

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 17 September 2012

- Present: Vice-Chancellor,
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Professor A Caesar,
Professor Christina Hughes,
Professor Christopher Hughes,
Professor T Jones,
Professor J Labbe,
Professor S Swain,
Professor M Taylor,
Mr N Swain.
- Apologies: Professor S Croft, Professor P Thomas, Professor P Winstanley.
- In Attendance: Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance and Financial Strategy,
Director of Development and External Affairs, Director of Estates, Interim HR
Operations Director (for items 669/11-12 to 671/11-12), Head of Governance,
Executive Officer (VC's Office) (incoming), Executive Officer (VC's Office) (outgoing),
Administrative Officer (Governance/Academic Registrar's Office).
- 661/11-12 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2012 be approved.
- 662/11-12 Retirement of Terry Monnington
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That Terry Monnington, the Director of Sport and Physical Education, had retired on 14 September 2012 following a period of service at the University since 1971.
- 663/11-12 Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence for Postgraduate Research Students
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That the University offered its congratulations to the winners and commendees of the inaugural Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence for Postgraduate Research Students (WATEPGR).
- 664/11-12 WMG UK Energy Storage Research & Development Centre
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That Warwick Manufacturing Group would host a £13m 'UK Energy Storage R&D Centre' co-funded by the Government and industry for the advancement of electric and hybrid vehicle batteries.
- 665/11-12 Joint Vice-President for Monash and Warwick
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- (a) That Professor Andrew Coats had been appointed as the first joint Academic Vice-President of Warwick and Monash Universities.

- (b) That Professor Coats had a history of inter-continental working, holding an impressive Curriculum Vitae, and should prove an asset to the Monash-Warwick Alliance.
- (c) That it was expected that Professor Coats would formally take up his post on 04 February 2013, but would be involved in a number of induction activities prior to this.

666/11-12 Undergraduate Recruitment Position

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That statistics released by UCAS indicated that the University had performed exceptionally well compared to other institutions in the sector, some of which were facing shortfalls of circa 700-1000 students against their expected Home/EU undergraduate intakes.
- (b) That there had been an overall reduction of 12% in the number of Home/EU undergraduate students accepting places at institutions in the UK, and a fall of 15% in those who had attained AAB or above at A-level.
- (c) That it was expected that a significant number of universities may alter their entry requirements to ABB in the next recruitment cycle with the upcoming exclusion of these students from the Student Number Control (SNC) (currently exclusion from the SNC is set at AAB or above).
- (d) That the University would not want to reduce its entry requirements due to undesirable reputation consequences, however exceptional cases may be considered where there was a national and consistent reduction in the number of students.
- (e) That some departments would have to redouble their efforts to ensure strength in all areas.
- (f) That the University would be publicising an article on Insite to advise current staff and students of our comparatively favourable position.

(by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Student Experience)

- (g) That some departments might have to reconsider the type and structure of their degree offerings.

667/11-12 Pro-Vice Chancellor Recruitment

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That Professor Lawrence Young had been appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor following recent consultation with the University Council.
- (b) That Professor Young was listed as a ~~IC~~ ISI highly cited researcher in microbiology.
- (c) That it was hoped that Professor Young would be able to take up his post early in the New Year.
- (d) That the exact portfolios of the Pro-Vice-Chancellors would be confirmed in the coming weeks following consultation with the individuals concerned.

School of Health & Social Sciences Transition Update

CONSIDERED:

An update paper outlining the progress of transitioning the areas of activity from the School of Health & Social Sciences (SHSS) to other academic departments (SC.462/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Professor Christina Hughes))

- (a) That different areas of activity within the SHSS had been identified to be moved to Warwick Medical School (WMS) and the Centre for Lifelong Learning as was most appropriate, dependent on the research area.
- (b) That the WMS Dean's Advisory Group was meeting on 24 September 2012 to identify the most appropriate location for individual members of staff, and following this, individuals would be written to as part of the on-going consultation process.

(by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (c) That consideration should be given to ensuring ~~that~~ the smooth transfer for PhD students and that this ~~did~~ would not impact upon their studies.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (d) That the transition, to date, had gone smoothly and those involved had the University's thanks.

