

ACADEMIC BOARD

Wednesday 2 March 2011

MINUTES

*PRESENT*¹:

President and Provost (*Chair*)

Mr James Agar, Professor Edward Allington, Dr Janet Anders, Professor Jonathan Ashmore, Professor Jan Atkinson, Professor David Attwell, Dr Paul Ayris, Mr Malcolm Bailey, Dr Bob Barber, Mr Fred Bearman, Mr Milo Bem, Mrs Rachel Benedyk, Professor Michael Berkowitz, Ms Julie Black, Professor David Bogle, Mr Matthew Bowles, Mr Greg Brown, Dr Wendy Brown, Dr Eric Brunner, Mr Peter Cadley, Dr Ben Campkin, Professor John Carroll, Mr Michael Chessum, Dr Beverley Clark, Professor Shamshad Cockcroft, Dr Susan Collins, Mr Ben Colvill, Professor Chris Danpure, Dr Sally Day, Professor Peter Delves, Professor Annette Dolphin, Ms Fiona Duffy, Professor Vince Emery, Dr Caroline Essex, Professor Susan Evans, Dr Andrew Faulkner, Mr Marco Federighi, Dr Susan Ferguson, Professor Anthony Finkelstein, Mr Dominique Fourniol, Dr Martin Fry, Professor Mary Fulbrook, Mr Sol Gamsu, Dr Hugh Goodacre, Professor David Green, Professor Hugh Gurling, Professor Helen Hackett, Mr Sean Hanna, Professor Graham Hart, Professor Jem Hebden, Professor Therese Hesketh, Ms Sandra Hinton, Dr Christine Hoffmann, Dr Josef Kittler, Mr Rex Knight, Dr Dilwyn Knox, Professor Nicos Ladommatos, Mr Bill Lehm, Dr Dewi Lewis, Dr Patrick Lewis, Ms Sally Macdonald, Professor Roger Mackett, Dr Liora Malki-Epshtein, Dr Charles Marson, Dr Sajeda Meghji, Professor Neil Millar, Dr Charlotte Mitchell, Dr John Mitchell, Dr Sara Mole, Dr Jenny Morgan, Dr Tarit Mukhopadhyay, Dr Caroline Newton, Dr Julie Olszewski, Dr Iris Oren, Dr Nicholas Ovenden, Professor Alan Penn, Mr Frank Penter, Ms Sarah Pickering, Dr Hynek Pikhart, Professor Sarah Price, Dr Stephen Price, Professor Thilo Rehren, Dr Benet Salway, Dr Seb Savory, Dr Stephanie Schorge, Dr Chris Scotton, Professor Richard Simons, Dr Joy Sleeman, Dr David Spratt, Professor Kalia Srail, Professor Sacha Stern, Professor Iain Stevenson, Dr Sherrill Stroschein, Mr Simon To, Professor Derek Tocher, Professor Sir John Tooke, Dr Andrea Townsend-Nicholson, Professor Nick Tyler, Professor Gabriella Vigliocco, Dr Ivan Wall, Dr Claire Warwick, Dr Andrew Wills, Professor Matthew Wing, Dr Astrid Wingler, Professor Michael Worton, Professor Henry Woudhuysen, Professor Maria Wyke, Dr Robert Wykes.

In attendance: Mr Tim Perry (*Secretary*), Ms Julia Abbott, Mr Peter Hart, Ms Valerie Hogg, Mr Nick McGhee, Dr Tom Stern, Mr Nigel Waugh, Ms Katy Wood.

Apologies for absence were received from: Dr Robin Aizlewood, Dr Ruth Bell, Dr Helene Burningham, Professor Franco Cacialli, Professor Steve Caddick, Professor Mary Collins, Dr Vanessa Diaz, Professor Simon Dixon, Mr Mick Farrell, Professor Dame Hazel Genn, Professor Marcus Giaquinto, Professor Xavier Golay, Mr Christopher Hallas, Dr Susanna Harris, Professor Faraneh Vargha-Khadem, Professor George Kolankiewicz, Professor Ofer Lahav, Professor Jonathan Ledermann, Dr Jennifer Linden, Professor Paul Longley, Professor Phil Luthert, Dr Susan Parekh, Dr Matt Piper, Professor Andrew Ramage, Professor Paul Riley, Dr Nicola Shelton, Professor Lorraine Sherr, Professor Valery Smyshlyaev, Dr Pam Sonnenberg, Ms Katherine Sturgeon, Dr Julian Thompson, Dr Nalini Vittal, Dr Gavin Winston, Professor Mehrdad Zangeneh.

