

Meeting
26/1/07

Agenda Item
14

Reference No
HEFCW/07/08

INTRODUCTION

- 1 This paper summarises the Joint Information Systems Committee's budget proposals for 2007/08.

BACKGROUND

- 2 The Joint Information Systems Committee was established by the Higher Education Funding Councils in 1992 in recognition that information systems, and IT in particular, is an area where a central body can be particularly effective in providing value for money and in stimulating worthwhile developments which might otherwise not take place. The post-16 funding bodies became co-sponsors of the JISC in 2000.

JISC Membership

- 3 The Committee is chaired by Professor Sir Ron Cooke, previously Vice-Chancellor of the University of York. JISC members are senior representatives of universities, colleges and industry. The Committee focuses on policy and management issues; a number of sub-committees advise on the technical aspects of its activities. Assessors from the Committee's sponsoring bodies attend meetings and ensure the Committee proceeds in accordance with their policies and priorities.

JISC'S Remit

- 4 The JISC is charged with exercising vision and leadership in bringing about developments in the use of information and communication technologies (ICT), which are for the benefit of the sector as a whole and in the national interest. The following criteria are applied to define where JISC involvement is appropriate:
 - a) The activity should be technology based;
 - b) The activity should provide a UK wide benefit and add value beyond that which could be achieved by institutions acting individually or collectively;
 - c) The activity is not possible, or is unlikely, without central support;
 - d) A clear output is delivered, with improved value for money;
 - e) The activity could not be performed as well and more appropriately by institutions or by another body.

JISC Strategy

- 5 The JISC Strategy 2007-09 outlines JISC's aims and objectives, which reflect and support both government objectives and the needs of the education and research communities.

JISC will deliver its mission through:

- innovative and sustainable ICT infrastructure, services and practice that support institutions in meeting their mission;

- promoting the development, uptake and effective use of ICT to support learning and teaching;
- supporting the uptake and effective use of e-research;
- enhancing its activities to support the management of institutions;
- developing and implementing a programme to support institutions' engagement with the wider community;
- continuing to improve its own working practices.

JISC Support for the Community

- 6 The JISC supports the community in its exploitation of ICT in three ways:
- by providing **infrastructure**: the JANET network; online content and associated delivery platforms; so called 'middleware' to manage access to resources (authentication, authorisation and accountancy); and security.
 - by promoting **innovation** in the form of development programmes to support: online learning and teaching; e-science; digital library applications; and, in particular, the creation of a common information environment to enable users (researchers, lecturers and students) to find, access and link resources in an holistic and coherent way.
 - By providing **advice and guidance** on how best to use ICT in the support of research, learning and teaching and the management of institutions.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2007/08

- 7 The budget for networking has been divided into two parts. The first part covers the services defined by the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between JISC and UKERNA and the second part covers the remainder of JISC's networking activities. The total recurrent cost of the network SLA is £47.7 million, which is offset by income of £22.52 million from other organisations. This leaves **£24.65 million** to be met by JISC's core funding bodies and is allocated as shown in the table in paragraph 13 below and for higher education is offset by a £5.7 million income charge.
- 8 The rest of the JISC funding recommendation, covering the JISC Executive and the six sub-committees is **£35.46 million** for the 2007/08. Summary details together with the forward look to 2010/11, allowing a 3% rise per year, are contained in table below.

Activity (£m)	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Central Services	5.40	6.19	6.18	6.36	6.55
Content Services	9.75	10.21	10.55	10.87	11.20
Information Environment	5.45	5.60	5.79	5.965	6.14
Learning and Teaching	2.85	2.92	3.02	3.11	3.20
Networking	0.60	0.50	0.523	0.54	0.56
Organisational Support	5.98	7.13	7.51	7.87	8.25
Support of Research	2.85	2.91	3.00	3.09	3.18
Total	32.88	35.46	36.573	37.805	39.08

- 9 In addition to the funding in this table and the JANET SLA, it is proposed that the funding councils contribute a total of **£2.1 million** to support JISC's work to support Third Stream activities. In 2006, JISC commissioned a scoping study and a think tank in order to investigate the extent to which JISC's current developments and services support higher education institutions' third stream activities and to identify new areas of work or services that would be appropriate for JISC to develop. Information on how this funding will be utilised is provided in paragraph 48 of Annex A.

