

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 25 February 2008

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

In Attendance: Deputy Registrar, Director of Communications, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Registrar, Vice-Chancellor's Executive Officer, Administrative Officer (Campus Affairs), Director of the Centre for Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies (for item 346/07-08), Director of Careers and Employability (for item 349/07-08), Director of the Institute of Advanced Study (for item 348/07-08), Administrator of the Institute of Advanced Study (for item 348/07-08), Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment (for item 351/07-08)

345/07-08

Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2008 be approved, subject to:

- a) the revision of minute 321/07-08 as follows (amendments underlined):

Professor Michael Edwards (minute 305/07-08 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

The Professor Michael Edwards had in fact ~~been unsuccessful in his bid to become~~ not been elected as a member of the Academie Francaise.

- b) the revision of minute 333/07-08 as follows (amendments underlined):

UK Panel for Research Integrity in Health and Biomedical Sciences Consultation

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/08/009 inviting institutions to submit their views on a draft procedure into investigation of allegations of misconduct in research in Health and Biomedical Sciences (SC.240/07-08).

RESOLVED

That Professors Higgott Smith and Carter co-ordinate the University's response to the consultation to be considered by the Committee prior to the submission deadline of 4 April 2008.

346/07-08

Director's Response to the Strategic Departmental Review: Centre for Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies (minute 327/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The response from the Director of the Centre for Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies to its Strategic Departmental Review (SC.256/07-08).

RECOMMENDED:

That the Academic Resourcing Committee consider the proposals contained in the recommendations relating to academic appointments within the Centre.

RESOLVED:

That the other recommendations for the University contained within the report be passed to relevant committees and Officers for consideration and response, noting that progress against the recommendations would be monitored through the established follow-up processes for departmental reviews.

347/07-08

Strategic Departmental Review: School of Health and Social Studies

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That it was proposed that the Strategic Departmental Review of the School of Health and Social Studies would now take place in the Autumn Term 2008/09, due to the Head of Department being on study leave for the Summer Term 2007/08.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed postponement of the Strategic Departmental Review of the School of Health and Social Studies to the Autumn Term 2008/09 be approved.

348/07-08

Strategic Policy Update: Institute for Advanced Study

CONSIDERED:

An update from the Institute of Advanced Study including key developments on funded projects, facilities, programming for 2008/09 and the priorities for the coming period. (SC.254/07-08)

349/07-08

Strategic Policy Update: Careers Centre

CONSIDERED:

An update from the Careers Centre including DLHE, changes to front line services, careers fairs in the Spring Term 2008, PGR careers support, international strategy, HEIF 3-funded Work Experience Project, departmental events and the Centre's work with CSDE (SC.255/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Careers and Employability)

That the provision of advice provided by the Careers Centre in the area of International Development was significant, but that there was an issue of communication related to that provision which was being addressed.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Careers and Employability undertake further discussions relating to PGR careers support.

350/07-08

HEFCE Consultation on Revisions to the Financial Memorandum

CONSIDERED:

The draft response to the HEFCE Consultation on the Financial Memorandum and Audit Code of Practice (SC.257/07-08).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed response to the HEFCE Consultation on the Financial Memorandum and Audit Code of Practice be approved, subject to some minor amendments highlighted at the meeting.

351/07-08

Update on Delivery Partnership: Improving the Higher Education Applications Process

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note 1/08/012, laying out a summary of progress to date from the Delivery Partnership, specifically: improvements to feedback to unsuccessful applicants, and the new process of 'trading up' for applicants who exceed the terms of their conditional offer (SC.263/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment)

That it was anticipated that the process of 'trading up' was not expected to have a significant impact on the University as it essentially formalised an informal process that already took place within the sector.

RESOLVED:

That the Director of Student Admissions and Recruitment report to a future meeting of the Committee on the proposed University process for providing improved feedback to unsuccessful applications.

352/07-08

EPSRC Update

REPORTED: (by Professor M Smith)

- a) That twenty five EPSRC staff would visit the University on 26 February 2008 as part of the new EPSRC Institutional engagement process.
- b) That the EPSRC had invited outline proposals from institutions for the fifth round of Science and Innovation Awards, with a submission date of 22 April 2008.
- c) That the EPSRC were planning to fund a series of Doctoral Training Centres, and would be issuing a call for outline proposals in March 2008.

RESOLVED:

- a) That Professor Smith report back to the Committee following the EPSRC visit.
- b) That Professor Smith coordinate the University response to the call for proposals for the fifth round of Science and Innovation Awards to be considered at a future meeting of the Committee in advance of the submission date of 22 April 2008.

353/07-08

Go Green Week

RESOLVED:

That the Committee record its congratulations to the student body for a very successful Go Green Week.

354/07-08

Campus Development Plan

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

That the Campus Development Plan had been approved at a recent meeting of Warwick District Council.

355/07-08

Closure of Gibbet Hill Road (minute 257/07-08 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Director of Estates)

- a) That the next phase of the works were due to begin on 26 February 2008, approximately three weeks ahead of schedule.
- b) That it would be ensured that any changes in the schedule would be implemented so as to have no negative impact during the forthcoming examination period.

356/07-08

Points Based Immigration System (minute 323/07-08 refers)

RECEIVED:

A letter sent to the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration setting out the University's concerns about the new Points Based Immigration System (SC.258/07-08)

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

That the President of the Students' Union planned to write a letter to the Minister of State for Borders and Immigration setting out student concerns about the new Points Based Immigration System.

357/07-08

UK Skills Annual Review 2007/08

RECEIVED:

The UK Skills Annual Review Report 2007/08 (SC.262/07-08).

358/07-08

UUK Response to Consultation on the Research Excellence Framework

RECEIVED:

The Universities UK response to consultation on the Research Excellence Framework (SC.264/07-08)