

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 July 2008

- Present: Vice-Chancellor, Professor C Aubrey, Professor S Bassnett, Professor L Bridges, Professor S Bright, Professor S Bruzzi, Professor R Burns, Dr L Campbell (until item 94/07-08), Professor Y Carter, Professor M J Cooper, Professor J Davey, Professor T Docherty, Professor A Easton, Professor P Edwards, Professor M Finn, Ms A Green, Dr M Hadley, Professor M Harrison, Professor R Higgott, Professor C Hughes, Dr C Jenainati, Dr J Kidd, Mr J Kirby, Professor K Lamberts, Professor R Lindley, Professor P Mack, Professor S B Palmer, Professor A Phizacklea, Mr P Ptashko, Professor M Smith, Professor C Sparrow, Professor S Thornton, Professor M Underwood, Professor M Waterson, Professor M Whitby.
- Apologies: Ms A Bell, Professor R Burridge, Professor A Caesar, Professor J Davis, Professor J Hutton, Professor S Kumar, Professor J MacPherson, Professor E Peile, Professor R Wilson, Professor V Zammit.
- In attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Director of Finance, Ms J Findlay, Ms D Foster, Ms Y Salter Wright, Mr M Surve, Mr S Thomson; *for item 87/07-08 only*: Deputy Finance Director (Group Accounting), Professor I De Smet Dr S Gilson, Professor R Green, Dr T Lockley, Professor J McEldowney, Professor A Prout, Professor E Robinson, Professor P Sadler, Professor J Seville, Professor P Smith.

87/07-08 University Financial Plan: 2008-2012

CONSIDERED:

The interim University Financial Plan for the period to 2011/2012 and the working version of the Plan for 2008/09 (S.48/07-08) together with oral reports from the Vice-Chancellor and Finance Director.

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (a) That the Financial Plan presented at the meeting of Senate was an interim plan to begin the new financial year and that there remained significant work to be done to lever the financial headroom to enable the University to invest in key areas of strategic importance.
- (b) That a Finance group, with two sub-groups, would be reviewing the detail of the Plan in the short term to identify cost savings and areas for income generation and that amendments to the plan would be proposed prior to its submission to the HEFCE in December.

RESOLVED:

That the Senate recommend the Financial Plan, as set out in S.48/07-08, to the Council as an interim plan in order to approve the budget for 2008/09, noting that in-year revisions would take place following the conclusion of the work of the Finance Group.

88/07-08 Students' Union Representatives on Senate

RESOLVED:

That the Senate record its thanks to the outgoing Students' Union Representatives on the Senate, Joe Kirby (President of the Students' Union) and Peter Ptashko (Deputy President and Education Officer), for their contribution.

89/07-08 Minutes

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Senate held on 18 June 2008 be approved.

90/07-08 Chinese Earthquake (minute 76/07-08 refers)

REPORTED: (by the Director of Warwick HRI)

That students in Warwick HRI had raised an additional £1,000 in response to the Chinese earthquake.

91/07-08 Membership of the Senate

RECEIVED:

The membership of the Senate for the academic year 2008/2009 (S.49/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

That Professor Stella Bruzzi had been elected Chair of the Faculty of Arts following the completion of the term of office of Professor Ann Caesar.

92/07-08 Report from the Steering Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Steering Committee (S.50/07-08 {Parts 1 and 2}) and its resolutions and recommendations recorded under the following items together with an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor:

- (a) Innovation Summit
- (b) HEIF4 Funding Allocations
- (c) HESA Performance Indicators
- (d) Aligning Strategic and Financial Planning
- (e) Policy Update: Research and Innovation
- (f) Policy Update: Warwick HRI
- (g) Policy Update: HR, LDC, Safety and Occupational Health Services
- (h) Policy Update: Careers Service
- (i) Death of Sir Robert Taylor
- (j) HEFCE Strategic Plan 2006/11
- (k) HEFCE Circular 14/2008: Transparency Review Data 2006/07
- (l) HE Engagement with Schools
- (m) UUK I-Note I/08/045: 14-19 Policy Developments and Qualifications Strategy Consultation
- (n) UUK I-Note I/08/043: Communicating the Results of Scholarly Research

- (o) UUK I-Note I/08/044: Further Information on Tiers 2 and 5 of the New Immigration System

- (a) REF Consultation Outcomes and Next Steps

REPORTED: (by the Vice-Chancellor)

- (i) That the HEFCE had informed the University that it had not been selected as a pilot institution for the REF exercise but had been placed on a reserve list.
- (ii) That the University would write to the HEFCE to withdraw from the reserve list for the pilot exercise at this early stage, as it would not be possible to put in place the required academic and administrative resources at a later stage of the process should the University be invited to participate.

- (b) Strategic Departmental Review Report and Proposed Revised Schedule

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (i) That the Review of Warwick HRI would be led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the precise nature of the review would be announced in due course.
- (ii) That subsequent reviews within the five-year cycle would be retained according to the original schedule and reviewed with departments closer to the time of their review.

