

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 21 April 2008

Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Professor R Higgott
Mr J Kirby
Professor K Lamberts
Professor R Lindley
Professor M Smith

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor S Bassnett, Professor H Thomas, Professor L M Whitby

In Attendance: Registrar, Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Communications, Director of Finance, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Administrative Officer (Governance & Campus Affairs), Director of Management Information and Planning (for item 476/07-08)

469/07-08 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2008 be approved.

470/07-08 Draft TRAC-T Benchmarking (minute 439/07-08 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Director of Finance)

That the costs associated with supervising PGR students have been included within TRAC-R figures.

(by Professor Lindley)

That it was unclear on the timesheets survey form that time spent with PhD students should be classified as research, leading to inconsistent approaches to reporting across departments.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Finance investigate the issue and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

471/07-08 Science and Innovation Awards

CONSIDERED:

Draft bids and an update on the development of proposals for the University's submission to the EPSRC Science and Innovation Award Scheme (SC.363/07-08), noting that each of the bids included legacy costs and staff upgrading costs which the University would need to fund going forwards should any of the bids be successful.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the draft bids be approved for submission to the EPSRC, subject to the minor amendments as discussed in the meeting.

- (b) That whilst the legacy and additional costs included in the proposals had the 'in principle' support of the Steering Committee, formal approval for this funding would need to be considered by the Academic Resourcing Committee.

472/07-08 National Student Survey (minute 460/07-08 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

That actions were being undertaken by Warwick Business School to increase the response rate to the National Student Survey from the current rate of 53%, including promotion on the my.wbs website and announcements in lectures and seminars.

473/07-08 Science City

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That Advantage West Midlands had approved funding for the first Advanced Materials bid submitted under Birmingham Science City.

474/07-08 Director General for Science and Research in DIUS

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Adrian Smith, currently Principal of Queen Mary University, had been appointed as Director General for Science & Research and Chief Scientific Adviser for the DIUS.

475/07-08 University of California, Irvine

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That a party from the University of California, Irvine, would shortly be visiting the University to take forward discussions arising from his visit with colleagues to their campus earlier this year.

476/07-08 League Tables and their Impact on HEIs

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Director of Management Information and Planning outlining the results of a study carried out by HEFCE into the impact of league tables on HEIs in England, including the Executive Summary of the report (SC.364/07-08) and UUK Information note I/08/033 containing Universities UK's response to the study (SC.367/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the significance and impact of league tables on applicants' choice was a key factor for Warwick compared to other Russell Group institutions.

RESOLVED:

That Paper SC.364/07-08 be distributed to Heads of Department.

477/07-08 Revolving Green Fund

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the HEFCE Revolving Green Fund consultation (SC.365/07-08)

RESOLVED:

That the response be approved and submitted to HEFCE.

478/07-08

Formal Launch of the Government's Matched Funding Scheme

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Director of Annual Giving and Legacies concerning the details of the formal launch of the Government's Matched Funding Scheme (SC.349/07-08)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University opt for the highest tier which will attract a matching ratio of 3:1 private:public money.
- (b) That further work be undertaken by the Development and Alumni Relations Office on the remainder of the recommendations contained within SC.349/07-08.

479/07-08

General Manager of the Students' Union

REPORTED: (by the President of the Students' Union)

- (a) That Claire Horton, General Manager of the Students' Union had been appointed to the role of Chief Executive of the Variety Club of Great Britain and would leave the Students' Union in July 2008.
- (b) That the Students' Union would immediately begin the recruitment process for a new General Manager.

480/07-08

Integrating 14-19 Diplomas Into Initial Teacher Training

RECEIVED:

Correspondence from the TDA giving details on the TDA approach to integrating 14-19 Diplomas into Initial Teacher Training (SC.366/07-08).

KMS/gb/steersshare/minutes200708/apr08/21apr08