RESOLVED:

- (e) That the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies consult with the relevant staff members to ensure a smooth transition to their new academic departments for PhD students currently resident in SHSS.
- (f) That the SHSS Transition Working Group provide a formal report of progress to the meeting of the Senate scheduled for 03 October 2012.

Update on Industrial Action

RECEIVED:

A paper providing an update on the balloting timetable and intentions of the trade unions present on campus following the latest round of national pay negotiations (SC.465/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Interim HR Operations Director)

- (a) That the final offer of a 1% pay increase by the Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) had been rejected by the five trade unions involved in the joint negotiations.
- (b) That four of these trade unions were now balloting on varying forms of industrial action and that the three main trade unions on campus (UCU, Unison and Unite) were part of this group.
- (c) That UCU was currently balloting on both 'action short of a strike' (ASOS) and strike action, whilst Unison and Unite were both balloting on strike action only.
- (d) That the previous period of UCU ASOS, centred around changes to the USS pension scheme, had ended on 14 September 2012 due to developments in this area.

- (e) That the timetables for balloting and action would mean that, if mandated, action would likely take place in late October to early November 2012.
- (f) That the unions were required to give the University seven days notice of any industrial action.
- (g) That there was a likelihood that the various trade unions would coordinate action on specific days.

(by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (h) That the University was in the process of making arrangements to limit the impact of strike action as far as was possible.

670/11-12

Update on USS evaluation

RECEIVED:

A paper providing an update on the most recent valuation of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) (SC.464/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Interim HR Operations Director)

- (a) That at the recent UCEA subscribers conference, the Chair of the USS Trustees Board had provided an update on the scheme valuation.
- (b) That on 13 September 2012, the Times Higher Education published an article that reported that the current deficit of the USS had grown from almost £3bn last year to almost £10bn as of the latest valuation.
- (c) That the last tri-annual full evaluation of the scheme was conducted in 2011 and the next was due in 2014, however it was likely that the USS trustees would take action based upon the current valuation.
- (d) That the Chair of the USS Trustees Board was due to meet the pensions regulator prior to the next meeting of the board and would write to the heads of institutions to update them on the situation at this point.

671/11-12

Major Research Proposal - Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in High Value Waste Symbiosis

CONSIDERED:

A full research proposal from Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) for a Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in High Value Waste Symbiosis (SC.466/11-12).

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Knowledge Transfer, Business Engagement and Research (Science & Medicine))

- (a) That the multidisciplinary bid was being led by WMG and included representation from the Department of Chemistry and the Schools of Life Sciences and Engineering.
- (b) That the total bid worth approximately £7m was in conjunction with the Universities of Manchester, Exeter and Lancaster and that Warwick's share of the bid was worth approximately £2.5m.
- (c) That it was not possible to bid for studentships within EPSRC grants and therefore the funding for these would have to be found elsewhere.

(by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies)

- (d) That the WCPRS scholarships were already oversubscribed and it was unlikely that the studentships listed in the proposal could be funded from this source.

(by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

- (e) That WMG should be clear that the University had not guaranteed central funding for these studentships and that this might have to be funded by the department individually.

RESOLVED:

- (f) That the request for a University contribution for the Centre for Innovative Manufacturing in High Value Waste Symbiosis as set out in SC.466/11-12 be approved.

672/11-12 Submitted Response to UCEA Consultation on the Tier 2 Codes of Practise

RECEIVED:

The University's response to the UCEA call for evidence for the Migration Advisory Committee's review of the Tier 2 codes of practice which was submitted on 13 July 2012 (SC.424/11-12).

673/11-12 2013-14 Access Agreement Outcomes

RECEIVED:

A paper detailing the University's access agreement outcomes for 2012/13 and 2013/14 and detailing the University's position relative to other Russell Group Institutions (SC.433/11-12).

674/11-12 Government announcement on additional HEIF Funding for top performing Universities

RECEIVED:

A speech from the Minister for Universities and Science given at the UUK conference, containing an announcement on an additional £6million funding that HEFCE would allocate to the highest performing universities in knowledge exchange (SC.467/11-12).

675/11-12 HEFCE Report: Review of Philanthropy in UK Higher Education

RECEIVED:

A report commissioned by the HEFCE which assesses the environment of philanthropic giving within the UK higher education sector in 2012 (SC.468/11-12).

NO/SS/steersshare/minutes/201112/Sept2012/17-09-2012