

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

SENATE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 1 October 2014

- Present: Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair), Professor R Ball, Professor A Clarke, Professor A Coats, Dr C Constable, Professor C Croft, Professor J Davey, Professor M Freely, Mr R Green, Professor L Green, Professor S Hand, Mrs K Hughes, Professor Christina Hughes, Professor Christopher Hughes, Professor S Jacka, Professor C Jenainati, Miss M Khan, Professor S Kumar, Dr S Lamb, Professor G Lindsay, Professor A Menezes, Miss M Mirza, Professor D Morley, Dr M Nudds, Professor J Palmowski, Professor A Reeve, Professor L Roberts, Professor A Rodger, Professor C Sparrow, Professor S Swain, Professor M Taylor, Professor P Thomas, Mr A Thompson, Miss C Turhan, Professor L Young, Professor V Zammit
- Apologies: Professor D Branch, Ms J Cooper, Professor T Jones, Professor A Norrie, Professor S Shapiro, Professor N Stocks, Professor P Winstanley
- In attendance: Administrative Officer (Academic Registrar's Office), Group Finance Director, Academic Registrar, Deputy Registrar, Registrar, Deputy Academic Registrar, Director of HR (for item 9/14-15 (USS), Finance Director (for item 9/14-15 (USS)

1/14-15 University Strategy: National Student Survey, Student Experience and Employability

CONSIDERED:

A paper reviewing the most recent results of the National Student Survey (NSS), outlining proposed steps to be taken to improve student satisfaction rates in the future, (S.5/14-15), together with oral reports from Professor Christina Hughes, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education (Innovation, Employability and Widening Participation) and the Academic Registrar.

REPORTED: (by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education (Innovation, Employability and Widening Participation)

- (a) That institutional-level outcomes of the National Student Survey for 2014 had either remained the same or improved across all question categories, with overall satisfaction having risen 2% to 89% in 2014. The 2% rise was 3% above the sector average of 86%, and had placed Warwick as one of the top improver institutions of the Russell Group.
- (b) That thanks be extended to all staff involved in work related to NSS over the preceding period.
- (c) That a holistic approach was being adopted to analysis of student feedback from national undergraduate and postgraduate surveys and Warwick's internal survey of first and intermediate year students undertaken during the summer term 2014, informed by metrics available from other sources, presented in the education dashboards developed by Strategic Planning and Analytics team.

- (d) That the Academic Resourcing Committee's Autumn Term Review process would identify academic departments likely to benefit for further support with which meetings would be held drawing in administrative and service department link officers, including from Human Resources and the Graduate School as necessary, to develop strategies for effecting change and to enhance colleagues' insight into departmental challenges and practice to inform the provision of appropriate support.
- (e) In response to a comment from Professor Andrew Reeve, that it was recognised that results for joint degree courses would only be represented in the home department and course level results would need to be interrogated in order that support for joint degree courses could also be enhanced.
- (f) In response to an observation from Miss Cat Turham, that communication with students through their departments would be best received and most likely to mobilise students.
- (g) That the postgraduate Induction week held in week 0 had been a great success, with very high rates of attendance at the postgraduate welcome meeting and high postgraduate engagement across the board.
- (h) In response to a comment from Mr S Lamb, that accessibility of information for students online and within their departments was of key importance in ensuring positive student experiences.
- (i) In response to a comment from Mr R Green, that information on developments and activities highlighted within departmental reviews would be made available to other linked service departments within the institution.

2/14-15 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Senate held on 2 July 2014 be approved.

3/14-15 Matters Arising on the Minutes

(a) Progress of Senate Recommendations

REPORTED:

That the Council, at its meeting on 9 July 2014, noted the report from the Senate and approved the recommendations of the Senate recorded under the following items:

- i) Revisions to Ordinance 7, Constitutions of the Faculties, consequent on the establishment of the Centre for Education Studies and the Centre for Professional Education (for the first time) (minute 141/13-14 referred).
- ii) Revisions to Ordinance 13 to introduce the new degree title of Masters of Languages (MLang) (for the first time) minute 140/13-14 referred).
- iii) Revisions to Ordinance 7 consequent on the establishment of the School of Modern Languages (for the second time) (minute 98/13-14 referred).
- iv) Revisions to Regulation 6, Admission to the University, consequent on the establishment of the Centre for Education Studies and the Centre for Professional Education (minute 141/13-14 referred).

