



ACADEMIC BOARD

Wednesday 20 February 2013

MINUTES

*PRESENT*¹:

President and Provost (*Chair*)

Mr Malcolm Bailey, Dr Judith Beniston, Dr Bob Blizard, Professor David Bogle, Professor Chris Carey, Ms Sue Chick, Professor Lucie Clapp, Mr Edwin Clifford-Coupe, Professor Izzat Darwazeh, Professor Peter Delves, Ms Fiona Duffy, Professor Anthony Finkelstein, Dr Martin Fry, Professor Mary Fulbrook, Mr Sam Gaus, Dr Jane Gilbert, Professor Michael Gilbey, Dr Hugh Goodacre, Professor Mordechai Haklay, Mr Sean Hanna, Dr Katherine Holt, Mr Rex Knight, Dr Dilwyn Knox, Professor Susanne Kord, Dr Antonio Lazzarino, Professor Alena Ledeneva, Professor Robert Lumley, Dr Helga Luthersdottir, Professor Gesine Manuwald, Ms Giulia Mari, Dr Jann Matlock, Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia, Dr Maria Novella Mercuri, Mr Dante Micheaux, Professor Kevin Middlebrook, Dr Jennifer Mindell, Professor Veronique Munoz-Darde, Ms Cheryl Newsome, Dr Nick Ovenden, Professor Alan Penn, Mr Frank Penner, Dr Hynek Pikhart, Mr Andrew Pink, Professor David Price, Professor Sarah Price, Dr Sophia Psarra, Professor Slavo Radosevic, Professor Ralf Schoepfer, Dr Ernest Schonfield, Dr Stephanie Schorge, Professor Sonu Shamdasani, Dr Joe Simpson, Professor Lucia Sivilotti, Dr Sarah Snyder, Dr Doug Speed, Professor Sacha Stern, Mr David Stevens, Dr Ilias Tachtsidis, Professor Derek Tocher, Dr Andrea Townsend-Nicholson, Mr Benjamin Towse, Professor Rosemary Varley, Ms Susan Ware, Dr Thomas Wilks, Dr Gavin Winston, Professor Jo Wolff.

In attendance: Mr Jason Clarke (Secretary), Mr Dominique Fourniol, Ms Abigail Gann, Ms Harriet Lilley, Mr Nigel Waugh, Mr Andrew Whalley,

Apologies for absence were received from: Dr Robin Aizlewood, Mrs Sarah Alleemudder, Professor Jonathan Ashmore, Dr Paul Ayris, Professor Graziella Branduardi Raymont, Professor Peter Brocklehurst, Professor Franco Cacialli, Professor Stephen Caddick, Dr Ben Campkin, Professor Matteo Carandini, Professor Robyn Carston, Dr Vamsi Krishna Chinthapalli, Professor Mary Collins, Mrs Eleanor Day, Professor Bryony Dean Franklin, Professor Francesco Gervasio, Mr Emer Girling, Ms Natasha Gorodnitski, Professor Kenneth Harris, Professor Kate Jeffery, Dr. Dewi Lewis, Professor Philippe Marlière, Professor Charles Marson, Professor Andrew Nevins, Mr Tony Overbury, Mr Tim Perry, Professor Stephen Quirke, Dr Chris Scotton, Professor Lorraine Sherr, Professor Anthony Smith, Dr Christina H Smith, Professor Iain Stevenson, Professor Alan Thompson, Professor Faraneh Vargha-Khadem, Professor John Ward, Dr Katherine Woolf, Professor Michael Worton, Ms Kuen Yip Porter.

Key to abbreviations

AB	Academic Board
EPSRC	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
HRPC	Human Resources Policy Committee
MRC	Medical Research Council
RAE	Research Assessment Exercise
REF	Research Excellence Framework

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 – h.lilley@ucl.ac.uk) so that their names can be included in the record when these Minutes are confirmed at the next scheduled meeting of AB.

18 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF 24 OCTOBER 2012, 21 NOVEMBER 2012 AND 30 JANUARY 2013

Confirmed:

- 18.1 The Minutes of the meetings of AB held on 24 October 2012 [AB Mins. 1-15, 24.10.2012], 21 November 2012 [AB Min. 16, 21.11.2012] and 30 January 2013 [AB Min. 17, 30.1.13].

