



ACADEMIC BOARD

Wednesday 25th February 2015

MINUTES

*PRESENT*¹:

President and Provost (*Chair*)

Mr Abdulrahman Alahmari, Dr Catia Andreassi, Ms Wendy Appleby, Ms Nicola Arnold, Dr Chanakya Arya, Dr Paul Bartlett, Dr Alice Bradbury, Mr Francis Brako, Dame Nicola Brewer, Dr Georgina Brewis, Professor Nick Brook, Ms Annabel Brown, Mr Peter Cadley, Professor Matteo Carandini, Professor Robyn Carston, Ms Mariana Ceccotti, Ms Sue Chick, Dr Sofia Christou-Savina, Professor Lucie Clapp, Dr Ben Clifford, Professor Anthony Costello, Ms Charlotte Croffie, Professor Julio D. Davila, Dr Jason Davies, Ms Eleanor Day, Dr Sally Day, Dr Rachele De Felice, Professor Peter Delves, Professor Simon Dixon, Ms Elizabeth Dow, Dr Rosalind Duhs, Dr Melanie Ehren, Dr Caroline Essex, Professor Karen Evans, Ms Ava Fatah gen. Schieck, Dr Andrew Flinn, Mr Stephen Ford, Dr Richard Freeman, Professor Jon French, Dr Martin Fry, Professor Mary Fulbrook, Professor Matthew Gandy, Dr Hugh Goodacre, Dr Lesley Gourlay, Dr Alistair Greig, Dr George Grimble, Dr Paul Groves, Dr Leonie Hannan, Ms Ruth Harper, Professor Valerie Hazan, Ms Gráinne Hebel, Professor Michael Heinrich, Professor Therese Hesketh, Dr Evangelos Himonides, Ms Tracey Howard, Ms Lina Kamenova, Professor Brad Karp, Mr Rex Knight, Mr Lukmaan Kolia, Professor Nikolaos Konstantinidis, Dr Eirini Koutoumanou, Dr Sandra Leaton Gray, Dr Helga Lúthersdóttir, Dr Merle Mahon, Professor Gesine Manuwald, Dr Lilijana Marjanovic-Halburd, Professor Charles Marson, Dr Margaret Mayston, Ms Fiona McClement, Professor Susan Michie, Professor Kevin Middlebrook, Dr Rob Miller, Dr Jenny Mindell, Professor Jonathan Montgomery, Ms Andrea Nahum, Dr Jackie Nicholls, Dr Julie Olszewski, Dr Kit Opie, Professor Norbert Pachler, Dr Anne Peasey, Professor Alan Penn, Mr Frank Penter, Dr Brent Pilkey, Professor Andrew Pomiankowski, Dr Blandine Poulet, Professor David Price, Professor Geraint Rees, Dr Kerstin Sailer, Professor Ralf Schoepfer, Professor Sonu Shamdassani, Professor Elizabeth J Shepherd, Professor Richard R Simons, Professor Lucia Sivilotti, Dr Ariane Smart, Professor Anthony Smith, Dr Fiona Strawbridge, Dr Sherrill Stroschein, Dr Judith Suissa, Professor Alastair Sutcliffe, Mr Simon To, Professor Derek Tocher, Dr Michael Walls, Ms Susan Ware, Professor Jonathan Wolff, Professor Jose Zalabardo.

In attendance: Mr Dominique Fourniol (Media), Mr Philip Harding, Mrs Lori Houlihan (Alumni office), Mr Derfel Owen (Secretary), Ms Chandan Shah

Apologies for absence were received from: Ms Nicola Alexander, Dr Sunny Bains, Ms Famina Begum, Professor Jonathan Bell, Professor Sonia Blandford, Professor Peter Brocklehurst, Professor Franco Cacialli, Professor Stephen Caddick, Dr Ben Campkin, Professor John Collinge, Professor Susan Collins, Professor Frances Cowan, Professor John Deanfield, Professor Bryony

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 – academic.services@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.

Dean Franklin, Dr Panayotes Demakakos, Professor Margot Finn, Dr Haidy Geismar, Professor Xavier Golay, Professor Helen Hackett, Dr Andrew Harris, Dr Jennie Henley, Dr Arne Hofmann, Dr Katherine Ibbett, Dr Avril Keating, Professor Dilwyn Knox, Professor Susanne Kord, Professor Jan Kubik, Dr Sarabajaya Kumar, Professor Ofer Lahav, Dr Andrew Logsdail, Professor Mark Marsh, Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia, Professor Henrietta Moore, Professor John Mullan, Professor Graham Penn, Dr Rodney J Reynolds, Dr Carol Sacchett, Professor Mala Shah, Professor Lorraine Sherr, Professor Sacha Stern, Professor Iain Stevenson, Professor Melissa Terras, Professor Alan Thompson, Ms Emanuela Tilley, Professor Sir John Tooke, Mr Nigel Waugh, Dr Rachel J Wilde, Professor Mehrdad Zangeneh.

