

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

SENATE

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 16 November 2009

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (in the chair), Professor H Beale, Ms A Bell*, Mr A Bradley, Professor L Bridges, Professor S Bright, Professor R Burns, Professor A Caesar, Professor J Davey, Professor T Docherty, Professor A Easton, Professor J Faundez*, Ms A Green, Dr A Greene, Dr M Hadley, Dr C Harrison, Professor R Higgott, Professor C Hughes*, Professor J Hutton, Professor N Johnson, Ms S Khaku, Professor J Labbe, Professor K Lamberts, Professor A Muthoo, Professor B Rosamond, Professor J Seville, Professor M Smith, Professor C Sparrow, Professor S Stewart-Brown, Professor J Thistlewaite, Professor M Underwood, Professor M Whitby.
- Apologies: Professor S Bruzzi, Professor T Burnard, Dr J Burrows, Professor M Cooper, Mr K Das, Dr F Griffiths, Professor S Hand, Professor M Harrison, Professor N Hewlett, Dr M Pope, Professor H Thomas, Professor S Thornton, Professor R Wilson.
- In attendance: Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Academic Registrar, Director of Finance, Head of Governance Support Services, Administrative Officer (Governance), Professor S B Palmer.

Note: Members marked with * left the meeting before a vote was taken.

24/09-10 Progress of Senate Recommendations

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Interim Chair of Life Sciences incorporating proposals from the Life Sciences Advisory Group and feedback from staff, students, Trades Unions and external stakeholders regarding the implementation of the School of Life Sciences (S.7/09-10), together with oral reports from the Vice-Chancellor, the Interim Chair of Life Sciences and the Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Science.

REPORTED:

- (a) That the positive support for establishing the School of Life Sciences as expressed both in feedback from staff and from stakeholders and partners external to the University was noted by the Senate, recognising that a significant number of concerns about implementation had also been raised.
- (b) That some members were concerned that many of the issues raised in the consultation feedback regarding implementation could only be addressed if the next stage of implementation was allowed to proceed and proposed a delay to the current implementation plan alongside arguments which highlighted the implications of doing so.
- (c) That it was noted that the perceived lack of student representation within the implementation process was a cause of concern to the student body, together with issues relating to continuity of teaching and research supervision for existing students and those applying for entry to Warwick in October 2010.

- (d) That, whilst there was recognition by the Senate of the difficult decisions involved in the process of implementation, particularly in relation to the planned number of permanent academic posts in the new School, the challenging context facing the University in the coming years necessitated progress in this regard to ensure academic excellence that would also be financially sustainable.
- (e) That the University was still committed to developing and delivering the wider vision for Warwick Life Sciences, including securing the involvement of departments beyond Biological Sciences and WHRI in the delivery of that broader vision, but that the process and timetable for developing the broader vision went beyond the scope of the immediate implementation of the School of Life Sciences.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposals to implement the School of Life Sciences be approved as presented in Paper S.7/09-10, noting that the Steering Committee, on behalf of the Senate, would oversee the process of implementing the School of Life Sciences with progress being reported as a standing item at future meetings of the Senate.
- (b) That, in parallel to the steps outlined in paper S.7/09-10, the medium to longer term vision for Life Sciences at Warwick be developed and a process for developing this vision and a timetable for progressing it be confirmed.
(Following a vote by show of hands: 24 in favour and 5 against)

KMS/YSW/JF/shared/senate/2009-2010/Minutes/16Nov09mins
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