



Academic Board

Wednesday 17 March 2021¹

MINUTES

Present: Dr Michael Spence, President and Provost (Chair).

Professor Bas Aarts; Dr Ali Abolfathi; Professor Daniel Alexander; Professor David Alexander; Mr Adnan Ali; Dr Mark Altaweel; Dr Seth Anziska; Ms Wendy Appleby; Dr Manuel Arroyo-Kalin; Professor David Attwell; Ms Marie Augustin; Dr Paul Ayriss; Professor Jurg Bahler; Professor Maryse Bailly; Dr Emily Baker; Professor Torsten Baldeweg; Dr Simon Banks; Professor Yolande Barnes; Dr Sudeshna Basugupta; Professor Kathryn Batchelor; Dr Cecile Bats; Mr Ayman Benmati; Professor Michael Berkowitz; Professor Stephanie Bird; Professor Brad Blitz; Professor Douglas Bourn; Professor Rachel Bowlby; Professor Daniel Brett; Ms Annabel Brown; Professor Jamie Brown; Dr Nicole Brown; Professor Robert Brownstone; Professor Eric Brunner; Professor Stella Bruzzi; Dr Suzy Buckley; Professor Richard Bucknall; Professor Vishwanie Budhram-Mahadeo; Professor Neil Burgess; Professor Jonathan Butterworth; Mr Tadhg Caffrey; Professor Joseph Cain; Dr Jelena Calic; Professor Claire Callender; Professor Licia Capra; Professor Claire Carmalt; Dr Alisia Carnemolla; Professor Daren Caruana; Dr Declan Chard; Professor Kwang Choy; Dr Evangelia Chrysikou; Professor Olga Ciccarelli; Professor Beverley Clark; Dr Alun Coker; Professor Susan Collins; Professor Claire Colomb; Professor Anthony Costello; Ms Sonja Curtis; Professor Izzat Darwazeh; Professor Pamela Davidson; Dr Lucy Davies; Professor Sally Day; Professor Bert De Reyck; Professor Andreas Demosthenous; Dr Elton Dias; Professor Vanessa Diaz; Professor Snezana Djordjevic; Professor Annette Dolphin; Ms Dominique Draï; Professor Paulo Drinot; Professor Sandra Dunsmuir; Professor Ian Eames; Professor Piet Eeckhout; Professor Michael Ehrenstein; Ms Ecem Ergin; Professor Susan Evans; Ms Pascale Fanning-Tichborne; Ms Ava Fatah; Professor Andrew Fazakerley; Dr Liory Fern-Pollak; Professor Margot Finn; Professor Maria Fitzgerald; Mr James Ford; Professor Stuart Foster; Professor Eric Fraga; Professor Nicholas Freemantle; Dr Bettina Friedrich; Dr David Frost; Dr Martin Fry; Professor Mary Fulbrook; Professor Jonathan Gale; Dr Federico Galvanin; Dr Caroline Garaway; Dr Claire Garnett; Professor Haidy Geismar; Professor Mark Geller; Professor Dame Hazel Genn; Professor Adam Gibson; Professor Shirli Gilbert; Professor Deborah Gill; Professor