- v) Revisions to Regulation 7, Award and Tenure of Scholarships, consequent on the establishment of the Centre for Education Studies and the Centre for Professional Education (minute 141/13-14 referred).
- vi) Revisions to Regulation 9, Constitution of Boards of Examiners, consequent on the establishment of the Centre for Education Studies and the Centre for Professional Education (minute 141/13-14 referred).
- vii) Revisions to Regulation 34, Determination of Fitness to Practice (minute 119/13-14 referred).
- viii) Approval of the provisional University Financial Plan 2014 (minute 123/13-14 referred)
- ix) Approval of the draft University Strategy (minute 130/13-14 referred)
- x) The closure and disestablishment of the Centre for Education and Industry with effect from the academic year 2014-2015 (minute 106/13/14 referred)
- xi) The establishment of the Centre for Operational Policing Research (COPR) as a substantive University Research Centre (minute 114/13-14 referred).
- xii) The establishment of the Warwick Data Science Institute (WDSI) as a Departmental Research Centre (minute 114/13-14 referred)

(b) Appointment of Representatives of the Senate to Membership of the Council

REPORTED:

That following an invitation for nominations from members of the Senate to serve on the University Council held from 4-11 July 2014, the representatives of the Senate appointed to membership of the University Council were Professors Pam Thomas and Abhinay Muthoo.

(c) Election of Representatives of the Assembly to Membership of the Senate

REPORTED:

That following an invitation for nominations from members of the Assembly to serve on the Senate held from 14-22 August 2014 followed by a ballot of nominees held from 27 August – 12 September 2014, the representatives of the Assembly elected to membership of the Senate were Mrs Kate Hughes and Miss Mia Khan.

4/14-15 Membership and Terms of Reference of the Senate

RECEIVED:

The Membership and Terms of Reference of the Senate for the academic year 2014/15, (S.1/14-15).

5/14-15 Conflicts of Interest

REPORTED:

That, should any members or attendees of the Senate have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with the CUC Guide for Members of Higher Education Governing Bodies in the UK, available at <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2009/200914/>

6/14-15 Vice-Chancellor's Business: Sunday Time and Times Award

REPORTED:

That the Sunday Times and the Times had declared Warwick the University of the Year for 2014-2015, and that thanks be extended to all staff for their hard work contributing towards the achievement of this prestigious accolade.

7/14-15 Vice-Chancellor's Business: Admissions

REPORTED:

- (a) That Confirmation, Clearing and Adjustment for 2014-2015 had been successful with Home/EU undergraduate and overseas undergraduate acceptances slightly exceeding their respective targets.
- (b) That recruitment against the Student Number Control had been well managed, with current estimates indicating that the University would undershoot its SNC target; it being noted that the admission of students to postgraduate taught programmes was on target overall, with overseas recruitment in the strongest position.
- (c) That 300 students were recruited through Clearing and 66 through Adjustment, with no Clearing applicant admitted with grades below the AAB threshold.
- (d) That the process for Confirmation, Clearing and Adjustment was greatly enhanced with the introduction of paperless IT systems and the availability of additional staff.
- (e) That the Learning Grid-based call centre had taken 7,600 calls over the two day period, in comparison to the 4,300 calls taken in 2013-14.

8/14-15 Vice-Chancellor's Business: Research Income and Awards

REPORTED:

- (a) That the University's research income had exceeded £90M, the highest level of research income achieved by the University to date and that thanks be extended to the very many colleagues whose hard work had contributed to this achievement.
- (b) That the University's research awards had reached a value of £122M, the second highest level of research income attained by the institution to date.