¹ An attendance sheet was circulated for signature at the meeting. Any colleagues present who did not sign the sheet and whose names are therefore not recorded as present are invited to notify the AB Secretary's office (e-mail - n.mcghee@ucl.ac.uk) so that their names can be included in the record when these Minutes are confirmed at the next meeting of AB.

Key to abbreviations

AB	Academic Board
CIF	Capital Investment Framework
ESPS	European Social and Political Sciences
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HEI	higher education institution
MRC	Medical Research Council
NPP	Research Department of Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology
OFFA	Office for Fair Access
QR	Quality-related research [funding]
REF	Research Excellence Framework
SLMS	School of Life and Medical Sciences
SMT	[Provost's] Senior Management Team
SoP	School of Pharmacy
UCL SERAus	UCL School of Energy and Resources, Australia

19 **MINUTES**

Approved

- 19.1 The Minutes of the AB meeting held on 20 October 2010² [AB Minutes 1-17, 2010-11] were confirmed by the Board and signed by the Chair.
- 19.2 The Minute of the AB Special Meeting held on 16 December 2010³ [AB Minute 18, 2010-11] were confirmed by the Board – subject to the addition of Dr Patrick Lewis to the list of those present – and signed by the Chair.

20 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

[see also Minutes 22 and 24 below]

20A **Council approval of Academic Board recommendations**

[AB Minute 8, 2010-11]

Noted

- 20A.1 At its meeting on 24 November 2010 Council had approved, on the recommendation of AB, the annual report 2009-10 of the Disability Committee.

20B **Election of members of Academic Board to other committees**

[AB Minute 10, 2010-11]

Received

- 20B.1 APPENDIX AB 3/17 (10-11) – a note of AB members elected to other UCL committees for the two academic years 2010-11 and 2011-12 following elections conducted in the Autumn Term 2010.

20C **European Social and Political Sciences (ESPS) – contact time**

[AB Minute 18.13, 2010-11]

Reported

- 20C.1 Following comments made by an AB student member at the last meeting to the effect that he had three hours per week contact time on the ESPS programme, the Academic Director of the programme had confirmed that, excluding non-timetabled support from the dissertation supervisor in the second, third and fourth years, the student concerned had an average contact time per week of a little over 6.5 hours, while students not taking the dissertation option received 8 hours contact time per week.

² http://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-services/governance/ab/documents/minutes/1011/ab_101020.pdf

³ http://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-services/governance/ab/documents/minutes/1011/ab_101216.pdf

21 **AWARDS TO UCL STAFF**

Received

- 21.1 APPENDIX AB 3/18 (10-11) – a note on the award of major prizes *etc* to members of the academic community of UCL since the October 2010 meeting of AB.

Reported

- 21.2 The list of awards represented an extraordinary array of success. The Provost also drew AB's attention to the previous day's announcement by the Minister of State for Universities and Science, confirming Department for Business, Innovation and Skills funding for the UK-wide 2012 birth cohort study led by Professor Carol Dezateux of UCL's Institute of Child Health. The total grant was worth £28.5 million and was additional to funding of £5m previously confirmed by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC).

22 **FUTURE FUNDING POSITION**

[AB Minutes 6 and 18, 2010-11]

Received

- 22.1 An oral report by the Provost.

