

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

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

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

Apologies: Academic Registrar, Mr S Lucas, Professor M Luntley.

In Attendance: Acting Director of Finance, Director of Estates, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Communication, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms K Stark, Director of Development and Alumni Relations for item 574/04-05.

572/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2005 be approved subject to the following amendment to minute 566/04-05(b), (amendments underlined, deletions struck through):

That all research-active staff in post on the census date of 31 October 2007, regardless of source of funding, would be eligible for QR funding. ~~inclusion in the University's RAE 2008 submission~~

573/04-05 RAE 2008

REPORTED:

That the draft criteria and working methods for RAE 2008 main and sub panels were expected to be published during the current week.

574/04-05 Policy Issue for Discussion: Development and Alumni

RECEIVED:

A report providing an update on University development and alumni relations activities (SC372./04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of Development and Alumni Relations.

RESOLVED:

That the Development and Alumni Relations Office review the current arrangements for providing briefings to members of staff on University guests attending high profile University events.

575/04-05 UUK Fundraising Update

CONSIDERED:

An information note from UUK on HE fundraising developments arising from the Thomas Report on voluntary giving (SC.363/04-05).

REPORTED:

That it was unlikely that the University would be eligible for an award under the proposed matched funding arrangements to support fundraising in HE in view of its relatively mature and successful fund raising activities.

RESOLVED:

That the Registrar and the Director of Development and Alumni Relations take steps to lobby UUK, the Director General of HE and the '94 and Russell Groups on the University's strong objections, as expressed at the meeting, to the proposed UUK/DfES match funding scheme.

576/04-05 Warwick in Asia: Decision-Making Schedule

CONSIDERED:

An outline schedule of meetings to be held in September and October on the Warwick in Asia Project (SC.369/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the University Secretary revise the outline schedule in the light of discussion at the meeting, and any further comments submitted by members of the Steering Committee following the meeting, with a view to publishing the final schedule widely within the University in early August.

577/04-05 TRAC/FEC Methodology

CONSIDERED:

The outcome of the Internal Audit Review of the progress made in addressing the significant issues arising from the KPMG Review of Quality Assurance in the costing systems and methodology to be adopted by the University in its Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) (SC.366/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That, in the light of the report from the Internal Audit Unit, the Committee was satisfied that all the significant issues raised by KPMG in its review of the QA of the University's costing systems and methodology for TRAC were satisfactory and that the necessary changes to the University's approach to TRAC had been implemented.

578/04-05 ARC 5-Year Plan (minute 544/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The Academic Resourcing Committee Five Year Plan 2004/05 to 2008/09 together with an oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Student and Academic Affairs (SC.368/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Academic Resourcing Committee be congratulated on the significant reduction in its operating deficit in the current academic year.
- (b) That the Academic Resourcing Committee Five Year Plan be recommended for approval as set out in paper SC.368/04-05.

57904-05 Review of University Response to Illegal Substances in Halls of Residence

CONSIDERED:

A report on a review conducted on the University's response to the use and possession of illegal substances in on campus halls of residence (SC.371/04-05)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That for the forthcoming academic year the University's current policy and response to the use and possession of illegal substances in campus halls of residence be retained but with provision for an extension to the period of notice to quit University residences from 2 to 4 weeks, noting that this would require revision to University Regulation 27.
- (b) That the Director of Academic and Student Affairs, in the light of the range of points raised in discussion at the meeting and following consultation with the Pro Vice-Chancellor responsible for Campus Life, bring forward proposals to the Committee for addressing the use and possession of illegal substances in on campus halls of residence.

580/04-05 HEFCE Strategic Plan 2006-11: Pre-Consultation

CONSIDERED:

HEFCE pre-consultation on the development of its Strategic Plan for the period 2006 to 2011 (SC.364/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the University Secretary and the Registrar prepare the University's response to the pre-consultation on the development of the HEFCE Strategic Plan for the period 2006 to 2011 in the light of discussion at the meeting and any further views and comments submitted by members of the Committee following the meeting.
- (b) That the Registrar convey to the Higher Education Regulatory Review Group the University's significant concerns regarding the content and thrust of the pre consultation document.

581/04-05 Sustainable Development in Higher Education

CONSIDERED:

The HEFCE Statement of Policy on Sustainable Development in Higher Education (SC.365/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Registrar convey to the Higher Education Regulatory Review Group the University's significant concerns regarding the content and thrust of the HEFCE Statement of Policy on Sustainable Development.

582/04-05 Self-Assessment Tool for People Management in HEIs

CONSIDERED:

HEFCE Circular letter 17/2005 concerning the self-assessment tool for people management in HEIs (SC.370/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of Personnel.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of Personnel devise a plan for adoption of the self-assessment tool within the University and take steps where appropriate to gain the support of external contacts and sectoral groups to resisting the significant additional burden which introduction of the tool will entail and the proposed withholding of funding for non adoption.
- (b) That the Registrar convey to the Higher Education Regulatory Review Group the University's significant concerns regarding the introduction of the self-assessment tool.

583/04-05 Foundation Degree Framework for the Healthcare Sector: University Response
(minute 550/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The University's proposed response to the consultation on a Foundation Degree Framework for the healthcare sector (SC.367/04-05)

RESOLVED:

That, subject to minor amendments as discussed at the meeting, the University's proposed response to the consultation on a Foundation Degree Framework for the healthcare sector be approved as set out in paper SC.367/04-05.

584/04-05 UUK Response to Aimhigher Consultation

RECEIVED:

Universities UK response to the HEFCE Aim Higher Consultation (SC.361/04-05).

585/04-05 RAE 2008: Guidance on Submissions (UUK I-Note)

RECEIVED:

UUK Information note 1/05/91 on the HEFCE's publication of guidance on submissions for RAE 2008 (SC.362/04-05).