19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES [see also Minutes 21 and 22 below]

19A Council approval of Academic Board recommendations [AB Mins. 9 and 10, 24.10.12]

Noted:

- 19A.1 At its meeting on 28 November 2012 Council approved, on the recommendation of AB:

- that the Institute for Global Health be established as an academic unit of UCL within the Faculty of Population Health Sciences, with effect from 1 January 2013;
- that the Library Committee annual report 2011-12 be approved.

19B Reform of Statute 18 [AB Min. 5, 24.10.12, AB Min. 16, 21.11.12 and AB Min. 17, 30.1.13]

Noted:

- 19B.1 At its special meetings on 21 November 2012 and 30 January 2013, AB agreed to establish a working group to explore the issue of the possible reform of Statute 18, including terms of reference, constitution and membership. At the January 2013 meeting, there was also discussion around the timescale for the Working Group to carry out its work and to submit proposals to AB and then to Council. Discussions had taken place between the relevant committee officers and it was currently envisaged that the Working Group would report back to AB at its meeting on 22 May 2013 and to Council thereafter.

20 AWARDS TO UCL STAFF

Noted:

- 20.1 At AB 2-12 (12-13) a note on the award of major prizes *etc* to members of the academic community of UCL since the previous meeting of AB.
- 20.2 The Provost congratulated members of the UCL community included on the list of awards at AB 2-12 (12-13).

21 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE VICE-PROVOST (RESEARCH)

[This item had been deferred from the AB meeting on 24 October 2012 due to lack of time]

Noted:

- 21.1 A presentation by the Vice-Provost (Research), Professor David Price, setting out his annual report² on UCL's research activities, including an update on preparations for REF 2014.

² This report incorporates the 'Lead Officer' report on Research Strategy (AB Min.30.4, 23.5.12 refers).

Reported:

21.2 In his presentation the Vice-Provost (Research) highlighted the following:

- UCL was ranked 16th in the world on the number of citations of its research publications.
- UCL, Imperial, and Cambridge had similar levels of research income for the past two years, at around £275-300K. Oxford had achieved significantly higher levels of research income of over £400K. UCL should consider the actions taken by Oxford to increase its research income.
- UCL's success rate for funding has remained constant at around 40%. In 2012, UCL research staff had applied for funding worth £1.2bn. Approximately 1500 funding bids had been successful in 2011-12. The majority of UCL's research funding came from the MRC, the Wellcome Trust and EPSRC. An increasing amount of UCL's research funding was from the European Commission.
- In the past four years, numbers of FTE research staff and research students at UCL had increased from 1875 to 2475 and from 1000 to 1500 respectively. This growth reflected UCL's research excellence, although increasing numbers of staff and students would put pressure the UCL estate.
- Although UCL's research output was growing, there were some key challenges ahead: (i) completing UCL's REF submission which would need to be finalised in time for submission in November 2013; (ii) Research Councils UK were undertaking a review, the results of which could threaten future funding; (iii) there were issues arising from Open Access, however UCL funding to facilitate Open Access publishing would be made available and a paper outlining UCL's approach to Open Access was being prepared; (iv) short notice availability of capital investment opportunities created challenges in forward planning, although it was anticipated that more notice would be provided in the future; (v) UCL should increase collaborations with other HEIs in order to share facilities and expensive equipment; not only would this be positive for UCL, but it could also increase regional investment; (vi) as noted above, UCL's growth created space issues and it was anticipated that these issues would be addressed over the coming years.

Discussion:

21.3 In response to a question from the Provost regarding how UCL's research within arts and humanities and the social sciences could be benchmarked against competitor institutions, the Vice-Provost (Research) noted that reputational comparisons could be made by subject group. In such comparisons, UCL was ranked within the top ten universities. For example, the 2008 RAE submission data had been used to rank UCL in a format used by US universities, thus enabling UCL departments to be ranked alongside their US counterparts. In such comparisons, UCL's Department of English Language and Literature would be the strongest in the US.

21.4 AB members enquired further regarding UCL's research income compared to that of Oxford, which was significantly higher. The Vice-Provost (Research) noted that Oxford and Cambridge tended to have a higher success rate for Wellcome Trust funding bids compared to UCL. Also, Oxford used a larger proportion of philanthropic funding to support research. UCL received approximately £25m of industry funding for research and studentships; although relationships between universities and industry were complicated, UCL ranked in the top three for levels of funding received from industry.

