



ACADEMIC BOARD

25 January 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT:
Provost (*Chair*)

Dr Tracy Allen; Ms Wendy Appleby; Professor Jonathan Ashmore; Professor Kristin Bakke; Professor Gillian Bates; Professor Polina Bayvel; Dr Yasminah Beebejavn; Dr Becca Beeken; Professor Robert Brownstone; Professor Jon Butterworth; Ms Bonita Carboo; Dr Celia Caulcott; Professor Michael Cheetham; Dr Ben Clifford; Professor Peter Coffey; Dr Alun Coker; Professor Susan Collins; Dr Will Coppola; Dr Ayshea Craig; Mr Mark Crawford; Professor Izzat Darwazeh; Ms Sangeeta Das; Professor Snezana Djordjevic; Professor Annette Dolphin; Ms Elizabeth Dow; Professor Andrew Eder; Dr Melanie Ehren; Ms Manuela Elliott; Professor Susan Evans; Professor Andrew Fisher; Professor Elizabeth Fisher; Professor Maria Fitzgerald; Mr Dominique Fourniol; Dr Richard Freeman; Dr Martin Fry; Dr Andy Fugard; Professor Dilly Fung; Dr Andrew Gardner; Professor Adam Gibson; Ms Jessica Gramp; Ms Anna Golab; Dr Lesley Jane Gourlay; Ms Rachel Hall; Professor Michael Heinrich; Professor Aroon Hingorani; Dr Andrea Hodgetts; Ms Lori Houlihan; Professor Matilda Katan-Muller; Professor Robert Kleta; Mr Rex Knight; Professor Martin Koltzenburg; Dr Kris Lockyear; Professor Offer Lahav; Professor Alison Lloyd; Dr Ruth Lovering; Professor John McArthur; Ms Fiona McClement; Professor Desmond McMorrow; Professor Anson Mackay; Professor Robin Mcanulty; Professor Mala Maini; Dr Jenny Marie; Professor Mark Marsh; Professor Charles Marson; Dr Colin Marx; Dr Margaret Mayston; Professor Usha Menon; Professor Kevin Middlebrook; Professor Neil Millar; Professor Sara Mole; Professor John Mullan; Ms Suguna Nair; Dr Helen O'Neil; Professor Norbert Pachler; Professor Enrico Palandri; Professor Ivan Parkin; Dr Barbara Penner; Dr James Phillips; Dr Ines Pineda-Torra; Professor David Price; Professor Stephen R Price; Professor Andrew Reynolds; Mr Liam Richardson; Mr Ivan Royle; Professor Dmitri Rusakov; Professor Ralf Schoepfer; Mr Hunter Schone; Professor Anthony Segal; Dr Lion Shahab; Professor Elizabeth Shepherd; Professor Talvinder Sihra; Dr Bill Sillar; Dr David Sim; Professor Trevor Smart; Professor Anthony Smith; Dr Reecha Sofat; Professor Sarah Spurgeon; Dr Helen Stagg; Professor Andrew Stahl; Professor Claudio Stern; Dr Sherrill Stroschein; Professor Mark Thomas; Professor Alan Thompson; Dr Ahmed Toosy; Dr Hans van de Koot; Professor Paul Warburton; Ms Soo Ware; Dr Jane Warren; Ms Breege Whiten; Dr Norman Williams; Professor Stephen Wilson; Professor Dominic Wyse, Dr Rosie Peppin Vaughan

In attendance: Mr Terry Dailey (VP: Innovation and Enterprise's Office); Mr Derfel Owen (Secretary to Academic Board); Ms Chandan Shah (Academic Services).

Apologies for absence were received from: Professor Adriana Allen; Professor Timothy Arnett; Professor David Attwell; Professor Jurg Bahler; Professor James Bainbridge; Professor Tim Blackburn; Professor Sonia Blandford; Professor Rachel Bowlby; Professor Graziella Branduardi Raymont; Professor Paul Burgess; Professor Helen Chatterjee; Dr Elisabete Cidre; Professor Lucie Clapp; Professor John Collinge; Professor Stephen Colvin; Professor Robertus De Bruin; Professor Tony Dickenson; Professor Mark Farrant; Professor Nicholas Freemantle; Dr Haidy Geismar; Professor Alasdair Gibb; Ms Emer Girling; Dr Paul Groves; Professor Helen Hackett; Professor Kenneth Harris; Professor Michael Hausser; Ms Melissa Hazen; Dr Evangelos Himonides; Ms Lori Houlihan; Professor Gian Domenico Iannetti; Professor Josef Kittler; Professor Mark Lowdell; Professor Mark Lowdell; Professor Robert Lowe; Professor Gesine Manuwald; Dr Charlene Murphy; Mr David Newton; Dr Andy Pearce; Professor Paola Pedarzani; Professor Andrew Pomiankowski; Professor William Richardson; Professor Vieri Samek-Lodovici; Professor Andreas Schafer; Dr Michael Short; Professor Angus Silver; Professor Sacha Stern; Professor Andrea Townsend-Nicholson; Professor Faraneh Vargha-Khadem; Professor Ann Varley; Professor Bridget Wade; Professor Sarah Walker; Mr Martin Walsh; Professor David Werring; Professor Alison Wright; Professor Tarek Yousry; Professor Semir Zeki; Professor Sarah Zerbes; Dr Stan Zochowski;

