) That the final paragraph should be moved to the response under question 2 to give greater weight to that section.
- (e) That University's response to the HEFCE's Consultation on the Second Research Excellence Framework as set out in SC.90/16-17 be approved for submission following the incorporation of the suggested amendments.

237/16-17 Senate Business

CONSIDERED:

The items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 15 March 2017.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Provost and Registrar would report jointly on the agenda item relating to the University of Warwick in California.

(b) That the items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 15 March 2017 be approved.

238/16-17 *Car Parking Proposals

CONSIDERED:

A proposal for changes to car parking fees (SC.91/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the Steering Committee recommended the paper to the Financial and General Purposes Committee.

239/16-17 Membership of Senate Committees 2016/17

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for in-year appointments to the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences (SC.92/16-17).

RESOLVED:

That the appointments be approved on behalf of the Senate.

240/16-17 Annual Grant Letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England

RECEIVED:

The Annual Grant Letter to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (SC.93/16-17).

RESOLVED:

That the letter be noted.

241/16-17 *HEFCE Annual Provider Review Preliminary Assessment (online only)

RECEIVED:

A letter from HEFCE outlining the annual provider review preliminary assessment (SC.94/16-17 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

That the letter from HEFCE be noted.

As at 15 March 2017