- 10 The core funding bodies have also provisionally agreed **£10 million** per annum towards covering the full economic costs of JISC services and programmes.
- 11 The Learning and Skills Council is no longer a full funding partner of the JISC but will be contributing £8m to the core budget in 2007/08 and this reduces the core budget to be apportioned between the core funding bodies to £27.46m. In addition, HEFCE pays £0.39m towards the costs of BUFVC which leaves the amount to be apportioned as £27.07m.
- 12 Due to the departure of the Learning and Skills Council from the JISC, the original funding split formula is no longer relevant in terms of apportioning the core JISC budget. The core JISC funding bodies' formula will be revised as part of the revision of the Memorandum of Understanding later in this academic year, so that a new approach will be in place for apportioning the 2008/09 budget. For 2007/08, therefore, the total funding body contributions to the core JISC budget have been worked out based on the 2.7% increase from 2006/07, as agreed by the funding bodies at the December 2006 JISC Steering Group meeting.
- 13 The following table shows the apportionment of JISC core and additional budget lines, assuming that all core funding bodies agree to contribute on a formulaic basis to Full Economic Costs and Third Stream activities

	CORE						Additional Budget Lines		Funding Recommendation for 2007/08
	JISC	BUFV C	JANET	Income from Network Charge	Total for Core (07/08)	Total for Core (06/07)	Third Stream	Full Economic Costs	Total
HEFCE	20.22	0.39	18.49	(4.62)	34.48	33.57	1.56	7.430	43.47
SFC (HE)	3.01		2.71	(0.68)	5.04	4.91	0.23	1.090	6.36
HEFCW	1.17		1.23	(0.29)	2.11	2.05	0.10	0.455	2.665
DEL (HE)	0.46		0.49	(0.11)	0.84	0.82	0.04	0.182	1.062
SFC (FE)	1.11		0.99		2.10	2.04	0.10	0.450	2.65
DELLS	0.82		0.49		1.31	1.28	0.06	0.283	1.653
DEL (FE)	0.27		0.25		0.52	0.51	0.02	0.110	0.65
Total	27.06	0.39	24.65	(5.70)	46.40	45.18	2.11	10.00	58.51

- 14 The JISC has summarised the funding requested for each activity listed in the table at paragraph 8. This is attached at Annex A in which, as far as possible, each budget is broken down into the following areas:
- Services
 - Services in development (in the pilot phase)
 - Services to support sector development activities
 - Development Programme
 - Evaluation and Programme Management
 - Communications and Outreach
- 15 The Organisational Support section of Annex A contains details of the proposed Third Stream activities. It is envisaged that once funding is confirmed, this budget area will remain under the Organisational Support budget but that the other sub-committees will be able to utilise a portion of this funding according to their needs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 16 Endorsement of the JISC Funding Recommendations implies a funding commitment of £2.665 million for 2007/08. This includes £0.455 million to meet the full economic costs of JISC services and programmes and £0.1million for Third Mission activities. This is slightly below the estimated sum of £2.68million which has been included in the proposals for the distribution of the 2007/08 recurrent grant made in HEFCW/07/01 under Agenda Item 5.

PUBLICITY REQUIREMENTS

- 17 There are no publicity requirements arising out of this paper.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- 18 Failure to invest to keep pace with developments in ICT would seriously undermine infrastructure that is critical to the delivery of higher education and research. The JISC monitors developments and proposes the appropriate level of investment required each year.

DIVERSITY AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 19 ICT developments can offer opportunities to students with disabilities who have difficulties in accessing higher education through more traditional methods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 20 The Council is invited to:
- a) Note the distribution of funding proposed by the JISC
 - b) Endorse funding for the work of the JISC at the proposed level of £2.665 million

For further information contact: Frances Good, Head of Statistics and Information Services (Tel 029 2068 2244, email frances.good@hefcw.ac.uk)