9/14-15 Vice-Chancellor's Business: Awards

REPORTED:

- (a) That congratulations be passed to Professor Martin Hairer, Regius Professor of Mathematics on his recent award of the prestigious Fields Medal.
- (b) That the Advanced Propulsion Centre (APC) had selected Warwick as the site for its Hub location, supporting a ten year, £1 billion industry and government commitment to the development of low carbon propulsion systems.

- (c) That the Warwick Business School had completed its agreement to open a London base at The Shard.
- (d) That the Warwick Business School had been awarded the Bronze Gender Equality Mark by the Equality Challenge Unit and that the department of Computer Science had been awarded the Athena Swan Bronze Award, meaning that all STEMM departments now have an award.
- (e) That Warwick had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Carnegie Mellon University to create a \$10M research and education collaboration.
- (f) That Warwick had risen to 61st in the world in the QS World University Rankings.
- (g) That on US Independence Day, Paul Prescott (Associate Professor, Department of English at Warwick) and Paul Edmondson (Head of Research and Knowledge, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust) began an epic road trip around North America in a unique project titled 'Shakespeare on the Road' to capture a comprehensive picture of Shakespeare's place in contemporary American culture.
- (h) That WMG had welcomed the Vice-Premier of China, along with a delegation of senior officials including the Chinese Ambassador to the UK, and Sir Sebastian Wood, Britain's Ambassador to China.
- (i) That the inaugural academic year for the new WMG Academy for Young Engineers established by the WMG Academy Trust of which Warwick was a member was underway.

10/14-15 Provost's Business: Developments in California

CONSIDERED:

An oral report from the Provost, together with a paper setting out developments regarding California (S.16/14-15).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That it be noted that discussions with the donor in Placer County continued, with the Sub-Group of Council steering consideration of the proposal on behalf of the Council; the Development Group developing the research and education options for a potential Warwick presence and the Operations and Due Diligence Group producing an outline business case.
- (b) That it be noted that representatives of the Senate would be invited to take part in a visit to California to understand the scale of the opportunity and build a proposal for the meeting of the Senate to be held in January 2015.
- (c) In response to a question from Professor Clarke, that each phase of work underway would be cost-neutral to the University and would not compromise the University's ability to withdraw from discussions in the event of factors being identified which rendered Warwick's continued participation untenable.

11/14-15 Registrar's Business: Appointment of Next University Vice-Chancellor

REPORTED:

- (a) That the process to search for and select Warwick's next Vice-Chancellor and President would begin in the Spring Term of 2015.
- (b) That in accordance with Statute 5 and Ordinance 1 a Joint Committee of the Council and the Senate would be established to consider and make a recommendation for the appointment and that later in the autumn term, the Senate would be invited to consider and approve three members of the academic staff and a student representative to serve on the Joint Committee, with requests for nominations being sought before this time.
- (c) That the academic members of the Joint Committee would not include more than one of the serving Provost or Pro-Vice-Chancellors and not more than one of the serving Chairs of the Boards of the Faculties and serving Heads of academic departments.
- (d) That, by custom, the student representative would be the serving President of the Students' Union.
- (e) That any recommendation from the Joint Committee would be made to a joint sitting of the Senate and the Council to be held no earlier than the Summer of 2015 with the appointment expected to take effect from the Spring of 2016 and that the Pro-Chancellor would write to the University community as a whole in due course.

12/14-15 Registrar's Business: Roadworks

REPORTED:

- (a) That thanks were extended to the whole University community for the forbearance shown over roadworks being undertaken on the south side of the University campus on and near Gibbet Hill Road.
- (b) That the roadworks were involving significant liaison with Coventry City Council, who were undertaking a number of significant road re-modelling projects in the city to maximise use of funding available before the General Election.
- (c) That improved access to campus achieved for the start of term had been the product of negotiation which it was hoped would culminate in the opening of the northbound section of the carriageway of the A46 from 6th October and completion of the road for southbound traffic by 3rd November.
- (d) In response to a query raised by Professor Rodger, consideration would be given to further 'green' measures to enhance the campus environment which more creative recent approaches to parking permits had demonstrated, in order to reduce the number of vehicles brought onto campus.
- (e) That the Estates Office was working to reinstate the walkway between Milburn House and main campus; it being noted that access for wheelchair users was a key priority.