Reported

- 22.2 Publication of the Coalition Government's Higher Education White Paper, previously expected in mid-March, had been postponed until May 2011. As HEIs were required to determine their proposed UK/EU undergraduate fee levels in time to prepare draft access agreements for submission to OFFA by 19 April 2011, they would now be doing so still incognisant of the Government's intentions regarding two important variables: the student numbers framework; and the residual funding for bands A and B subjects. The Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Exeter had already announced their intention to charge the maximum £9,000 fee. The Finance Committee and the Council, at their respective meetings on 23 March 2011 and 24 March 2011, would be confirming the level of fee to apply at UCL for 2012-13, bearing in mind the need to provide UCL with a sustainable financial future against the background of major reductions in funding from the Teaching (T) grant and the Capital Investment Framework (CIF).
- 22.3 Universities were currently allotted an annual quota of EU/UK undergraduate students, with fines imposed for admission of students above the HEFCE 'tolerance band'. Lord Browne of Madingley's independent review of higher education funding and student finance had suggested that such control over student numbers was

inconsistent with a free market, proposing instead that funding should follow students. The Government, whilst appearing to welcome this principle, lacked a mechanism to apply it. To lift the quota altogether would risk a run on less successful institutions. It was possible that the Government envisaged maintaining the student numbers framework for 2012-13 in order to gauge the aggregate demand across the sector in the first year of the new fees regime. A further variable in this area was the emergence of new providers of higher education in the private sector. Some of these might operate outside the package of government loans and require payment of tuition fees up-front, while others might submit to Government regulation in order to offer students access to the loan book. This raised the prospect of universities setting up special purpose vehicles as a means of effective privatisation of some aspects of their activity. The Government was resistant to the suggestion that quality would determine price.

22.4 UK/EU undergraduate students comprised under 40% of UCL's student population, a much lower proportion than at many other HEIs. UCL was thus relatively fortunate in having the opportunity to seek marginal growth from overseas and postgraduate students, although the Government's intentions in respect of postgraduate students were still unclear.

22.5 HEFCE had confirmed that over the coming two years QR funding for research activity rated 2* in RAE 2008 would be phased out and redirected to 3*- and 4*-rated activity. This shift would not be detrimental to UCL. It was expected that the Government White Paper would herald a further concentration of QR as well as an increased focus on participation and fair access, research excellence, supporting economic growth, the provision of information to prospective students, and quality and standards – which may in turn portend increased regulation of the sector.

23 PROVOST'S BUSINESS

Received

23.1 An oral report by the Provost.

23A Christchurch earthquake

Reported

23A.1 A seminar entitled *Understanding Earthquakes* would be taking place in the Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre later in the day, with entry by donation and all proceeds going to the British Red Cross NZ Earthquake Appeal. Professor Bill McGuire would be giving a lunchtime lecture entitled *The Earth Bites Back* the following day.

23B Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014

Reported

23B.1 The relative weightings of research outputs, impact and the research environment in the overall quality profile for each submission in the REF had been confirmed as 65%, 20% and 15% respectively. Impact would be judged by all members of the HEFCE assessment panels, not just the user members.

23C Role of the Vice-Provosts

Reported

23C.1 In consideration of UCL's expanding overseas presence, and an ever-increasing need for investment in the educational aspect of UCL's activity, the Provost had concluded that the portfolio of the Vice-Provost (Academic and International) should be divided between two posts. Professor Michael Worton would continue as Vice-Provost (International), with the role of Vice-Provost (Education) being advertised in the near future.

23D Director of Human Resources

Reported

23D.1 The Provost welcomed Nigel Waugh, newly-appointed Director of Human Resources, to his first meeting of Academic Board.

[see also Minute 28A below]

24 FACULTIES AND ACADEMIC UNITS OF UCL

Noted

24.1 UCL Statute 8(1) provided that:

There shall be within the College such Faculties as the Council on the advice of the Academic Board may from time to time determine.

24.2 UCL Statute 10(1) provided that:

There shall be such academic units of the College as the Council on the advice of the Academic Board may from time to time determine, with such powers as determined by the Council on the advice of the Academic Board. ... The academic units of the College shall be designated Departments or Divisions or have such other designation as the Council on the advice of the Academic Board may from time to time determine.

24A **School of Life and Medical Sciences**

Received

- 24A.1 A presentation, filed with these Minutes as APPENDIX AB 3/24 (10-11), and oral report by Professor Sir John Tooke, Vice-Provost (Health) and Head of the School of Life and Medical Sciences.

