

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 9 October 2006

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor S Bassnett
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Mr B Duggan
Professor J Jones
Professor R Lindley
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor M Smith
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Ms N Snodgrass.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Director of Finance, Deputy Registrar, Registrar, University Secretary, for item 21(a)/06-07 the Director of Warwick HRI, for item 21(d)/06-07 the Director of Academic and Student Affairs, for item 22/06-07 the Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning).

17/06-07 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2006 be approved.

18/06-07 Staff Load Models (minute 5/06-07 refers)

REPORTED:

That the approach to be made to both devolved and non-devolved departments for the provision of detailed information on the load models adopted within each department would be coordinated by the Academic Resourcing Committee.

19/06-07 RAE 2008 and Research Grant and Contract Income

REPORTED: (by the Director of Finance)

That the University had not attained its targets for research grant and contract income and projected expenditure against targets for 2005/06 and increased efforts would therefore be required to ensure that targets for awards and expenditure in 2006/07 were achieved.

RESOLVED:

That the Vice-Chancellor write to all Heads of Departments underlining the importance of the RAE 2008 on the future financial position of all academic departments, the need to increase the number of applications and the volume and size of research grants awarded across the University and the necessity of ensuring that the timing of expenditure to be set against research grants and contract income was in line with approved targets and budgets.

20/06-07 The UK Honours Degree: Provision of Information – Burgess Group Second Consultation

CONSIDERED:

The second consultation paper from the 'Burgess Group': 'The UK Honours Degree- Provision of Information – Second Consultation' (SC.12/06-07) together with an oral report from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) outlining a proposed University response to the consultation paper.

RESOLVED:

That the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) and the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) prepare a draft response to the second consultation paper from the 'Burgess Group ' along the lines discussed at the meeting for consideration by the Steering Committee prior to its final submission to the QAA by 3 November 2006.

21/06-07 Devolved Budget Year-End Reports

(a) Warwick HRI

CONSIDERED:

The final quarter statement from Warwick HRI for the financial year 2005/06 and a report providing an update on key recent developments at WHRI (SC.08/06-07) together with an oral report from the Director of WHRI.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the final quarter statement for the Warwick HRI Devolved Budget for the financial year 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.08/06-07.
- (ii) That WHRI be congratulated on securing four BBSRC research grants under the BBSRC Crop Science Initiative.

(b) Warwick Medical School

CONSIDERED:

The final quarter statement from the Warwick Medical School for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.10/06-07) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Medical School.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the final quarter statement for the Warwick Medical School Devolved Budget for the financial year 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.10/06-07.
- (ii) That WMS be congratulated on its performance in securing research income in excess of its 2005/06 targets.

(c) Warwick Business School

CONSIDERED:

The final quarter statement from the Warwick Business School for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.9/06-07) together with an oral report from the Dean of the Warwick Business School.

RESOLVED:

That the final quarter statement for the Warwick Business School Devolved Budget for the financial year 2005/06 and the variations between revised forecast and original budget be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.09/06-07.

(d) Academic Resourcing Committee

CONSIDERED:

The final quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets under the remit of the Academic Resourcing Committee for the financial year 2005/06 (SC.13/06-07) together with an oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Academic and Student Affairs.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Academic and Student Affairs).

That the significant issues affecting the financial position of ARC activities related to research income and student recruitment and associated fee income and that variances against budget in these areas would be closely monitored by the Academic Resourcing Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the final quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets for the financial year 2005/06 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.13/06-07.

22/06-07

Reform of Higher Education Research Assessment and Funding: University Response

CONSIDERED:

The draft University response to the DfES Consultation on the Reform of Higher Education Research Assessment and Funding (SC.14/06-07).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the DfES Consultation on the Reform of Higher Education Research Assessment and Funding be approved as set out in paper SC.14/06-07 and submitted to the DfES by the deadline of 13 October subject to revisions in line with discussions at the meeting.

23/06-07

Patterns of Higher Education: 6th Report

RECEIVED:

A copy of UUK information note 1/06/107 Patterns of Higher Education Institutions: Sixth Report (SC.11/06-07).