

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 12 January 2009

Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor S Bassnett,
Professor L Bridges,
Professor S Bruzzi,
Professor K Lamberts
Professor R Lindley,
Professor R Higgott,
Professor M Smith,
Mr S Thomson,
Professor M Underwood,
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Professor H Thomas,

In Attendance: Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Estates, Acting Executive Officer (Vice-Chancellor's Office), Head of Governance Support Services, Administrative Officer (Governance),

242/08-09 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2008 be approved.

243/08-09 AHRC Block Grant Partnership Bid (minute 233/08-09 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

That following overall positive feedback from the AHRC's five referees, the University had compiled a response to the queries raised regarding specific departments, noting that the response considered by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies, Chair of the Board of Arts, Professor Labbe of English and Comparative Literary Studies and Professor Swain of Classics had been submitted on 7 January 2009 to the AHRC.

244/08-09 Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs) (minute 220/08-09 refers)

RECEIVED:

Information from Universities UK announcing the launch of the Academic Health Science Centre designation process (SC.174/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That, in addition to submitting its own bid for a Health Innovation and Education Cluster, the University had included a letter of support and intent with the University of Birmingham's AHSC bid.

245/08-09 Draft University Response to Department of Health Consultation on Modernising Scientific Careers (minute 222/08-09 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft response to a sector-wide response compiled by UUK to the Department of Health consultation 'Modernising Scientific Careers' (SC.178/08-09).

RESOLVED:

That the response be approved for submission by the deadline of 30 January 2009.

246/08-09

RAE2008 Outcome

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That congratulations be recorded for those departments who performed well in the 2008 RAE.
- (b) That departments would be asked in the coming weeks to identify a goal for their research activity for the next five years, together with a plan on how they would seek to achieve the goal in order to ensure momentum following the recent RAE results.
- (c) That the University should actively lobby relevant contacts including professional bodies, particularly in Arts and Social Studies, lay members of the Council and certain members of the HEFCE board to ensure that the funding settlement for institutions like Warwick reflected and rewarded their positive performance in the RAE.

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Registrar identify and contact relevant lay members of Council to aid in the influencing of HEFCE.

247/08-09

Provisional Report on HEFCE Grant Adjustments 2008-09

CONSIDERED:

An initial report from HEFCE outlining the adjustments to the University's grant for 2008-09 (SC.180/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

- (a) That the University had exceeded the lower threshold of its contract range due to significant over recruitment in undergraduate numbers in 2007/08 and 2008/09 and changes to the T grant formula, noting that further analysis of the data was being undertaken.
- (b) That HEFCE would expect an action plan detailing how the University proposed to meet the contract range for 2009/10 by March 2009, should the verified data conclude that the contract had been exceeded.

(By the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (c) That departments required more guidance in the management and realistic growth of government supported Postgraduate Taught courses which fall within the HEFCE contract to ensure the contract range could be met.

RESOLVED:

That the Academic Registrar with the Director of Management Information and Planning compile an action plan modelling the effect on proposed departmental targets for 2009/10 for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.

248/08-09 UUK I-Note I/08/115: QAA Consultation on Changes to Institutional Audit Handbook

RECEIVED:

An information note from UUK asking members to provide comments on the QAA proposals for changes to two aspects of the institutional audit, student membership of audit teams and the audit of collaborative provision (SC.175/08-09).

249/08-09 CBI: Campaigning for Business

RECEIVED:

A letter and booklet from the Director-General of the CBI and University Chancellor, Richard Lambert, regarding how the CBI planned to support its members and influence policy makers in the current economic climate (SC.172/08-09).

250/08-09 Trust Schools Update

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Deputy Registrar updating the Committee on developments arising from the University's involvement with Trust Schools (SC.189/08-09).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the Trust Schools had been established over the last 12 months, noting that the Deputy Registrar had up until this point managed the University's relationships with the Trusts.
- (b) That the nominees set out in SC.189/08-09 had been selected based on the current and future needs of each school, as well as the specific experience and interest the nominee could bring to the school.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the appointment of the following individuals as University Representatives on the Trust Boards for each of the respective trusts be approved:

Ken Sloan, Deputy Registrar	Kingswood
Dr D Wood, Mathematics	Barr's Hill
Mrs K Hughes, Director of Student Services	Westwood
Professor D Haddleton (Chemistry), Dr D Lines (Italian) and Professor R Dyson (Warwick Business School)	Kenilworth

- (b) That the University's involvement as lead higher education partner in the development of two academy schools in the West Midlands be approved as set out in SC.189/08-09.

- 251/08-09 Appointment to Committees of the Senate
- RESOLVED:
- That Dr Rudolf Roemer (Physics and Director of the Centre for Scientific Computing) be appointed to the Information Policy and Strategy Committee by the Steering Committee on behalf of the Senate.
- 252/08-09 University Response to the CHRE Performance Review
- RECEIVED:
- The University's contribution to the recent review of Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) submitted on 9 January 2009 by the Acting Dean of Warwick Medical School, together with the UUK I-Note I/08/117 requesting for views (SC.182/08-09).
- 253/08-09 Notification of the University's Withdrawal of ECIU Membership
- RECEIVED:
- A letter confirming that the University's request to withdraw its membership of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU) had been accepted (SC.181/08-09).
- 254/08-09 HEFCE Circular Letter 36/2008: Employer Engagement – Allocation of Funding
- RECEIVED:
- Information from HEFCE providing an update on the allocation of capacity development and provision funding to support workforce development activities with employers (SC.169/08-09)
- 255/08-09 CIHE Report: Universities, Business and Knowledge Exchange
- RECEIVED:
- A report from the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE) providing insights for UK policy improvement based on an enhanced understanding of business-university relationships (SC.170/08-09).
- 256/08-09 DIUS Simplification Plan
- RECEIVED:
- The executive summary of a Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) initiative to simplify requirements and processes for businesses, front line public sector workers and learners (SC.171/08-09).
- 257/08-09 UUK I-Note I/08/112: EU Commission Green Paper on Copyright
- RECEIVED:
- The Universities UK response to the EU Commission Green Paper on exceptions to copyright (SC.173/08-09).
- 258/08-09 Leadership Foundation for Higher Education Annual Report 2007/08
- RECEIVED:
- An annual report from the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education covering the first completed year of its new five year Strategic Plan (SC.176/08-09)

259/08-09 Campaign for Learning Pamphlet: "Higher Education and the Cuckoo in the Nest"

RECEIVED:

A publication from the Campaign for Learning highlighting the means by which the higher education sector could contribute to social justice and economic prosperity (SC.179/08-09).

260/08-09 Europe Unit Newsletter 52

RECEIVED:

The December 2008 edition of the Europe Unit newsletter updating the Committee on higher education developments in Europe (SC.177/08-09).

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