13/14-15 Registrar's Business: WMG Academy

REPORTED:

That in addition to the scheduled Open Day, the WMG Academy intended to hold an open event for University staff members and their families, details of which would be notified in due course.

14/14-15 Universities Superannuation Scheme

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining updates on the latest position on USS and the University's initial response, (S.4/14-15), together with oral reports from the Registrar, Finance Director and Director of Human Resources.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That it be noted that Warwick was the only one of 68 employer organisations involved in the consultation to have opened up the opportunity to individual staff members to feed back on the proposals when it became clear that those receiving feedback would not be hearing directly from members.
- (b) That the inherent conflict involved in consideration of the item by members of the Senate, the vast majority of whom would be members of USS, be noted.
- (c) That whilst a number of employer organisations had so far responded and UKK had indicated that these were 'broadly' supportive of the proposal', there were significant misgivings about the level and nature of the proposals and the absence of modelling for illustrative purposes.
- (d) That discussion of the responses was due to take place by the Joint National Committee in November and thereafter a formal proposal would be released for consultation, likely to be January – April 2015.
- (e) That early figures released indicated that the projected deficit was of the order of £13B which, if left unchecked, would require the employer contribution to rise to 24-26% and the employee contribution to rise to 12%.
- (f) That it was the view of the Senate that it would have been beneficial to have received further information on the assumptions made in the proposal; the provision of some modelling for illustrative purposes and a range of proposals from which to choose rather than the single proposal being recommended for approval.

15/14-15 Enhancing the Governance Strategy Implementation, Resourcing, Capital Planning and Institutional Performance

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining updates to the University Strategy, Strategic Implementation and Strategic Planning (S.2/14-15), together with an oral report from the Registrar.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That it be noted that the proposals outlined in the paper were being brought forward with the intention of broadening the remit and increasing the transparency of the operation of the Steering Committee and to provide improve articulation between and oversight of business falling under the aegis of the Senate and of the Council; in particular, seeking to enhance the governance structures relating to capital planning.
- (b) That a detailed paper setting out specific revisions to the full terms of reference, membership and proposed mode of operation of the Steering Committee be brought back to the next meeting of the Senate in the Spring Term 2015; it being noted that comments on the proposed changes to governance relating to capital planning were supported.

16/14-15 An Update on the University Strategy, Strategy Implementation, and Strategic Planning

RECIEVED:

A paper outlining updates to the University Strategy, Strategic Implementation and Strategic Planning (S.3/14-15), together with an oral report from the Deputy Registrar.

RESOLVED:

That the planned developments to the University Strategy implementation and strategic planning framework, set out in paper S.3/14-15, be noted, including particularly new structures intended to enhance the monitoring and evaluation of progress against strategic objectives.

17/14-15 Research Committee

CONSIDERED:

A paper outlining proposed changes to the membership and remit of Research Committee, (S.6/14-15).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Director of the Research Technology Platforms be included as a member of the Research Committee.
- (b) The proposed discontinuation of the four additional academic members appointed by the Senate to membership of the Research Committee be not approved; it being the view of the Senate that the membership of precisely such members was important to ensure that the Committee remained in touch with research practice of academic colleagues in academic departments who were in turn able to assist the Committee in the achievement of its aims.

18/14-15 Consideration of Pass Lists and Conferral of Awards by the Senate

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Director of the Academic Office proposing changes to the procedure for consideration of Pass Lists and the Conferral of Awards (S.7/14-15).

RESOLVED:

That whilst it was understood that it could not be the role of the Senate to review the detail of individual decisions of Boards of Examiners, further work was required to clarify the appropriate locus for scrutiny under any new approach.

