



ACADEMIC BOARD

3 May 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Provost (*Chair*)

Dr Tracey Allen; Dr Paul Ayris; Dr Simon Banks; Professor Andrew Barry; Professor Helen Birch; Mr Timothy Bodley-Scott; Dame Nicola Brewer; Professor Eric J Brunner; Mr Simon Cane; Dr Ben P Clifford; Professor Susan Collins; Dr Mike Cope; Professor Marc-Olivier Coppens; Dr Melanie Ehren; Professor Robertus De Bruin; Dr Rachele De Felice; Professor Jan Derry; Professor Simon Dixon; Ms Elizabeth Dow; Professor Susan Evans; Professor Becky Francis; Dr Richard Freeman; Dr Martin Fry; Professor Dilly Fung; Dr Andrew Gardner; Professor Derek Gilroy; Ms Jessica Gramp; Dr Paul Groves; Ms Rachel Hall; Professor Peter Hansford; Dr Evangelos Himonides; Dr Andrea Hodgetts; Professor Aroon Hingorani; Ms Lori Houlihan; Dr Ali Judd; Professor Martin Koltzenburg; Dr Efrosyni Konstantinou; Dr Sarabajaya Kumar; Professor David Lomas; Ms Collette Lux; Dr Jenny Marie; Dr Colin Marx; Dr Margaret Mayston; Dr Professor Gudrun Moore; Saladin D Meckled-Garcia; Professor Neil Millar; Professor Sibylle Mittnacht; Professor John Mullan; Dr Charlene Murphy; Professor Norbert Pachler; Professor Enrico Palandri; Professor Brian Pearce; Dr Anne Peasey; Professor Konstantinos Petrides; Professor Alan Penn; Dr Inés Pineda-Torres; Professor David Price; Professor Sue Rogers; Mr William Richardson; Professor Helen Roberts; Ms Fiona Ryland; Dr Benet Salway; Professor Ralf Schoepfer; Professor Andrea Sella; Dr Lion Shahab; Professor David Shanks; Dr Michael Short; Professor Michael A Singer; Professor Lucia Sivilotti; Professor Sarah Spurgeon; Dr Helen Stagg; Professor Sacha Stern; Dr Rhiannon Stevens; Professor Judith Suissa; Dr Kristza Szendroi; Professor Alan Thompson; Mr Simon To; Dr Ahmed Toosy; Professor Andrea Townsend-Nicholson; Mr Martin Walsh; Ms Susan Ware; Dr Jane Warren; Ms Breege Whiten; Dr Andrew Wills; Professor Alison J Wright; Dr Stan Zochowski

In attendance: Mr Derfel Owen (Secretary to Academic Board); Ms Siobhan Fitzgerald (Academic Services); Mr Geoff Lang (Director of HR Strategy & Policy)

Apologies for absence were received from: Professor Jonathan Ashmore; Dr Ayshea Craig; Professor James Bainbridge; Dr Rebecca Beeken; Professor Graziella Branduardi-Raymont; Professor Rob Brownstone; Dr Ben Campkin; Professor Susan Collins; Dr Lesley Gourlay; Dr Karen Edge; Professor Mary JA Fulbrook; Dr Sandy Leaton Gray; Professor Helen Hackett; Dr Andrew Harris; Professor Kenneth Harris; Ms Melissa Hazen; Professor Michael Heinrich; Ms Caroline Holden; Professor Robert Kleta; Professor Susanne Kord; Professor Anson W. Mackay; Professor Gesine Manuwald; Professor Charles Marson; Professor Kevin J Middlebrook; Dr Kit Opie; Professor Ivan Parkin; Dr Hynek Pikhart; Professor Stephen R.

Price; Professor Geraint Rees; Professor Andreas Schaefer; Professor Mala M. Shah; Professor Elizabeth Shepherd; Dr David Sim; Professor Anthony Smith; Professor Andrew Stahl; Professor Claudio Stern; Professor Nick Tyler; Professor Rosemary Varley; Dr Michael Walls; Professor Henning Walczak; Professor Tarek Yousry

Key to abbreviations

AB	Academic Board
AC	Academic Committee
DfE	Department for Education
EU	European Union
GES	Global Engagement Strategy
HE	Higher Education
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
NSS	National Student Survey
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency
REF	Research Excellence Framework
SMT	Senior Management Team
TEF	Teaching Excellence Framework
ULCU	University College London Union
VP	Vice-Provost

Preliminary business

43 MINUTES OF 25 JANUARY 2017 MEETING

43.1 **Approved** – the Minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 25 January 2017 [*AB Minutes 23-40, 2016-17*].