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

23 MINUTES OF 5 OCTOBER 2016 MEETING

23.1 **Approved** – the Minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 5 October 2016 [*AB Minutes 1-22, 2016-17*].

24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

24.1 None

Matters for discussion

25 PROVOST'S BUSINESS

25A Education Select Committee

25A.1 The Provost reported that the House of Commons' Education Select Committee had been hosted at UCL for a hearing on their enquiry into the impact of Brexit. The Provost had attended the hearing to give evidence. Most of the session focussed on exploring the impact and implications of the direction set out by the Prime Minister in her speech outlining the British Government's negotiating position.

25B Higher Education and Research Bill

25B.1 The Provost reported that the HE Bill was currently progressing through the House of Lords. Over 500 amendments had been tabled and significant concessions were likely to be made between the committee and report stages of the Bill, the recognition of institutional autonomy remained a key area of concern.

25C Teaching Excellence Framework

25C.1 The Provost reported that the Russell Group had been engaging with the Minister for Higher Education to ensure that the TEF took a holistic approach to institutions instead of concentrating solely on metrics.

25D UCL Awards

25D.1 The Provost highlighted awards to UCL, namely the Hub status for UK Dementia Research Institute, which would link five centres around the country and the renewal of centre status of The Wellcome Trust Centre for Neuroimaging. Both awards were in excess of £10m.

25E UCL and UCL Business

25E.1 The Provost reported that a consultation on UCL and UCL Business would shortly occur and invited the Vice-Provost (Enterprise and London) to comment. The VP reported that a review of the relationship would be arranged through a series of consultations. An online consultation would go live at the beginning of February, followed by consultations for a dedicated cohort of staff who engage most directly with UCLB. A paper with further details of the review would be circulated to AB members with the minutes.

26 VICE-PROVOST (RESEARCH) ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

[PAPER 2-01, 2016-17]

26.1 **Received** – a presentation from Professor David Price, Vice-Provost (Research)

- 26.2 The VP highlighted some key challenges that face colleagues including Brexit and potential implications around research funding, the HE and Research Bill not currently providing sufficient reassurance on university autonomy, a revised REF.
- 26.3 Despite these challenges, the VP reported that UCL was still achieving awards and successes as a result of colleagues' dedication and hard work. UCL was ranked 7th in the world university rankings based on research data from previous years. The VP indicated that UCL was competing with Oxford and Cambridge when reviewing research income received from Research Councils, Horizon 2020 and the Wellcome Trust.
- 26.4 The VP provided examples of research successes, such as, UCL being selected as the Hub of the £250 million UK Dementia Research Institute, linking to five centres throughout the UK; funding from the Wellcome Trust for the Africa Health Research Institute that positively links to the Global Engagement Strategy; and that 5 UCL colleagues awarded the Leverhulme Prize out of 30 prizes in total.
- 26.5 In response to a member's comment on Open Access, the VP reported that currently UCL was 70% compliant; however, further work was underway to retrieve data on unverified requests of publications.

27 TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

- 27.1 **Received** – a presentation from Professor Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs)
- 27.2 The VP reported that UCL would be opting in to stage 2 of the TEF, it was anticipated that the vast majority of universities in England would be participating, with a small number choosing to opt out. Stage 2 involves a set of institutional metrics related to teaching quality, learning support and learning outcomes and an opportunity for the university to make a written submission to provide additional context and detail. Guidance from DfE and HEFCE had provided important reassurances that the TEF assessors would not be allowed to place too much reliance on the metrics and that the institutional submission would be equally important.
- 27.3 Consultation for stage 3 of the TEF was currently open. The VP explained that the Government's intention was to extend the framework to include subject level scrutiny and judgements, although there was significant scope to shape and influence the process at this stage.
- 27.4 In response to members' comments on the UCLU campaign to boycott the NSS, the VP reported that the Minister had provided a clear response that if boycotts affected the response rates, the TEF would rely on previous years' data. Also, the quality assurance processes underpinning the NSS already provide opportunities to investigate significant, unexplained changes in results.
- 27.5 In response to members' comments on space and student numbers, the Provost highlighted that increases in student numbers had been proposed by faculties and departments, in line with growth in research activity and staff numbers, and in support of new academic initiatives. A central planning unit had now been