Noted

- 24A.2 A report on the proposals was also to be made to the UCL Council meeting on 24 March 2011 with a view to putting formal proposals for endorsement and approval to the meetings of AB and Council on 25 May and 6 July 2011 respectively, in accordance with UCL Statutes 8 and 10.

Discussion

- 24A.3 The Convenor of the AB non-professorial group enquired after the justification for a further round of restructuring in the Faculty of Life Sciences only three years after the previous restructure; the outlook for the Division of Biosciences as in effect a single-department faculty; and the future of neuroscience in the Faculty. Professor Tooke confirmed that there was no intention to move the Research Department of Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology (NPP) out of the Division of Biosciences. It was envisaged that the School of Pharmacy (SoP), depending on the outcome of ongoing discussions about its future relationship with UCL [*AB Minute 17, 2010-11 refers*], might be located in the Faculty of Life Sciences.
- 24A.4 The names used in the presentation for the proposed new academic units were to be regarded as preliminary at this stage and might change in the light of further consultation and before the detailed formal proposals returned to AB in May 2011.
- 24A.5 Professor Tooke confirmed a commitment not to increase costs as a result of the exercise. It was envisaged that this could be achieved by rationalising SLMS support structures, which, due to the iterative growth of the School, were currently configured unevenly.
- 24A.6 The proposed restructure would go some way to addressing what was seen to be the current under-representation of SLMS on the Provost's Senior Management Team. SMT had discussed the issue and the proposals had the support of other Deans. It was expected that the new structure would also help both to clarify and to promote interdisciplinary relationships and collaborations.
- 24A.7 The proposed structure of faculties aligned well with the structure of units of assessment in REF 2014. In response to a question, Professor Tooke advised that this had not been a primary influence in the development of the proposals; nevertheless, the alignment of the faculty structure with the REF UoAs should prove to be helpful.

24A.8 Professor Tooke stressed the crucial importance of SLMS maintaining its ability to be internationally successful, in a rapidly changing and increasingly competitive global environment. AB endorsed in principle the restructuring proposals.

24B **UCL-Q**

Received

24B.1 APPENDIX AB 3/19 (10-11) – a note proposing the establishment of UCL-Q as an academic department of UCL.

24B.2 An oral report by Professor Michael Worton, Vice-Provost (Academic and International).

Reported

24B.3 Professor Thilo Rehren had been appointed Director of the new campus. Ray Harding, a senior officer in UCL's Estates and Facilities Division, had been appointed Chief Operating Officer. In a slight change to the timetable outlined in the note, it was now envisaged that a small number of academic staff would be in place by April 2012, with the remainder joining them in September next year. AB was now asked to recommend to Council the establishment of UCL-Q as a formal academic unit of UCL.

Discussion

24B.4 An AB member queried whether, at the time that the Finance Committee and Council had given approval to the project, it had been understood that UCL-Q would in due course be established as an academic unit, and whether the business case met the expectation that every academic area would be financially self-supporting. The Provost noted that the proposed change to the formal status of UCL-Q did not alter UCL's liabilities. All the direct costs were covered so that, as per the business case, all areas would be self-supporting, with additional benefit to UCL through a new supply of research students.

RECOMMENDED (to Council)

24B.5 That, in accordance with UCL Statute 10(1), UCL-Q be established as an academic unit of UCL with effect from 1 August 2011.

24C **UCL SERAus**

Noted

24C.1 UCL SERAus was established as an academic unit of UCL, by Council on the advice of AB [AB Minute 46A, 2008-09 refers], with effect from 1 August 2009, and assigned to the Faculty of Engineering Sciences. The Provost, the Vice-Provost (Academic and International) and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences had agreed that it would be appropriate henceforth for UCL SERAus to have the same position as an academic unit as was proposed for UCL-Q [see Minute 24B above], ie outwith the faculty structure but with

the Director of UCL SERAus reporting to the Vice-Provost (Academic and International) (or Vice-Provost (International) in due course – see Minute 23.5 above) and ultimately to the Provost.

