

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Minutes of the Meeting of the Steering Committee held on 31 January 2005

Present: Vice-Chancellor (Chair)
Professor L Bridges
Professor A Caesar
Professor Y Carter
Professor R G Dyson
Professor A Easton (until item 236/04-05)
Professor J Jones
Professor I Lauder
Mr S Lucas
Professor M Luntley
Professor S B Palmer
Professor H Thomas
Professor M Whitby

Apologies: Professor Y Carter

In Attendance: Academic Registrar, Director of Academic and Student Affairs, Deputy Director of Finance, Director of Personnel, Registrar, University Secretary, Mrs H E Blunt, Ms N Snodgrass, for item 235/04-05 the Director of Warwick Horticulture Research International, for item 237/04-05 the University Librarian.

232/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2005 be approved, subject to the amendment of minute 223/04-05 as follows: (amendment underlined, deletion struck through)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Assistant Registrar (Space Management and Timetabling) and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Accommodation and Research) ~~develop further~~ continue to develop and refine the data on academic space utilisation with a view to providing a more accurate assessment of future space requirements for offices, laboratories and teaching rooms.

233/04-05 Science Research Investment Fund: Round 3 (minute 223/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the progress of development of the University's bids for the allocation of funding under Round 3 of the Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF3), noting in particular:

- (a) That the HEFCE and the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science and Innovation had confirmed that the University's allocation of funding under SRIF3 would be £17m as previously notified.
- (b) That 27 bid proposals had been received from academic departments, including refurbishment and equipment bids and that, prior to consideration by the Steering Committee, the bids would be reviewed by the SRIF Working Group in the context of the University's institutional priorities and overall strategic objectives.

234/04-05 Vice-Chancellor's Business

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Vice-Chancellor on the meeting of the Russell Group held on 27 January at which various topics were discussed, including the new Home Office regulations on fees levied for the renewal of overseas student visas, post-qualification applications (PQA) and the Group's response to the Burgess Report.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, in the light of the serious concerns raised at the meeting surrounding the new Home Office policy on fees for the renewal of overseas student visas, steps be taken to pursue resistance to the implementation of this new policy.
- (b) That the Committee support the Vice-Chancellor's proposal that current PQA arrangements be revised to provide for a restriction on the numbers of applications submitted by each candidate in the first stage and the introduction of a second stage consecutive application process and that this proposal be pursued through the appropriate external channels with the support of the Academic Registrar.

235/04-05 WHRI Update

CONSIDERED:

A report from Warwick Horticultural Research International (WHRI) providing an update on recent developments at WHRI (SC.147/04-05) together with an oral report from the Director of WHRI.

RESOLVED:

That an examination of alternative options for the use of the WHRI laboratory space currently proposed for decommission be undertaken by the Chair of the Accommodation Review Group in consultation with Director of WHRI.

236/04-05 Faculty Issues(a) Faculty of Arts

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair of the Faculty of Arts on the following issues:

- (i) Accommodation constraints within the Faculty of Arts and current discussions on the possible relocation of departments within the Faculty from the existing Humanities Building to the Westwood campus alongside the new CETL CAPITAL Centre.
- (ii) Current discussions within the Faculty on the Warwick in Asia initiative.
- (iii) Provision of infrastructure to support Faculty preparations for RAE 2008.
- (iv) The progress of addressing and scheduling business for the Faculty Advisory Board and the difficulties experienced in timetabling meetings of the Board.

(b) Faculty of Social Studies

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair of the Faculty of Social Studies on the following issues:

- (i) The planned refurbishment of the Social Studies Building during the 2005 and 2006 summer vacations and the ongoing accommodation constraints within the Social Studies Building.
- (ii) The generation and resourcing of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research initiatives within the Faculty of Social Studies.
- (iii) The levels of support within the Faculty for the Warwick in Asia initiative and the need to consider this venture in the wider context of the University's overall internationalisation strategy.
- (iv) The operation of the Faculty of Social Studies Advisory Board and arrangements for its next scheduled meeting.

(c) Faculty of Science

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair of the Faculty of Science on the following issues:

- (i) The progress of discussions with departments within the Faculty on the Warwick in Asia initiative.
- (ii) Teaching activities within the Faculty with particular reference to staff-student ratios and credit and assessment systems.
- (iii) The establishment of a Research Committee to provide oversight of and support for the initiation of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research initiatives which crossed departmental and Faculty boundaries.
- (iv) Difficulties experienced in scheduling meetings of the Faculty Advisory Board and the need for future meetings of the Board to be scheduled in advance of each academic year.

(d) Faculty of Medicine

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair of the Faculty of Medicine on the following issues:

- (i) The long-term accommodation plans for the Warwick Medical School in the context of its ongoing expansion and continuing space constraints at the Gibbet Hill campus.
- (ii) The operation of the Faculty of Medicine Advisory Board.
- (iii) Continuing progress in regard to the establishment of links between the Medical School and the Department of Biological Sciences and with the National Health Service.
- (iv) The preparations underway for the accreditation of WMS courses by the General Medical Council.

237/04-05 Modern Records Centre Review Group Report (minute 20/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

The Report from the Modern Records Centre Review Group established to review the current holdings and investment of University resources in the Modern Records Centre (MRC), to make proposals for the MRC's future and to propose arrangements for the development of a University Corporate Records Policy (SC.146/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Report from the Modern Records Centre Review Group be welcomed by the Committee.
- (b) That the Committee endorse the continuation and development of the MRC in the short to medium term along the lines proposed in the Report from the MRC Review Group.
- (c) That, subject to ratification in the University's financial planning round, the Committee approve the proposal for the establishment of a new ALC 5 post responsible for the strategic management and development of the MRC and for University wide Corporate Records Management, responsible jointly to the University Librarian and the University Secretary, the post to be established for a three-year fixed term in the first instance with costs to be met from existing approved staff costs within the Library and the University Secretary's Department.
- (d) That a review of the operation and development of the MRC be undertaken prior to the end of the three-year period specified in (c) above to determine whether the targets specified by the Review Group were being attained.
- (e) That the Chair of the Modern Records Centre Review Group discuss with the Chair of the Modern Records Centre Advisory Board opportunities for securing external funding to support the future development of the MRC.

RECOMMENDED:

That funding for the MRC be maintained at the levels set out in paper SC.146/04-05 in the first year of the three-year period specified in (c) above, with a reduction of 5% in total costs allocated in each of the two subsequent years, in anticipation of the MRC being in a position to raise this additional income through fundraising and development activities overseen by the new ALC 5 post.

238/04-05 2005-06 HEFCE Funding

RECEIVED:

Notification from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) of total HEFCE funding for UK universities and colleges for the academic year 2005-06 (SC.145/04-05).

239/04-05 UUK Response to the Tomlinson Report

RECEIVED:

Universities UK Circular I/05/09 on UUK's response to the Final Report of the Working Group on 14-19 Reform chaired by Mike Tomlinson (SC.144/04-05).