¹ This meeting was held via videoconference due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Paul Gilroy; Professor Nikolaos Gonis; Dr Hugh Goodacre; Professor Eric Gordy; Dr Ryan Grammenos; Professor John Gray; Ms Amanda Greene; Dr Anne Grydehøj; Professor Francois Guesnet; Professor David Guile; Dr Lucia Patrizio Gunning; Professor Patrick Haggard; Professor Stephen Hailes; Professor Mordechai Haklay; Mr Martin Hall; Professor Graham Hart; Professor Stephen Hart; Professor Michael Heinrich; Professor Evangelos Himonides; Professor Michael Hoare; Professor Arne Hofmann; Professor Stephen Hogan; Professor Jane Holder; Dr Quentin Huys-Gavric; Professor John Hyman; Dr Alan Ingram; Professor Tom Jacques; Dr Dan Jagger; Mr Rafid Jawad; Professor Tariq Jazeel; Professor Helene Joffe; Ms Gunay Karimova; Mr Peter Kelly; Dr John Kelsey; Professor Eli Keshavarz-Moore; Dr Maki Kimura; Dr Rachel King; Professor Robert Kleta; Ms Edyta Kostanek; Dr Ghita Kouadri Mostefaoui; Professor Dimitri Kullmann; Professor Ofer Lahav; Professor Alena Ledeneva; Professor Jonathan Ledermann; Dr Borja Legarra Herrero; Professor Louis Lemieux; Professor Paola Lettieri; Professor Wei Li; Professor Gloria Limb; Professor Christoph Lindner; Professor Allison Littlejohn; Professor Annemaree Lloyd-Zantiotis; Professor Vivienne Lo; Professor David Lomas; Professor Laurence Lovat; Dr Helga Lúthersdóttir; Ms Collette Lux; Ms Xuanyi Ma; Dr Isabel Mackay; Professor Sandy MacRobert; Professor Mairead MacSweeney; Dr Elvira Mambetisaeva; Professor Mark Marsh; Professor John Martin; Dr Juliana Martins; Professor Sarah Matthews; Professor Emmanouil Mavrikis; Dr Ruth McGinity; Professor Jacqueline McGlade; Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia; Professor Francesca Medda; Professor Timothy Meyer; Dr Thomas Miller; Professor John Mitchell; Professor Sara Mole; Professor Sharon Morris; Professor Vivek Mudera; Professor John Mullan; Professor Michael Munday; Professor Veronique Munoz-Darde; Professor Steven Murdoch; Professor Florian Mussgnug; Professor Thanh Nguyen; Professor Mignon Nixon; Dr Alex Norori-McCormac; Dr Abel Nyamapfene; Professor Moses Oketch; Professor Martin Oliver; Professor John O'Regan; Professor Norbert Pachler; Professor Enrico Palandri; Professor Lazaros Papageorgiou; Professor Ioannis Papakonstantinou; Professor Amos Paran; Professor Sophie Park; Professor Jayne Parker; Professor Ivan Parkin; Professor Mahesh Parmar; Professor Nora Pashayan; Professor Paola Pedarzani; Professor Ann Phoenix; Professor Franck Pichaud; Professor Hynek Pikhart; Professor Deenan Pillay; Dr Jeffrey Pittaway; Professor Andrew Pomiankowski; Professor Kaska Porayska-Pomsta; Professor John Potter; Dr Stephen Potts; Professor Slavo Radosevic; Dr Joana Ramalho; Dr Samantha Rayner; Professor Geraint Rees; Dr Carol Rivas; Professor Helen Roberts; Professor Stuart Robson; Professor Sue Rogers; Dr Flaminia Ronca; Professor William Rosenberg; Professor Sasha Roseneil; Dr Suzanne Ruddy; Professor Karin Ruggaber; Professor Dmitri Rusakov; Ms Fiona Ryland; Dr John Sabapathy; Professor Patricia Salinas; Dr Benet Salway; Professor Prince Saprai; Professor Robert Savage; Dr Tim Scanlon; Professor Ralf Schoepfer; Professor Eloise Scottford; Professor Almudena Sevilla; Professor Maryam Shahmanesh; Professor Sonu Shamdasani; Professor David Shanks; Dr Ala'a Shehabi; Professor Robert Sheil; Ms Maria Sibiryakova; Mr Justin Siefker; Professor Talvinder Sihra; Dr Bill Sillar; Professor Angus Silver; Professor Joy

Sleeman; Professor Trevor Smart; Professor Sam Smidt; Mr Andy Smith; Professor Anthony Smith; Professor Pam Sonnenberg; Professor Eva Sorensen; Professor Sarah Spurgeon; Professor Kalia Srai; Professor Andrew Stahl; Dr Uta Staiger; Professor Philip Stanier; Professor Terence Stephenson; Professor Sacha Stern; Professor Claudio Stern; William Stewart; Professor Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen; Dr Sherrill Stroschein; Ms Joanna Stroud; Professor Adam Swift; Professor Matthew Sydes; Professor Nicolas Szita; Professor Irving Taylor; Mr Bryan Taylor; Professor Geraint Thomas; Professor Olga Thomas; Dr Amy Thornton; Dr Eleanor Tillett; Dr Matteo Tiratelli; Professor Nigel Titchener-Hooker; Professor Helena Titheridge; Professor John Tomaney; Professor Ahmed Toosy; Professor Jose Torero Cullen; Professor Andrea Townsend-Nicholson; Professor Georgios Tsakos; Ms Helen Tsui; Professor Jayant Vaidya; Mr Clive Vassell; Professor Laura Vaughan; Professor Steven Vaughan; Professor Essi Viding; Dr Nalini Vittal; Professor Michael Walls; Dr Hayley Whitaker; Ms Breege Whiten; Professor Duncan Wilson; Izabella Wodzka; Ms Tor Wright; Professor Maria Wyke; Dr Vedran Zerjav; Dr Stan Zochowski.

In attendance: Mr Douglas Bertram; Dr Clare Goudy; Mr Nick McGhee (secretary); Ms Abigail Smith; Ms Kirsty Walker; Ms Olivia Whiteley.

Apologies: Professor Jeff Bezemer; Dr Declan Chard; Professor Andrew Davenport; Professor Frances Edwards; Professor Federico Federici; Professor Alissa Goodman; Professor Gesine Manuwald; Dr Margaret Mayston; Dr Jennifer Mindell; Dr Dafne Zuleima Morgado Ramirez; Dr Michaela Pollock; Professor Elizabeth Shepherd; Professor Jolene Skordis.

