

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 21 September 2015

Present: Professor S Croft (Provost (Chair)), Ms R Drinkwater (Group Finance Director), Professor Christopher Hughes (Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences), Mr I Leigh (President of the Students' Union), Professor T Jones (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Science, Engineering and Medicine)), Professor J Palmowski (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education)), Professor M Shipman (Chair of the Faculty of Science), Mr K Sloan (Registrar and Chief Operating Officer), Professor C Sparrow, Professor S Swain (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts and Social Sciences)), Professor P Thomas (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (People and Public Engagement)), Professor L Young (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Planning and Resources)), Professor P Winstanley (Chair of the Faculty of Medicine).

Apologies: Professor Sir Nigel Thrift (Vice-Chancellor and President), Professor A Coats (Academic Vice-President (Monash-Warwick Alliance)), Professor S Gilson (Chair of the Faculty of Arts), Professor Christina Hughes (Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)).

In Attendance: Dr M Glover (Academic Registrar), Ms J Horsburgh (Deputy Registrar (Secretary)), Dr E Hough (Assistant Registrar, Governance (Assistant Secretary)), Ms G McGrattan (Director of Human Resources).

450/14-15 Minutes

RESOLVED:

(a) That the restricted minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on 7 September 2015 be approved.

(b) That the open and restricted minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held on the 21 September 2015 be approved.

451/14-15 In Memoriam – Donna Barnes

REPORTED (by the Provost)

(a) That the University was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Donna Barnes, a member of the Central Student Records team.

(b) That Ms Barnes was a much loved and valued member of the University, having worked at Warwick since 1988.

RESOLVED:

That the condolences of the Committee be extended to Ms Barnes' family.

452/14-15 Warwick in the World's Top 50 Universities

REPORTED (by the Provost)

(a) That the University had achieved 48th place in the QS World University Rankings for 2015, noting that this was the first time it had been placed in the top 50.

- (b) That this was a significant achievement, in line with the University's strategic goals.

453/14-15 Times and Sunday Times University Rankings

REPORTED (by the Provost)

- (a) That the University had risen two places to 6th in the Times and Sunday Times league table of UK universities and had also been ranked Campus University of the Year.
- (b) That this was an excellent result, noting that further analysis of the rankings would be undertaken for subsequent consideration by the Committee.

454/14-15 Scholarships for Refugees

REPORTED (by the Provost)

- (a) That, in response to the current refugee crisis, the University would be offering 10 student scholarships for refugees seeking a place at the University to study or research in the 2015/16 academic year, with a further ten scholarships for the following academic year.
- (b) That it was important to recognise the ways in which the University could, and could not, make a contribution to the current refugee crisis given its status as a charity and its charitable purpose.
- (c) That the individual staff and student efforts in response to the crisis were being supported.

RESOLVED:

That the thanks of the Committee be extended to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Postgraduate and Transnational Education) and the Academic Registrar for their work in putting the scholarships scheme into place.

455/14-15 *Report from the Academic Resourcing Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report updating the Committee on the business of the Academic Resourcing Committee (ARC) (SC.209/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the update from the Academic Resourcing Committee be noted.
- (b) That the revised membership and Terms of Reference for ARC be approved as set out in paper 209/14-15 {restricted} (Annex 1), with the inclusion of the amendments detailed in points (f), (h) and (i) above.

456/14-15 *Budget Steering Group: Q4 Update

CONSIDERED:

A report on the University's full year financial performance for 2014/15 (SC.210/14-15 {restricted}).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the summary financial performance as set out in SC.210/14-15 {restricted} be noted.
- (b) That the Group Finance Director be asked to produce a graph of research income trends and an analysis of key departments' contribution to overall surplus.
- (c) That the congratulations of the Committee be extended to colleagues in CCSG on exceeding budget targets.
- (d) That the update on the Simply, Collaborate, Deliver agenda, previously considered by the Budget Steering Group, be brought to a future meeting of the Steering Committee for information.

457/14-15

BIS Consultation on Targeting Funding for Disabled Students

CONSIDERED:

A draft response to the BIS Consultation on Targeting Funding for Disabled Students (SC.211/14-15).

REPORTED: (by Pro-Vice-Chancellor (People and Public Engagement))

- (a) That BIS were currently consulting on proposals to make changes to the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA), noting that some of those changes would take effect from the 2015/16 academic year, with the majority being considered for 2016/17.
- (b) That were all the proposals to be implemented, the likely cost to the University would be in the region of £0.5m, noting however that the requirement for accessibility provision was increasing year on year.
- (c) That the proposals were fundamentally an issue of student experience and were being considered by a DSA working group chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (People and Public Engagement).
- (d) That the University has so far been exempt from the two-quote system, noting that this was preferential as it enabled a greater measure of quality control and consistency in provision.
- (e) That the DSA Working Group would give consideration to how the institution might respond to any such changes that would come into effect.

(by the Chair of the Faculty of Medicine)

- (f) That consideration should be given to the implications of the proposals, particularly with regard to the impact of provision with external partner organisations.

RESOLVED:

That the draft response, as set out in SC.211/14-15 be approved for submission to BIS by the deadline of 24 September 2015, subject to the tick-box responses for Questions 8 and 9 being reviewed.