RESOLVED:

That the Senate approve the revised SDR schedule (SC.446/07-07(revised)), noting that discussion would take place with the department of English regarding the date of the next SDR of the department.

93/07-08 Report from Academic Quality and Standards Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the meeting of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (S.51/07-08 {Parts 1 and 2}) and its resolutions and recommendations recorded under the following items:

- (a) Students' Union Education Strategy
- (b) Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence
- (c) Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund 2008/09
- (d) New courses
- (e) Annual Course Review Report Summaries

(a) Undergraduate Mark Scale and Honours Degree Classification Conventions

CONSIDERED:

- (i) The recommendation from the Academic Quality and Standards Committee to introduce a new marking scale, based on 17 grade points, set out in Annex A of paper AQSC 60/07-08 (revised 2) within paper S.51/07-08, on undergraduate modules from Autumn 2008 (on first-year modules from 2008-09 onwards, on second year modules from 2009-10 onwards, and so on), except on numeric-based assessments where the full range of percentage marks from 0 to 100 is used, e.g. many assessments in the Faculty of Science; some language assessments.
- (ii) That the University introduce a unified convention for the classification of all Honours degrees, set out in Annex B of paper AQSC 60/07-08 (revised 2), with effect for students first registering in Autumn 2008.

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning))

- (i) That the proposed new conventions would offer greater fairness to students and potential for greater flexibility of curricula in the future.
- (ii) That the mapping exercise conducted by four departments had not shown the new conventions to impact negatively on standards or cause grade inflation.
- (iii) That the new mark scale would stretch out point averages at the top and bottom of the scale.
- (iv) That departments who are currently marking on a scale of 0 to 100 can, within the newly proposed conventions, continue to do so.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the points of benefit and concern raised by members of the Senate at the meeting regarding the implementation be noted and that, where possible, they be taken into account when introducing the new conventions.
- (b) That the University adopt a unified convention for the classification of all Honours degrees with the introduction of a new marking scale based on 17 points for any assessments which are not marked on the full range of percentage points for all undergraduate modules taken by students first registering in October 2008.

(Following a vote: 29 in favour and 6 against)

(b) Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy

RESOLVED:

That the Learning and Teaching Strategy as set out in S.51/07-08 {Part 1} be approved.

(c) QAA Institutional Audit

RECEIVED:

A brief report on the upcoming QAA Institutional Audit, together with revised drafts of the Student Written Submission (for information only) and the Institutional Briefing Paper (AQSC 74/07-08(revised)), noting that the Steering Committee on behalf of the Senate would consider the final draft of the Institutional Briefing Paper prior to its submission by the deadline of 1 September 2008.

(d) Credit and Module Framework

RESOLVED:

That the proposed revisions to the University's Credit and Module Framework as set out in S.51/07-08 {Part 1} be approved.

(e) Widening Eligibility for PhD by Published Work

RESOLVED:

That the proposals from the Board of Graduate Studies to widen eligibility for the PhD by published work be approved as set out in BGS 62/07-08(revised) within S.51/07-08 {Part 1}.

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposed amendments to Regulation 14 governing Higher Doctorates be approved as set out in BGS 62/07-08 (revised) within S.51/07-08 {Part 1}.

(f) Amendments to the following Regulations 6.3, 8.10, 13.2 and 34

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposed amendments to the following University Regulations be approved as recommended by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee:

- (i) Regulation 6.3 Governing Admission to Courses of Study
- (ii) Regulation 8.10 Governing the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB) and for the Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMedSci)
- (iii) Regulation 13.2 Governing the Procedure for the Continuation of Registration
- (iv) Regulation 34 on Determination of Fitness to Practise

(g) New collaborative course between WMG and HK Vocational Training Council

RESOLVED:

That the proposal from the Warwick Manufacturing Group and recommended by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee to deliver the existing full-time MSc in Programme and Project Management in partnership with the Hong Kong Vocational Training Council be approved as set out in papers CFDLSC52 and 82/07-08 of S.51/07-08{Part 2}.

94/07-08 Report from Academic Staff Committee

CONSIDERED:

A report from the meeting of the Academic Staff Committee (S.52/07-08 and its resolutions and recommendations recorded under the following items:

- (a) Annual Review 2007/08: Promotions to Personal Professorships
- (b) Annual Review 2007/08: Promotion to Associate Professor (Reader)
- (c) Transfer to Principal Research Fellow

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor)

That there were a number of additional promotions approved by the Academic Staff Committee with effect from 1 October 2008 not listed within paper S.52/07-08 and that these would be circulated to members of the Senate following the meeting.

