

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 18 April 2005

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Professor R G Dyson
Professor A Easton
Professor J Jones
Mr S Lucas
Professor M Luntley
Professor H Thomas
Professor S Palmer
Professor M Whitby

In Attendance: Acting Director of Finance, Academic Registrar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Director of Estates, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 371/04-05 Mr E Harcourt, for item 375/04-05 the Acting Director (International Office).

The Vice-Chancellor welcomed the Director of Estates to his first meeting of the Steering Committee.

368/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2005 be approved, subject to the amendment of minute 357/04-05 as follows: (amendments underlined, deletions struck through)

RESOLVED:

That the University HE-BCI survey response be prepared, ~~in consultation with the Finance Office by the Industrial Development Officer, in consultation with the Registrar, Professor Jones, Professor Dyson and the Director of Communication,~~ for consideration by the Committee at its meeting on 9 May.

369/04-05 National Student Survey (minute 361/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

A report providing an update on the University's institutional response rate to the National Student Survey (NSS) (SC.238/04-05).

370/04-05 NILSI

REPORTED: (by the Registrar)

That NILSI representatives would be visiting the University later in the day for further discussions on potential synergies between NILSI and Warwick and that it was expected that both parties would be in a position to sign lease documents for the occupation by NILSI of Senate House by the end of May 2005, with a view to beginning the period of lease on 1 November 2005.

371/04-05 Warwick in Asia

RECEIVED:

Oral reports from the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and Mr E Harcourt on their visit to Singapore from 11 to 13 April 2005 together with the Chair of the Council and Mr M Angle and the productive discussions held with the EDB and the Singapore Government on the Warwick in Asia initiative.

372/04-05 E-learning Strategy (minute 337/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

Proposals for the use of the University's allocation of e-learning capital investment funding (SC.242/04-05) together with an oral report from Professor Whitby.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University's existing e-learning strategy as currently defined within the University's e-strategy be reviewed in the light of comments raised at the meeting on distance learning provision.
- (b) That the proposals for the use of the University's e-learning capital investment funding set out in paper SC.242/04-05 be broadly supported on the condition that funding allocations be proportionally scaled down to provide for a small sum of money to support potential distance learning initiatives, in particular the allocation to the Medical School, with final allocations to be determined by Professor Whitby.

373/04-05 QAA Consultation on Methodology for Review of Compliance with PGR Code of Practice

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft institutional response to the operational description for the QAA's proposed Special Review of postgraduate research degree programmes in England and Northern Ireland (SC.241/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the draft University response to the operational description for the QAA Special Review be approved as set out in paper SC.241/04-05.

374/04-05 National Languages Strategy in Higher Education (minute 355/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

UUK Information Note I/05/41 on the work undertaken by the Department for Education and Skills to involve the HE sector in the National Languages Strategy (NLS) (SC.221/04-05) together with an oral report from the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Arts, noting in particular the strategic importance of modern languages provision for regional activities as well as issues linked with the University's international strategy.

RESOLVED:

That Professor Caesar take forward further discussions on the issues raised in paper SC.221/04-05 with the Faculty of Arts.

375/04-05 International Issues

CONSIDERED:

A report from the International Office on current international issues including data on overseas student recruitment for the academic year 2005/2006, including data on European student recruitment (minute 222/04-05 refers); immigration welfare issues; overseas collaborative links; and visits by overseas representatives (SC.239/04-05) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

REPORTED: (by the Academic Registrar)

That a paper on the AC21 Conference would be brought forward for consideration at the meeting of the International Strategy Group on 21 April 2005.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of the International Office contact Lord Skidelsky to inform him of the University's decision not to proceed with proposals for a collaborative partnership with Sinerghia Business School.
- (b) That the International Strategy Group continue to take forward discussions with Advantage West Midlands on potential sponsorship for the AC21 Conference as well as with other potential sponsors.
- (c) That a copy of the AC21 paper to be considered by the International Strategy Group on 21 April be circulated for information to members of the Steering Committee.

376/04-05 Post-Qualification Applications

RECEIVED:

Extracts from the post-qualification applications consultation document circulated to the HE sector in March 2005 (SC.243/04-05) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

377/04-05 Undergraduate Admissions

RECEIVED:

Summary information on Home/EU Undergraduate Admissions data as at the end of March 2005 (SC.243/04-05) together with an oral report from the Academic Registrar.

378/04-05 Leitch Review of Skills

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from Lord Leitch providing notification of the Leitch Review of Skills together with the call for evidence document (SC.236/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the University consultation response to the Government's White Paper on Skills currently being prepared by Professor Whitby in consultation with Professors Dyson and Hagen (minute 358/04-05 refers) be also submitted as evidence to the Leitch Review team.

- 379/04-05 TRAC/fEC
- RECEIVED:
- A copy of a letter from the Chair of the Joint Pricing and Steering Group providing an update on the progress of development and implementation of full economic costing (fEC) methods based upon TRAC and the implications of fEC for pricing of activities (SC.235/04-05).
- 380/04-05 National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (minute 304/04-05 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Director of Student and Academic Affairs)
- That the University's tender bid to the Department for Education and Skills to host the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics had been unsuccessful.
- 381/04-05 Visit of the Director-General for Higher Education (minute 293/04-05 refers)
- REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)
- That the visit of the Director-General for Higher Education to the University, scheduled to be held on 21 April 2005, had been postponed due to the forthcoming General Election and that alternative dates in July 2005 were currently being considered.
- 382/04-05 Tuition Fees 2005/06 (minute 134/04-05 refers)
- RECEIVED:
- A copy of a memo from the Senior Assistant Registrar (Planning) to the Vice-Chancellor setting out details of proposed outstanding tuition fees for the academic year 2005/06, which the Vice-Chancellor had taken Chair's Action to approve on behalf of the Committee.