19/14-15 Report from the Steering Committee

RECEIVED:

A report from the Steering Committee, (S.8/14-15 {Part 1}) and its resolutions under the following headings:

- (a) Sir Nick Scheele
- (b) The Fields Medal
- (c) Admissions Update
- (d) National Student Survey 2014
- (e) Development Annual Report
- (f) OIA Annual Letter
- (g) Annual Report on Equality and Diversity
- (h) Mr John Hearth
- (i) London Mathematical Society Award Success
- (j) Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence 2013/14
- (k) Queen's Birthday honours 2014
- (l) Professor Mark Achtman
- (m) Professor Hilary Marland
- (n) Warwick Business School London Base
- (o) Monash-Warwick Alliance
- (p) HEFCE Memorandum of Assurance and Accountability
- (q) HEFCE Agreement on Institutional Designation
- (r) Cabinet Reshuffle
- (s) Destinations of Leavers from higher Education (DLHE) in the UK 2012/13
- (t) Research Award Success
- (u) Research income
- (v) Research Update
- (w) Graduate School Update
- (x) Institute of Advanced Study (IAS)
- (y) WMG Research Programme
- (z) Annual Report from the Academic Resourcing Committee
- (aa) Report from the Fess Working Group
- (bb) HESA Funding and Monitoring Date (FAMD) 2012-13: Funding data reconciliation exercise
- (cc) Proposed Amendments to Regulations 6 and 15 and to the Student Academic Complaints Procedure
- (dd) Corporate Engagement Update
- (ee) Annual Report from the Chaplaincy
- (ff) Strategy and Risk Summer Term Update
- (gg) Outstanding Student Contribution Awards
- (hh) Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence for Postgraduate Research Students (WATE PGR) 2014
- (ii) Research Impact and Public Engagement Awards
- (jj) HEFCE Consultation on Accreditation in the Key Information Set (KIS)
- (kk) University Response to HEFCE Call for Evidence on Research Metrics
- (ll) HEFCE STEM Teaching Capital Funding 2015-16
- (mm) Response to Charity Commission Consultation
- (nn) Birkbeck Award

- (oo) Update on Disabled Students' Allowances
- (pp) HEFCE Revolving Green Fund: Invitation to Apply for a Fourth Phase of Funding
- (qq) HEFCE Guidance for National Networks for Collaborative Outreach
- (rr) Key Information Set Audit
- (ss) Student Opportunity Allocation: Institutional Data Returns and Funding for Hardship
- (tt) QAA Consultation on the Updated and Revised Version of the UK Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications
- (uu) HESA Consultation: Review of the 2015/16 Finance Statistics Return
- (vv) Response to UCAS Review of International Admissions
- (ww) Higher Education Statistics for the UK 2012/13
- (xx) Investing for Future Success of Students: HEFCE Response to OFFA Report on 2015/16 Access Agreements
- (yy) UUK Survey on Teacher Education

20/14-15 Report from the Board of the Faculty of Medicine

RECEIVED:

A report from the Board of the Faculty of Medicine, (S.9/14-15).

RESOLVED:

That proposed amendments to the constitution and membership of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine and its Graduate and Undergraduate Studies Committees be approved as set out in paper S.9/14-15, it being noted that the proposal to reduce the level of externality on the Board be not approved.

21/14-15 Report from the University Health and Safety Executive Committee

RESOLVED:

That the report from the University Health and Safety Executive Committee, be approved as set out in paper S.10/14-15.

22/14-15 Report from the Research Committee

RECEIVED:

A report from the Research Committee, S.11/14-15.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Warwick Economics Research Institute be dis-established with immediate effect, as set out in paper RC.06/14-5.
- (b) That the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies be formally established as an Independent University Research Centre with immediate effect, as set out in RC.07/14-15.
- (c) That the draft schedule and timetable for the Review of Research Centres for 2014-15 be approved as set out in paper S.11/14-15.