Note: That following the meeting, the Senate are asked to note the following promotions were made in addition to those set out within S.52/07-08:

Associate Professor (Reader)	Dr D.A.O Courtaney (Biological Sciences) Dr L Frigerio (Biological Sciences) Dr S Jarvis (Computer Science) Dr C Wilke (Institute of Education) Dr H Schmitz (German Studies) Dr M Thomson (History) Dr D Rumynin (Mathematics) Dr R Tribe (Mathematics) Dr S Dixon (Physics) Dr J Davies (Warwick Business School) Dr A-M Greene (Warwick Business School) Dr N Llewellyn (Warwick Business School) Dr G Meardi (Warwick Business School)
Senior Research Fellow	Dr S Cullen (CEDAR) Dr H Turner (Statistics) Mr N Reynolds (Warwick Manufacturing Group) Dr J Achten (Warwick Medical School)
Principal Teaching Fellow	Dr A Ashton (Warwick Manufacturing Group) Dr J Marshall (Warwick Manufacturing Group) Mr S Raynor (Warwick Manufacturing Group)

- (a) Membership of Academic Staff Committee 2008/09

RESOLVED:

That the proposed revisions to the constitution and the membership of the Academic Staff Committee for 2008/09 be approved as set out in S.52/07-08.

(b) Retention of the Title of Associate Professor (Reader)

RESOLVED:

That, further to the discussion held at the meeting, the title of Associate Professor (Reader) be retained for a further three years but that the retention of the title beyond this point be reviewed by the Academic Staff Committee in the Autumn Term, with a view to further recommendations being brought forward for consideration at the meeting of the Senate in December 2008.

95/07-08 Amendments to the University's Governing Instruments Relating to the Appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors (minute 75/07-08 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining proposed amendments to the University's Governing Instruments relating to changes in the process for the appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors (S.53/07-08).

RECOMMENDED: (to the Council)

That the amendments to the University's Governing Instruments be approved as set out in S.53/07-08, noting that:

- (a) Amendments to the Statutes and Ordinances require a special resolution to be passed at the meeting of the Council on 9 July 2008 and confirmed at its meeting on the 2 October 2008.
- (b) Amendments to the Statutes approved would then be submitted to the Privy Council for consideration.

96/07-08 Effectiveness Review of the Council

RECEIVED:

A report from the Review Group appointed by the Council to consider the Effectiveness of the University Council (C.73/07-08), noting that Council would consider the report at its meeting on 9 July 2008.

RESOLVED:

That the Senate record its thanks to Professors Lamberts and Mack who assisted in the Review as representatives of the Senate on the Council and that it be noted that the Senate supported the recommendation that there be increased communication between the Council and the Senate.

97/07-08 Constitution of the Union of Students

CONSIDERED:

Proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Union of Students (S.54/07-08).

REPORTED: (by the Deputy Registrar)

- (a) That the amendments set out in S.54/07-08 had resulted from an extensive review process underpinned by two constraints: the requirements of the 1994 Education Act in relation to student democracy and involvement, and the change in charitable status for Students' Unions following the Charities Act 2006.
- (b) That the key changes within the proposed amendments were:
 - (i) The establishment of a new Board of Trustees to take on ultimate financial responsibility for the Union;
 - (ii) A reduction and re-definition in the size and composition of the Union Council;
 - (iii) Enabling students to call an emergency Annual General Meeting of the Council instead of the obligatory second meeting;
 - (iv) An increase in signatures required to propose a motion to referendum;
 - (v) A shift in setting out some of the operational detail of the Students' Union's activity within appendices rather than the Constitution which now sets out the principles of the Union's activity.

RESOLVED:

That the Senate record its thanks to the Students' Union Sabbatical team for their work on the revised Constitution.

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposed changes to the Constitution of the Union of Students and the additional provisions relating to changes to the appendices thereof be approved as set out in S.54/07-08 subject to the provision for the Registrar as Secretary to the Council to countersign changes to appendices to the Constitution that relate to the democratic rights of students or the constitution and terms of reference of the Board of Trustees, with he/she retaining the right to escalate such proposed changes to the Council for consideration if they are material in affecting the democratic rights of students or compromising the financial standing of the Students' Union.

98/07-08 Appointment of Representatives of the Senate to the Council

REPORTED:

- (a) That, in accordance with the procedure approved by the Senate at its meeting on 2 November 1983, the Registrar had written to members of the Senate to seek nominations for the appointment of a member of the Senate to membership of the Council.

101/07-08 Sabbatical Officers in the Student's Union

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Regulation 24(4), the status of registered student be conferred for the academic year 2008/09 on:

President:	Stuart Thomson, Politics and International Studies
Education Officer and Deputy President:	Mohammed Surve, History
Finance, Democracy and Strategy Officer:	Andrew (Andy) Glyde, Politics and International Studies
Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer:	Stephanie Jones, Sociology
Commercial Development and Communications Officer:	Mike Pidgeon, Engineering
Sports Officer:	Terry Marshall, Economics
Societies and Student Development Officer:	Lucy Reynolds, Psychology

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