Part I: Preliminary Formal Business

41 ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

41.1 The minutes of the AB meeting of 3 March 2021 [AB Minutes 34-40, 2020-21] were confirmed.

Part II: Matters for Discussion

42 RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKING GROUP ON RACISM AND PREJUDICE (Paper 5-34)

42.1 The item comprised four elements: (a) proposals for the constitution and Terms of Reference of a Working Group tasked with considering definitions of antisemitism; (b) draft Terms of Reference for a steering committee on an educational action plan to combat antisemitism within the UCL community; (c) plans for addressing problems relating to the reporting of incidents; and (d) proposals for addressing issues of freedom of speech. The first of these was for Academic Board's approval, and the remaining items were for discussion.

42A **Working Group on the definition of antisemitism**

42A.1 The recommendations in the paper were the product of discussions between the Provost and GCAB. In those discussions, questions of ensuring a balance of expertise and a diversity of background and experience had been considered against an approach comprising self-nomination and election. Members were urged to be mindful of the need for diversity and balance when considering nominations.

42A.2 The Provost advised that the students' union Jewish Society had written to him to explain that they would not be prepared to nominate a member to the working group if the membership included any signatories of an open letter in support of Professor David Miller at Bristol University. The Provost felt that Jewish Society representation was crucial. Noting that the original resolution had been that the working group should carry out its role 'in coordination with the Provost and Council' [AB Minute 25.11, 2020-21], the Provost considered that he would have to take advice on the way forward if the Jewish Society found itself unable to make a nomination.

42A.3 The Chair of GCAB expressed a hope that the process would result in a membership capable of working constructively to fulfil the remit of the working group and of interacting effectively with the Provost and Council. The proposed constitution had been developed with a view to a balance of expertise, which could be judged by way of the usual mechanism of a brief statement from each candidate. It was proposed that nomination be open to academic colleagues who were not members of the Board.

42A.4 Members expressed contrasting views on the position taken by the Jewish Society. The Provost reminded Academic Board that it was being asked to approve the constitution of the working group, not its membership. The issue raised by the Jewish Society was not strictly relevant to the question of endorsing the proposed constitution.

42A.5 The Provost summarised the discussion and asked Academic Board for its confirmation that it accepted the proposed constitution of the Working Group. The secretary would issue a call for nominations in due course.

RESOLVED

42A.6 **That the proposed constitution of the Working Group on the Definition of Antisemitism be approved.**

42B **Steering Committee on an Educational Action Plan**

42B.1 At its meeting on 10 February 2021 Academic Board expressed strong support for the proposal to establish a steering committee to develop an educational action plan for combatting antisemitism within the university [AB Minute 25.10, 2020-21]. Professor Sasha Roseneil had taken on the role of chairing the steering committee in her capacity of Pro-Vice-Provost (Equity

and Inclusion). It was intended that the steering committee would meet on a monthly basis and would keep Academic Board updated on its work.

42B.2 In the ensuing discussion the following points were raised:

- Members welcomed the proposals as a promising and important development. The Provost noted that Academic Board had expressed at its meeting in February a deep commitment to fighting antisemitism and to seeking to understand its functioning in the institutional and wider culture.
- Members made a series of suggestions regarding the membership of the steering committee. These were noted and would be considered. It was noted however that there would not normally be trade union representation on a committee addressing educational issues. It was also felt that this was not the level of detail in which external members of Council would wish to get involved.
- Members would be identified by consultation with the relevant units, taking into account considerations of balance of expertise and diversity.
- Members expressed a hope that students could be empowered to challenge antisemitic behaviour directly.

42C **Reporting**

42C.1 Academic Board had expressed a clear view that it would be necessary to look at procedures for considering reports of incidents. A piece of work in this area would be carried out with a view to reporting by end of this academic year. This would include a review of procedures relating to harassment and discrimination, considered against the background of practice elsewhere in the sector. It was noted that the Report and Support system had been developed in the context of addressing sexual misconduct but it related equally to other forms of harassment. The prompt for a review of how the system was working was timely after its first two years of operation.

42C.2 Members welcomed this approach and suggested that similar action be taken to address other forms of racism. Professor Roseneil noted that in considering how well Report and Support was functioning the review would address all kinds of incidents. The Race Equality Steering Group had been carrying out work in this area over the past year. A presentation on this could be brought to a future meeting of Academic Board.

42D **Freedom of Speech**

42D.1 It was envisaged that an annual report on issues of free speech at UCL would in future be submitted to Academic Board. UCL would also seek to establish a panel of experts drawn from across the university who could be called on to advise the Provost and the Registrar when required. It was envisaged that the committee would typically play a role where a judgment call had to be made about the importance of a particular event to the principle of free speech, often in the context of questions of investment in mitigation of the risk of disorder. The Provost envisaged canvassing faculties for suitable expertise before bringing the matter back to Academic Board.

Part III: Other Business for approval or Information

43 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES (Paper 5-35)

43.1 Academic Board received the minutes of other committees.

44 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

44.1 The next meeting would be held on 12 May 2021 at 2.05-4.00pm.

Nick McGhee
Secretary to Academic Board
Email: n.mcghee@ucl.ac.uk