23/14-15 Awards and Distinctions

RECEIVED:

A paper setting out Awards and Distinctions conferred upon members of the University since the last meeting of the Senate held on 2 July 2014 (S.12/14-15).

24/14-15 Revisions to Ordinance 7 on the Constitution of the Boards of the Faculties

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Assistant Registrar (Learning & Teaching) proposing amendments to Ordinance 7 on the Constitution of the Boards of the Faculties with effect from the academic year 2014-15, (S.13/14-15).

RESOLVED:

That proposed amendments to Ordinance 7 on the Constitution of the Boards of the Faculties be approved with effect from the academic year 2014-15, as set out in paper S.13/14-15.

25/14-15 Revisions to Regulation 9 on the Constitution of Boards of Examiners

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Assistant Registrar (Learning & Teaching) proposing amendments to Regulation 9 on the Constitution of Boards of Examiners with immediate effect (S.14/14-15).

RESOLVED:

That proposed amendments to Regulation 9 on Boards of Examiners be approved with immediate effect as set out in paper S.14/14-15.

26/14-15 Reports from Senate Committees

RECEIVED:

A report from the Steering Committee, (S.8/14-15 {Part 2}) and its resolutions under the following headings:

- (a) Annual Report on Health and Safety
- (b) Senior Officer Ceremonial Robing
- (c) Summer Degree Congregations 2014
- (d) Appointment to the Senate Committees

27/14-15 Vice-Chancellor's Action

REPORTED:

- (a) That on 5th September 2014, following approval of paper S.62/13-14 'A Strategy for Postgraduate Education: Response to the Graduate School Review' at the meeting of the Senate on 2nd July 2014, the Vice-Chancellor had taken action on behalf of the Senate to clarify that full-time PhD students should submit their thesis with four years, but that they were not expected to submit, prepare for and hold their viva within four years.

- (b) That the Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the Senate, had approved the conferral of the title of Emeritus Professor on the following colleagues with effect from their retirement (given in brackets below):

Emeritus Professor

Professor Mark Dowsett, Department of Physics (30 September 2014)

Professor John King, Department of History (30 September 2014)

Professor Dennis Leech, Department of Economics (30 September 2014)

Professor Andrew Price, School of Life Sciences (30 September 2010)

Professor John Rawnsley, Department of Mathematics (26 September 2014)

Professor Caroline Series, Department of Mathematics (30 September 2014)

Professor David Wray, Centre for Education Studies (30 November 2014)

28/14-15 Membership of Senate Committees

RECEIVED:

A paper setting out the membership of Senate committees for the academic year 2014-15, (S.15/14-15).

RESOLVED:

That the membership of the committees of the Senate for 2014/2015 be approved as set out in paper S.15/14-15, and that the Steering Committee be requested, on behalf of the Senate, to consider any Senate committee appointment for 2014/2015 yet to be confirmed or amended.

29/14-15 Student, Staff and Alumni deaths

REPORTED

That the University had been informed of the deaths of the following colleagues associated with the University, students and alumni since the last meeting of the Senate held on 2 July 2014:

Sir Nick Scheele, University Chancellor (2002-2008)

Mr John Hearth, University Treasurer (1989-1998)

Students:

Mr Thevindra Naidoo- MBA Business Administration (IBM)

Alumni:

Mrs Amanda Brook- MBA Business Administration (Distance Learning), 1995-2000

Mrs Molly Howard- BEd Education and Community Studies, 1980-1981

Mr Alvin Juma- MBA Business Administration (Distance Learning) 2006-2010

Dr Timothy O'Leary- PhD Industrial and Business Studies 1978-1983

Miss Susan Pendlebury- BA Theatre Studies and Dramatic Arts 1986-1989

Mr Sandip Taylor- BSc Computer Science 1999-2002

30/14-15 Date of the next meeting

REPORTED:

That the next meeting of the Senate would be held on Wednesday 28 January 2015 in the Council Chamber, Senate House.