Discussion

24C.2 Operational complications in the case of UCL SERAus (for example currency fluctuations or differences between Australian and UK tax and employment laws) meant that the Faculty of Engineering Sciences was not always best placed to address the range of issues that might arise. Moreover, the academic scope of UCL SERAus had rapidly broadened beyond engineering so that the academic case for its being part of Engineering Sciences was no longer strong. In response to questions from the Convenor of the AB non-professorial group and a student member of AB, it was noted that UCL SERAus operations were also overseen by an Advisory Board in Australia, whose operation would not be affected by implementing the proposal now before AB; and that the UCL model of student representation would be in operation at UCL SERAus. Discussions regarding the arrangements had been held with UCLU sabbatical officers and the principle of allowing appropriate local autonomy accepted.

RECOMMENDED (to Council)

24C.4 That, in accordance with UCL Statute 10(1), UCL SERAus be placed within the structure of academic units of UCL as set out in the above note with effect from 1 August 2011.

25 **GRADUATE SCHOOL – ANNUAL REPORT**

Noted

25.1 Highlights of the Graduate School's Annual Report 2009-10 were at APPENDIX AB 3/20 (10-11)⁴. A copy of the full report would be filed with these Minutes as APPENDIX * AB 3/21 (10-11) with Annexes 1-8. AB was invited to endorse the report before it was submitted to the Council meeting on 24 March 2011 for formal approval.

Reported

25.2 The Provost commended the report to AB and thanked Professor David Bogle and his Graduate School colleagues for their hard work.

RECOMMENDED (to Council)

25.3 That the Graduate School's Annual Report for 2009-10, at APPENDIX * AB 3/21 (10-11)⁵ with Annexes 1-8, be approved.

⁴ The full Graduate School report is available online at <http://www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/annreport/> and at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-services/governance/ab/documents/minutes/1011>

⁵ An appendix reference preceded by an asterisk indicates that, for the sake of economy, the document is not issued with the Agenda but will be filed with the Minutes of the meeting. Copies are available on

26 **APPOINTMENTS**

Received

- 26.1 APPENDIX AB 3/22 (10-11) – a list of recent appointments (i) of Dean of Faculty, (ii) of Heads of Academic Departments and (iii) to established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL.

27 **ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC BOARD**

Noted

- 27.1 The Chair had taken action on behalf of AB to approve:
- the Student Accommodation Committee annual report 2009-10;
 - the renaming of the established Richard Cristin Chair of Hepatology and the Chair of Geriatric Medicine.

27A **Academic Board Working Groups on Established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL**

Noted

- 27A.1 The Chair had taken action on behalf of AB to approve the membership of the AB Working Groups on established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL listed at APPENDIX * AB 3/23 (10-11).

28 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

28A **Questions to Provost**

Noted

- 28A.1 A student member of AB raised a query regarding the ethics of the Provost's recent trip to the Middle East as part of the Prime Minister's delegation. In response, the Provost noted that the invitation to accompany the Prime Minister to the Middle East had been a particular honour for UCL, the only university represented on the delegation. In light of the creation of the UCL campus in Qatar [see Minute 24B above] and the many students from that part of the world who were members of the UCL community, the Provost considered the trip to be entirely legitimate UCL business.
- 28A.2 The same student member also raised a query with the Provost about a management issue. Clarification was sought by another AB member as to whether it was appropriate for such issues to be raised at AB. The AB Secretary advised that the Board's role was to advise the Council upon academic matters and questions affecting the educational policy

of UCL. The Provost agreed, nevertheless, to look into the matter raised by the student member, of which he had not previously been aware.

28B Registry and Academic Services

Noted

28B.1 Further to the announcements in the Provost's all-staff newsletter, the Convenor of the AB non-professorial group expressed thanks to the outgoing Academic Registrar Christopher Hallas, who would shortly be leaving UCL, and welcomed the appointment of Tim Perry as his successor, as Director of Registry and Academic Services. The meeting endorsed the Convenor's comments.

29 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted

29.1 The next meeting of AB would be held on **Wednesday 25 May 2011** at **4.00 pm**.

TIM PERRY
Director of Academic Services
31 March 2011

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