44 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 25 JANUARY 2017

44.1 The Chair reported that revised guidelines for discretionary accounts have been published. The Chair thanked Professor Annette Dolphin, Chair of the Working Group, and Mr Phil Harding, Director of Finance and Business Affairs, who jointly finalised the guidelines.

45 MINUTES OF 15 MARCH 2017 SPECIAL MEETING OF ACADEMIC BOARD

45.1 **Approved** – the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Academic Board held on 25 January 2017 [*AB Minutes 41-42, 2016-17*].

46 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 15 MARCH 2017

46.1 None.

<p style="text-align: center;">Matters for discussion</p>
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47 PROVOST'S BUSINESS

47A UCL Ranking in Ross-Case Report

47A.1 The Provost reported that UCL has been ranked 4th in the Ross-Case report, the national system that checks fundraising capacity. UCL comes after Oxford, Cambridge, and LSE. The Provost congratulated Lori Houlihan and her team and the Academic community for this great result.

47B Higher Education and Research Bill

47B.1 The Provost noted that the HE Bill was last week passed by parliament. A number of concessions were agreed, the most important concerning the full implications of TEF, where it was agreed to delay the implementation of linking TEF outcomes with variable fees until a further review of the TEF methodology has taken place. This means that 2020 will be the first year that TEF results will inform fee-levels. In the meantime fees can be increased by inflation. Other concessions dramatically improved the autonomy of universities and research councils.

47C Upcoming General Election

47C.1 The Provost noted that key points concerning HE are being put to all parties by Universities UK and the Russell group.

47D Brexit

47D.1 The Provost noted that continued pressure will be put on the government to encourage an early settlement with the European commission, but at present it does not look like this will happen. In response to a member's question, the Provost responded that at this point UCL will not take a formal position on academics from the EU applying for UK citizenship. However, arrangements have been put in place for individual members of staff that request it to meet with immigration lawyers, and if there is the need UCL would support staff by providing loans for UK citizenship applications.

48 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS FRAMEWORK

[PAPER 4-01, 2016-17]

48.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from the Provost.

- 48.2 It was noted that a number of meetings had taken place with members of AB to discuss issues and concerns. The tracked-changes document that was circulated to members of AB indicates how these consultations have been taken on board. A member of the consultation group reported that there had been a series of very productive discussions with Anthony Smith, and that the changes shown in the document have received positive feedback, though there were still some concerns around when the framework would be implemented and how to ensure parity across the board. The group thanked Anthony Smith and the senior leadership team for allowing the discourse, and requested that they be involved in monitoring the implementation of the framework.
- 48.3 The Provost responded that a continued dialogue would take place, and stated that Academic Board would be involved in reviewing and monitoring the framework. It was noted that Geoff Lang, Director of HR Strategy & Policy, would soon publish the results and questions from the consultation and share this with AB. The Provost explained that it was planned for the framework to be implemented in 2017/18, and that it would be reviewed and monitored. The Provost noted that the framework elevates the broad range of activities that people will now be able to present for promotion.
- 48.4 In response to a member's comment, the Provost reminded members that after extensive discussion on the issue of the grade 9 unified title, Anthony Smith had agreed that every case of existing Readers at UCL would be looked at on an individual basis.
- 48.5 Members discussed the issue of local deviations for grade 9 promotions, which may be cause for concern around parity, and stressed that the monitoring process will be critical for the success of the implementation of the framework. The Provost responded that a major concern is fairness in implementation, which is especially important in borderline cases, and noted that monitoring will be in place, and that a training exercise will take place for those involved in the assessments.
- 48.6 In response to a members comment on incentivising and supporting the development of Postgraduate Teaching Assistants (PGTAs), the Provost noted that since PGTAs were not within the scope of the review but that this features strongly in the Doctoral Education Strategy.
- 48.7 In response to a member's comment about the annual round of promotions, the Provost noted that he was in favour of allowing promotions to be sought at all times, but there were some concerns about impact on workload. Presently, the new framework would continue to run to a single promotion date.

49 CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR UCL

[PAPER 4-02, 2016-17]

- 49.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from the Provost.
- 49.2 The Provost explained that this item came about in response to issues raised with the Chair of Council by a group of senior academics. The Chair of Council requested that

Academic Board discuss ways to create a sustainable future for UCL, and maintaining staff morale. The Provost proposed the establishment of a Working Group to consider these issues. However, in the interim, a request was made for a Special Meeting of Academic Board to be held to discuss this issue. Therefore, a Special Meeting will be called within 14 days. In the meantime, the Provost invited members at the current meeting to have a general discussion about these issues to help inform the Special Meeting, noting that decision on the proposal contained in paper 4-02 could be deferred to Special Meeting.

