

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Senate Steering Committee held on 27 February 2006

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

Apologies: Professor S B Palmer.

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Acting Director of Finance, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Director of Estates, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms Y Salter-Wright, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 346/05-06 the Director of the Centre for English Language Teacher Education, for item 348/05-06 Professor R Ball, the Head of the Department of Mathematics and the Deputy Director of Research Finance (Research Support Services).

342/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2006 be approved.

343/05-06 IT Issues

RECEIVED:

Oral reports from the Registrar and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) on the steps currently being taken by Information Technology Services to address and resolve the issues arising from the recent IT system failures and security attacks, noting in particular:

- (a) That an interim IT Manager would be appointed to take forward issues in relation to the University's software and hardware platforms and technical services and that an external consultant would be engaged to provide further advice and guidance in these areas.
- (b) That the migration of staff from Novell GroupWise to Microsoft Exchange was anticipated to be complete by the end of the summer term and that additional staff resources would be engaged to expedite the process should this prove necessary.

344/05-06 CAPITAL Centre Launch

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the successful and well-attended launch of the CAPITAL Centre on Thursday 23 February at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

345/05-06 Warwick in Asia

CONSIDERED:

The draft report from the Singapore Academic Planning Group established by the Vice-Chancellor to explore alternative plans for academic development in Singapore (S.28/05-06) together with oral reports from the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International Affairs and Equal Opportunities).

RESOLVED:

That the draft report from the Singapore Academic Planning Group be revised along the lines discussed at the meeting.

RECOMMENDED: (to the Senate)

That, in the light of the proposals for academic developments in Singapore and the proposed arrangements for further University scrutiny of their academic merit and financial viability, the Senate support the following proposed steps:

- (a) Further development of the six academic proposals summarised in the report from the Singapore Academic Planning Group.
- (b) Determination of what level of support for the proposed initiatives and the proposed Warwick Centre in Singapore might be forthcoming from the Economic Development Board of Singapore and other Singapore institutions.
- (c) The disbanding of the Singapore Academic Planning Group and the channelling of responsibilities for future development via the normal mechanisms for decision-making relating to teaching, learning, research and international partnerships.

346/05-06

Quinquennial Review of the Centre for English Language Teacher Education
(minute 308/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

- (a) The Quinquennial Review Report of the Centre for English Language Teacher Education (CELTE) (SC.202/05-06).
- (b) A paper setting out CELTE's response to its Quinquennial Review Report and a commentary from the Finance Office on the financial aspects of the Report (SC.231/05-06) together with an oral report from the Director of CELTE.

REPORTED: (by the Acting Director of Finance)

- (a) That revisions to the cost drivers for the charging of bursaries to departments would be undertaken with a view to mitigating the impact of increases in central service charges from 2006/07 on departments such as CELTE whose student cohorts will largely be ineligible for bursaries under the Warwick Undergraduate Aid Programme.
- (b) That the Finance Office would be reviewing the issues identified in the Report from the Review Panel in regard to remuneration to CELTE for its provision of in-session courses to students throughout the University.

347/05-06

Careers Service Update

RESOLVED:

That consideration of paper SC.229/05-06 be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 6 March 2006.

348/05-06

EPSRC Doctoral Training Centre in Complexity Science: Full Bid Submission

CONSIDERED:

The draft full bid submission from the University to the EPSRC for the establishment of a Doctoral Training Centre in Complexity Science together with a covering paper prepared by Professor R Ball and a commentary on the financial model for the proposed Centre prepared by the Deputy Director of Research Finance, Research Support Services (SC.232/05-06).

REPORTED: (by the Acting Director of Finance)

That appropriate provision for accommodation for the proposed Doctoral Training Centre in Complexity Science would need to be made should the University's bid to the EPSRC be successful.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the bid from the University to the EPSRC for the establishment of a Doctoral Training Centre in Complexity Science be approved for submission to the EPSRC by the deadline of 3 March 2006 subject to minor amendments along the lines discussed at the meeting.
- (b) That steps be taken by the University to pursue with the EPSRC the issues raised at the meeting in regard to the EPSRC's policy on the funding of proportions of staff time as part of direct payroll costs.

349/05-06 Accountability for Higher Education Institutions: Consultation Responses

RECEIVED:

HEFCE document 2006/07 on the results of the HEFCE consultation on its plans for promoting better regulation for higher education institutions through a new streamlined accountability process linked to assessment of institutional risk (SC.225/05-06).

350/05-06 Evaluation of the HEFCE 'Golden Hellos' Scheme

RECEIVED:

The HEFCE-commissioned report "Evaluation of the HEFCE staff recruitment incentive scheme 'golden hellos' (SC.226/05-06).

351/05-06 Leadership Foundation Fellowships Programme

CONSIDERED:

A copy of a letter from the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education calling for applications under Round 2 of the Leadership Foundation Fellowships Programme (SC.230/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That any suggestions for nominations for the Leadership Foundation Fellowships Programme be forwarded to the Registrar.

352/05-06 Senate Business

RESOLVED:

That the comments and recommendations of the Steering Committee on items of business for the meeting of the Senate to be held on 8 March 2006 be as set out in the papers circulated for the meeting of the Senate.

353/05-06 Science Faculty Advisory Board

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the meeting of the Science Faculty Advisory Board held on 23 February 2006 noting in particular the positive outcome of discussions at the meeting with lay members of the Board in regard to the benefits of broadening and liberalising the University undergraduate curriculum.

354/05-06 National Student Survey (minute 334/05-06 refers)

RECEIVED:

The report from the Aldwych Group, the Students' Unions of the Russell Group Universities, on progress made to date in the National Student Survey Campaign (NSS) together with the NSS statement from the Group (SC.224/05-06).

355/05-06 International Student Enrolment Survey

RECEIVED:

UUK Information Note I/06/15 on the key findings from the UUK survey of international student enrolments for the academic year 2005/06 together with a covering paper prepared by the Academic Registrar (SC.233/05-06).

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