21.5 The Provost commended the strength of UCL's research community, and thanked colleagues in the Office of the Vice-Provost (Research) and staff involved in supporting UCL's research grants. The Provost noted the challenges facing the sector in terms of future research funding and urged members of AB to press upon MPs and others in positions of

influence, the importance of university research and the serious damage which could be done should research budgets be cut.

22 SCHEDULE OF DELEGATED POWERS - REVISION

[This item had been deferred from the AB meeting on 24 October 2012 due to lack of time]

Noted:

- 22.1 The schedule of delegated powers of AB, which was last approved by AB in 2008, had been updated to reflect a number of changes in committee structures, nomenclature and other organisational changes which have taken place since that time. A copy of the updated schedule, together with an explanatory covering note from the AB Secretary, was at AB 2-13 (12-13). AB was invited to approve the updated schedule.

Discussion:

- 22.2 AB members commented on the proposed change to the Schedule relating to Statute 7(10)(B) at Annex 1 of the paper at AB 2-13 (12-13) (ie 'to consider and advise the Council upon the conditions and tenure of appointment of Members of the Academic Staff') which involved a delegation of that power to Human Resources Policy Committee. It was noted that elements of Statute 7(10)(B) had previously been delegated by AB to the (former) Academic Staff Appointments and Promotion Committee, which, unlike HRPC, had included elected members of AB. Also, it was important that committees involved in the promotions process reflected the diversity of the academic community in terms of gender and ethnicity. It was also noted that the membership of the HRPC was essentially the same as that of the Provost's Senior Management Team.
- 22.3 In response to the above comments, it was noted that HRPC was a management-focused committee and was not directly responsible for staff promotion, which remained the responsibility of the Academic Promotions Committee, which reported to AB, although much of the work in assessing applications for promotion was now undertaken by School-level committees. The Provost endorsed the importance of diversity and agreed that the composition of the School-level committees which discussed academic promotions should be kept under regular review.
- 22.4 The Provost thanked members for their comments and noted that the AB officers would wish to reflect on the points which had been raised, with a view to bringing a further paper on the Schedule to a future meeting of the Board.

25 GRADUATE SCHOOL – ANNUAL REPORT

Noted:

- 25.1 Highlights of the Graduate School's Annual Report 2011-12 were at AB 2-14 (12-13)³. A copy of the full report would be filed with the Minutes as *AB 2-15 (12-13) with eight annexes. AB was invited to endorse the report before it was submitted to the Council meeting on 10 April 2013 for formal approval.

³ The full Graduate School report is available online at <http://www.grad.ucl.ac.uk/annreport/>.

Recommended - to Council

- 25.2 That the Graduate School's Annual Report for 2011-12 at *AB 2-15 (12-13)⁴ with eight annexes, be approved.

26 APPOINTMENTS

Noted:

- 26.1 The list of recent appointments (i) of Deans of Faculty, (ii) of Heads of Academic Departments and (iii) to established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL at AB 2-16 (12-13).

Discussion:

- 26.2 The Medical and Postgraduate Students Officer, UCL Union, requested that future reports to AB on recent senior academic appointments show statistical information on the demographics of appointees. The Provost noted that this was an important point and that he would like to see the Board receive more information in future on the profile of UCL's staff in terms of gender and ethnicity; officers would consider and take advice on the most appropriate way in which this information could be presented to AB.

27 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC BOARD

27A Academic Board Working Groups on Established Chairs and Readerships

Noted:

- 27A.1 The Chair of AB had taken action on behalf of AB to approve the membership of the ABWGs listed at * AB 2-17 (12-13).

28 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted:

- 28.1 The next meeting of AB will be on **Wednesday 22 May 2013 at 4.00pm** in the **Christopher Ingold XLG1 Lecture Theatre, Chemistry Building**.

JASON CLARKE

Secretary to Academic Board

v/2013

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⁴ An appendix reference preceded by an asterisk indicates that, for the sake of economy, the document was not issued with the Agenda but would be filed with the Minutes of the meeting. Copies are available on request to the AB Secretary's office (telephone 020 7679 8593, internal extension 28593, e-mail – h.lilley@ucl.ac.uk).