introduced to support faculties and departments with their forecasting of student numbers and subsequent implications for resources and the estate. A report would be presented to the next meeting of Academic Board

28 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS FRAMEWORK

[PAPER 2-02, 2016-17]

- 28.1 **Received** – an oral update from Professor Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs).
- 28.2 The VP reported that at the request of representative members of AB, the consultation period had been extended to 3 March. The next steps included an online consultation where the responses would be reviewed with UCU. The VP would present a revised paper incorporating responses to key themes for submission to a special AB meeting on 15 March.

29 REPORT ON DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNTS

[PAPER 2-03, 2016-17]

- 29.1 **Received** – a presentation from Professor Annette Dolphin, Chair of the Working Group.
- 29.2 The Chair of the Working Group highlighted outcomes of the Working Group. The new guidelines would be submitted to SMT and Council for their consideration. Once agreed, any future changes to the guidelines would require consultation from AB members.
- 29.3 The Provost thanked the Chair and members of the Working Group. The report would be submitted to SMT and Council for their consideration, and the Provost anticipated there would be agreement with the recommendations. Should there be any significant concerns, these would be referred back to the working group for consideration and further discussion at AB if necessary.
- 29.4 In response to members' comments on application and monitoring of funds, the Provost commented that where long term funding commitments were made, such as stipends for PhD students, there would need to be checks to ensure that the funding was available for the full duration of the student's study.

30 GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY – UPDATE

[PAPER 2-04, 2016-17]

- 30.1 **Received** – an oral update to the paper from Dame Nicola Brewer, Vice-Provost (International)
- 30.2 The VP reported the paper would be presented to Council providing an update on the GES. The paper was primarily focused on ensuring that the strategy was still appropriate and focused on the right areas in light of the UK's impending departure from the European Union. Although, the main aims and actions of the strategy remained relevant and robust, UCL would need to send clear signals to global partners that the UK still had a global outlook.

Other matters for approval or information
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31 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACADEMIC COMMITTEE: SESSION 2015-16

[PAPER 2-05, 2016-17]

31.1 **Received** – the annual report of Academic Committee for 2015-16.

32 ELECTION OF AB MEMBERS TO COUNCIL

[PAPER 2-06, 2016-17]

32.1 **Received** – a note on the elections process of AB members to serve on Council.

33 LEAD OFFICER REPORT 2015-16: STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

[PAPER 2-07, 2016-17]

33.1 **Received** – the annual lead officer report of Student Accommodation for 2015-16.

34 LIBRARY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

[PAPER 2-08, 2016-17]

34.1 **Received** – the annual report of Library Committee for 2015-16.

35 MINUTES OF COUNCIL

[PAPER 2-09, 2016-17]

35.1 **Received** – the confirmed set of minutes of Council for 19 October 2016.

36 MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

[PAPER 2-10, 2016-17]

36.1 **Received** – the unconfirmed set of minutes of AC for 8 November 2016.

37 AWARDS TO UCL STAFF

[PAPER 2-11, 2016-17]

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

38 APPOINTMENTS

[PAPER 2-12, 2016-17]

38.1 **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.

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

*[PAPER 2-13 – *2-14, 2016-17]*

- 39.1 **Received** – a note of action taken by the Chair on behalf of Academic Board since the last report.
- 39.2 In response to a member's comments relating to the change in name of the BHP Billiton Chair in Sustainable Global Resources, the Provost confirmed that this change of name had been made because the funding arrangement with BHP Billiton had ended and no further agreement had been made as BHP Billiton had decided not to renew their charitable funding. This had not affected the long-term sustainability of the Institute for Sustainable Resources.
- 39.3 Although this partnership had reached a natural end, the Provost emphasised that UCL would explore opportunities for academic research that delivered solutions to world challenges and would continue to work with a range of partners to pursue these.

40 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 40.1 The next Academic Board meeting would be held on Wednesday 3 May 2017 at 2.05pm.

DERFEL OWEN

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27 January 2017