

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 31 March 2008

- Present: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor M Smith
Professor L M Whitby
- Apologies: Vice-Chancellor, Professor L Bridges, Professor H Thomas Professor S Bassnett,
Professor A Caesar, Professor Y Carter, Professor R Higgott, Mr J Kirby, Professor K
Lamberts, Professor R Lindley
- In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Communications, Director of
Finance, Registrar, Administrative Officer (Campus Affairs), Director of HR and
Commercial Services (for item 410/07-08), Director of Warwick HRI (for item 412/07-
08)
- 406/07-08 Minutes
- RESOLVED:
- That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2008 be approved.
- 407/07-08 Higher Education Innovation Fund Round 4 (Minute 378/07-08 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That the proposed strategy and allocation of HEIF4 funding would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee, prior to the submission deadline of 11 April 2008.
- 408/07-08 Working Group on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Minute 381/07-08 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)
- That the report from the Working Group on the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors would be considered at a final meeting of the Working Group prior to consideration at Steering Committee.
- 409/07-08 Heads of Department Away Day (Minute 389/07-08 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)
- That the Heads of Department Away Day would take place on 9 May 2008 and that exact timings would be confirmed in the coming days.
- 410/07-08 Pulse Survey 2008
- RECEIVED:
- A report from the Director of HR and Commercial Services detailing the results of the Pulse Staff Survey 2008 (SC.304/07-08).
- REPORTED: (by the Director of HR and Commercial Services)
- (a) That there had been an increase in the response rate from 40% in 2005 to 50% in 2008.
- (b) That differences in the methodology between the 2005 and 2008 surveys meant that direct comparisons needed to be reported carefully.

- (c) That the results would be cascaded to Departments in the coming week, and that Departments would be asked to develop Pulse Departmental Action Plans to address key issues reflected in the survey results for their department.
- (d) That the development of departmental Stress Action Plans (linked to the University's Stress Management Programme) would, where possible, be incorporated into the Pulse Departmental Action Plans to avoid duplication of work.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Section 4, providing comparisons between 2005 and 2008, be removed from the information cascaded to Departments due to the potential for misinterpretation.
- (b) That updates on the development and implementation of Departmental Action Plans be reported to the Committee at the end of the Summer Term to inform a report to Council at its meeting on 9 July 2008.

411/07-08

TDA Funding

RECEIVED:

A report from the Academic Office detailing the TDA grant for 2008/09 (SC.313/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That the TDA grant for 2008/09 was slightly higher than had been forecast in the Financial Plan for 2008/09.

412/07-08

Warwick HRI Q2 Update

RECEIVED:

A report on recent developments at Warwick HRI, including developments related to finance, staff and integration, research, teaching, and buildings, campus and infrastructure (SC.305/07-08)

REPORTED: (by the Director of Warwick HRI)

That the 2007 pay award had now been agreed and paid.

(by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That the forthcoming Departmental Review of Warwick HRI would take the form of a Research Review rather than a full Strategic Departmental Review.

(by the Deputy Registrar)

That the Director of Operations of Warwick HRI had been invited to be an attendee of the University's Campus Life Committee.

- 413/07-08 Warwick Business School Q2 Update
- RECEIVED:
- A report on the Second Quarter Statement for Warwick Business School (SC.306/07-08)
- REPORTED: (by Professor M Smith)
- That Professors Higgott and Storey were investigating the possibility of implementing a research incentive scheme in Warwick Business School.
- 414/07-08 Professor Sir Howard Dalton FRS – Celebration and Tribute
- REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)
- That the invitations to the Celebration and Tribute to be held on 19 May 2008 to celebrate the life of Professor Sir Howard Dalton FRS would be sent out at the end of the week.
- 415/07-08 Changes to FCO support for scholarships
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/08/025, informing institutions that there was to be a significant cut in the funding of two scholarship programmes by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) (SC.308/07-08).
- REPORTED: (by the Registrar)
- That the Vice-Chancellor was considering whether it would be appropriate to send a letter to the Foreign Secretary expressing the University's concerns at changes to FCO-supported scholarships.
- 416/07-08 HEFCE Recurrent Grant
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/08/017 (SC.322/07-08) and HEFCE Publication 2008/12 - Recurrent Grants for 2008-09 (SC.321/07-08), informing institutions of recurrent grant allocations for 2008-09.
- 417/07-08 DIUS Report – Lord Sainsbury's Review of Government's Science and Innovation Policies
- RECEIVED:
- DIUS publication 'Implementing "The Race to the Top", Lord Sainsbury's Review of Government's Science and Innovation Policies' (SC.314/07-08).
- 418/07-08 DIUS Report – Innovation Nation
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/08/024, informing institutions of the publication of the DIUS science and innovation strategy 'Innovation Nation' (SC.315/07-08)

- 419/07-08 Budget 2008
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/08/020, giving a summary of items announced in the Budget 2008 relevant to higher education (SC.323/07-08).
- 420/07-08 Institutional Teaching and Learning Strategies
- RECEIVED:
- Correspondence from HEFCE confirming the institutional (TQEF) allocation 2008-09 would be paid as indicated (SC.327/07-08).
- 421/07-08 BA Award Lectures 2008
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Post Box PB/08/05, inviting institutions to nominate entrants for the BA Award Lectures 2008 (SC.311/07-08).
- 422/07-08 UUK Annual Benefits Statement 2007
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Annual Benefits Statement 2007 (SC.316/07-08).
- 423/07-08 CIHE Report – Graduate Employability
- RECEIVED:
- A Report from the Council for Industry and Higher Education entitled ‘Graduate Employability: What Do Employers Think and Want?’ (SC.317/07-08).
- 424/07-08 UUK Report on HE Demographic Projections
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/08/023 including a new research report on demographic projections for the higher education sector in the UK (SC.320/07-08).
- 425/07-08 DCMS Creative Economy Strategy Document
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/08/016 informing institutions of the publication of the DCMS Creative Economy Strategy Document entitled ‘Creative Britain: New Talent for the New Economy’ (SC.324/07-08).
- 426/07-08 Points Based Immigration System
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/08/018 informing institutions of the implementation of the first phase of the new points-based immigration system (SC.325/07-08).
- 427/07-08 Fair Admissions to Higher Education: Implementation of the Schwartz Report
- RECEIVED:
- UUK Information Note I/08/019 inviting institutions to reply to a survey on the implementation of the Schwartz Report (SC.326/07-08).