

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 13 December 2004

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Professor R G Dyson
Professor A Easton
Professor J Jones
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Professor L Bridges
Professor I Lauder
Mr S Lucas
Professor H Thomas

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Director of Finance, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 171/04-05 Professor McCrae, 172/04-05 the Deputy Director (Undergraduate) of Student Recruitment and Admissions and the Head of Student Finance.

169/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2004 be approved.

170/04-05 Warwick Horticultural Research International (WHRI) (minute 155/04-05 refers)

RESOLVED:

That further discussions be initiated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor with the Director of WHRI in the Spring Term on the development by HRI of business and entrepreneurial developments.

171/04-05 Warwick in Asia

CONSIDERED:

A report from the visit of the Asia Exploratory Group to Singapore between 6 and 9 December 2004 on the progress of discussions with the Economic and Development Board of Singapore (EDB) concerning the Warwick in Asia initiative (SC.110/04-05) together with oral reports from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, the Academic Registrar, the Director of Finance and Professor McCrae.

REPORTED: (by the Director of Finance)

That the preliminary offer of funding from the EDB, comprising a combination of a start-up grant and a low-interest long-term loan, was currently being factored into the University's financial model for the Warwick in Asia initiative and that further development of the model would be undertaken as soon as written confirmation of EDB's financial commitment was received by the University.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, subject to further progress on the matters agreed previously by the Senate and the Council and those set out in (b) below, a proposal be made to the Senate at its meeting scheduled for 24 January to commission a full feasibility study on the establishment of a campus in Singapore including detailed market research on student and staff recruitment.

- (b) That, in addition to the resolutions arising from the meetings of the Senate and Council held in September, the following three further financial conditions would need to be met for a campus in Singapore to be viable:
- (i) That any initial operational and building costs deficit can be met from a combination of grants and loans from EDB or elsewhere.
 - (ii) That, in steady state, the business model for the Singapore campus will generate a small surplus.
 - (iii) That any financial requirements for the development in Singapore do not adversely affect future developments on the Warwick campus.

172/04-05 University Access Agreement

CONSIDERED:

The draft of the University's Access Agreement for submission to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) (SC.108/04-05).

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

That he and the Head of Student Finance would be meeting with Unitemps to discuss Unitemps' potential involvement in the proposed work/study element of the Warwick Undergraduate Aid Programme.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft University Access Agreement be approved as set out in paper SC.108/04-05, subject to amendment along the lines discussed at the meeting to provide for a greater level of generality, particularly with regard to setting of targets.
- (b) That consideration be given to the provision of further detail in Appendix 2 of paper SC.108/04-05 with regard to expansion of existing Widening Participation activities within the University.
- (c) That any further comments or suggestions on the content of the Agreement be forwarded directly and without undue delay to the Deputy Director (Undergraduate) of Student Recruitment and Admissions with a view to the Agreement being submitted to OFFA by 23 December 2004.

173/04-05 Academic Resourcing Committee: Quarter-End Report

CONSIDERED:

The first quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets under the remit of the Academic Resourcing Committee for the financial year 2004/05 (SC.89/04-05) together with an oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the first quarter statement for non-devolved departmental budgets for the financial year 2004/05 be noted and approved as set out in paper SC.89/04-05.
- (b) That future financial reports from the Academic Resourcing Committee be extended to provide summary data on individual non-devolved departments and to show the 'negative tax' on University contribution to those departments agreed in the Financial Plan.

174/04-05 Collaborative Contract with the Specialist Schools Trust

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft collaborative contract with the Specialist Schools Trust for the delivery of the Postgraduate Certificate in Innovation in Education (SC.100/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the draft collaborative contract with the Specialist Schools Trust be approved as set out in paper SC.100/04-05 subject to clarification with the Finance Office of fee collection and timetable arrangements.

175/04-05 National Teaching Fellowship Scheme 2005

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the Higher Education Academy providing information on the National Teaching Fellowship Scheme 2005 and calling for nominations to the Scheme (SC.105/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That nominations for the National Teaching Fellowship Scheme 2005 would be co-ordinated by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Quality) and the Centre for Academic practice for submission by the deadline of 25 February 2005.

176/04-05 The Queen's Speech

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/04/129 on the Queen's Speech, delivered on 23 November 2004, notifying Parliament of the Government's intention to introduce various Bills of relevance to UK Higher Education (SC.103/04-05).

177/04-05 European Commission Consultations

RECEIVED:

Amended UUK Information Note I/04/126 on the consultations undertaken by the European Commission to identify thematic domains for future European support under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and to identify possible research priorities for Social Sciences and the Humanities in Europe with a view to FP7 preparation (SC.104/04-05).

178/04-05 Government Response to Science and Technology Select Committee RAE Report

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/04/135 on the Government's response to the House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee's follow-up to its 2002 report on the Research Assessment Exercise (SC.107/04-05).