- 49.3 A member proposed that all discussion should be deferred to the Special Meeting, expressing concerns that the current proposal for a Working Group did not fully take into account the concerns raised, focussing on issues of sustainability rather than morale and improvements to Academic Board. They stated that there are issues around the representation of views at Academic Board. They also noted that a number of members of Academic Board interested in this issue were not present at the current meeting, but would be in attendance for a Special Meeting.
- 49.4 The Provost and other members raised concerns that those members present at the current meeting be allowed to discuss the matter, noting that the meeting was fully constituted, well-attended and well-advertised. It was stressed that a general discussion about the principle of how Academic Board would bring these issues forward would be welcome and reasonable.
- 49.5 There was some discussion about the proposed Working Group's Terms of Reference, in particular, interpretations of whether the word 'sustainable' was mainly focussed on finances, or whether it had a broader reference.
- 49.6 There was general agreement that a discussion of the way Academic Board currently works would be worthwhile. A member expressed the view that Academic Board holds useful discussions, but that the frequent use of smaller groups to feed into Academic Board may suggest that a review would be helpful, to make sure that the right kind of governance is explicitly included in the terms of reference. It was suggested that it may be useful to review how other Universities manage their equivalent of Academic Board.
- 49.7 There was a discussion about the attendance levels at Academic Board, and it was noted that participation had increased in recent years, but the percentage of attendees was still low. A member suggested that it may be useful at the Special Meeting to discuss how to engage the academic community in more informal ways, or through the hierarchies of faculties and departments. It was suggested that this would ensure that academics are presented with more in-depth information, to ensure that when an item comes to Academic Board members have been able to explore it in more detail, in order to forestall the need for working groups to be set up.

50 VICE-PROVOST (ENTERPRISE & LONDON) ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL
[PAPER 4-03, 2016-17]

- 50.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from Dr Celia Caulcott, Vice-Provost (Enterprise and London).
- 50.2 The VP noted that the report addresses three things: changes since 2016, the Innovation and Enterprise strategy, and the relationship between UCLB and UCL. The VP noted that the strategy document had been presented to Council, but that it is being rewritten after a major consultation phase over the last few months. The strategy aims to improve and support student, staff, and academic engagement with business partners and industry, starting from their interactions with academics, but also recognising the benefit of guidance around collegiate leadership on enterprise and the production of a framework for business engagement.
- 50.3 The report describes the establishment of the new department ‘UCL Innovation and Enterprise’, following the reorganisation of the Office of the Vice-Provost (Enterprise) and UCL Advances and Enterprise Operations. The VP explained that the Innovation and Enterprise Department’s work with staff, students, academics and the outside community aims to ensure that UCL fosters a culture that embraces engagement. The department has plans to improve communications to increase visibility of the department and their activities.
- 50.4 The VP noted the establishment of the review of the relationship between UCLB and UCL. There will be a focus on supporting the reputation and impact of UCL and to ensure that commercialisation of technology from UCL is enhanced.

Other matters for approval or information
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51 REPORT ON UNIVERSITY TITLE STATUS

[PAPER 4-04, 2016-17]

- 51.1 **Received**– the report on University Title status.

52 REPORT ON DISESTABLISHING UCL AUSTRALIA

[PAPER 4-05, 2016-17]

- 52.1 **Received and Approved** – the report on disestablishing UCL Australia

53 REPORT ON CREATING A NEW INSTITUTE OF PRION DISEASE

[PAPER 4-06, 2016-17]

53.1 **Received and Approved** – the report on creating a new Institute of Prion Disease within the Faculty of Brain Sciences.

54 MINUTES OF COUNCIL

[PAPER 4-07, 2016-17]

54.1 **Received** – the confirmed set of minutes of Council for 29th November 2016 and 14th February 2017.

55 AWARDS TO UCL STAFF

[PAPER 4-08, 2016-17]

55.1 **Received** – a note on the award of major prizes etc to members of the academic community of UCL since the previous meeting of AB.

56 APPOINTMENTS

[PAPER 4-09, 2016-17]

56.1 **Received** – a list of recent appointments (i) of Vice-Provosts; (ii) of Deans of Faculty; (iii) of Heads of Academic Departments, and (iv) to established Chairs tenable at UCL.

57 ACTION TAKEN BY CHAIR (including Academic Board Working Groups on Established Chairs and Readerships)

[PAPER 4-10 - *4-12, 2016-17]

57.1 **Received** – a note of action taken by the Chair on behalf of Academic Board since the last report.

58 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

58.1 The date of the Special Meeting of Academic Board to be announced.

58.2 Upcoming dates for Academic Board meetings as follows:

- Autumn 2017: **Wednesday 11th Oct 2017**
- Spring 2018: **Wednesday 17th January 2018**
- Summer 2018: **Wednesday 2nd May 2018**
- Autumn 2018: **Wednesday 26th September 2018**

DERFEL OWEN

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10 May 2017