Key to abbreviations

| | |
|-------|--|
| AB | Academic Board |
| GES | Global Engagement Strategy |
| HEFCE | Higher Education Funding Council for England |
| IoE | Institute of Education |
| NSS | National Students Survey |
| QAA | Quality Assurance Agency |
| REF | Research Excellence Framework |
| UCU | University and College Union |
| UG | Undergraduate Taught Students |
| USS | Universities Superannuation Scheme |
| UUK | Universities UK |

17 TERMS OF REFERENCE, CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP 2014-15

Noted:

17.1 At AB 2 -1 (14-15) a note on the additional members to the AB membership following the merger with IoE.

17.2 The Provost formally welcomed all professorial, non-professorial and professional members from IoE to Academic Board.

18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 1 OCTOBER 2014

Confirmed:

18.1 The Minutes of the meeting of AB held on 1 October 2014 [*AB Mins. 1-16, 1.10.14*]

19 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

[*See item 24*]

20 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF 10 DECEMBER 2014

Confirmed:

20.1 Minutes of the Special meeting of AB held on 10 December 2014 [*SMAB Mins, 1 -2, 10.12.14*].

21 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

21.1 USS Pensions Scheme *[SMAB Mins, 1, 10.12.14]*

Received:

- 21.2 An oral update from the Director of Finance and Business Affairs, Phil Harding on the USS Pensions Scheme.

Reported:

- 21.3 The Director of Finance and Business Affairs explained that UUK had represented the collective views of Universities to the USS Joint Negotiating Committee. The response from UUK reflected a number of the points raised and endorsed by at the Special Meeting of AB on 10 December.

- 21.4 On 29 January the USS Joint Negotiating Committee agreed a joint proposal for reform of the USS, supported by both UUK and UCU. This will now be the subject of a statutory consultation with relevant employees which will start in mid-March 2015. Part of the proposal included an increase in employee contributions to 8% of pensionable salary and an increase in employer contributions to 18% of pensionable salary.

Discussion:

- 21.5 In response to requests for UCL to publish its submission to UUK, the Provost explained that UCL's submission was intended to inform a collective response along with other members of UUK and that therefore UCL's individual response would not be made public.
- 21.6 In response to a question about the inclusion in UCL's response of concerns raised by Academic Board at the Special Meeting the Director of Finance and Business Affairs explained that UUK's response had reflected most of the points raised.

22 PROVOST'S BUSINESS

Received:

- 22.1 An oral report from the Provost. In addition to items already on the Agenda, the Provost highlighted the following points.

22A Appointment of Vice-Provost

Reported:

- 22A.1 The Provost reported that the Vice-Provost (Enterprise and London), Professor Steve Caddick, had recently been appointed as Director of Innovation at the Wellcome Trust. Academic Board expressed its gratitude to the Vice-Provost's for his contribution and commitment to UCL during his tenure.
- 22A.2 The Provost reported that the Director of UCL IoE, Professor Chris Husbands, had recently been appointed as Vice-Provost (Academic Development), a new post that would focus on providing academic input in developing UCL's Human Resources policies and processes.
- 22A.3 The Provost reported that Professor David Lomas had been appointed to succeed Professor John Took as Vice-Provost (Health).

22B Quality Assurance Agency Higher Education Review

- 22B.1 The Provost reported that dates for UCL's Higher Education Review had recently been confirmed. The QAA review visit will take place in the week commencing 9 May 2016, and all evidence would need to be submitted by 15 February 2016.

22C UUK Statement on Tuition Fees Policy

- 22C.1 The Provost drew AB's attention to the letter published in Times Newspaper from UUK's Board explicitly criticising the Labour Party's policy position on tuition fees. The decision by UUK's Board had been made without consulting members and in response a number of UUK's members were concerned about the negative impact it could have on Government policy post-General Election to the detriment of universities. The Provost explained that UCL was working with colleagues in the Russell Group to advocate a non-partisan position that strongly advocates the importance of sustainable funding for teaching and research in higher education.

23 OUTCOMES OF REF 2014

Received:

- 23.1 A presentation from the Vice-Provost (Research), Professor David Price, on the outcomes of REF 2014.

Reported:

- 23.2 The Vice-Provost (Research) reported that UCL had achieved its ambition to maintain and strengthen its position in the REF; the outcomes were exceptional for UCL as it was rated top for Research power in the UK, above both Oxford and Cambridge Universities.
- 23.3 It was highlighted that UCL's market share of 4* and 3* research had grown significantly since 2008 at the highest rate in the sector.
- 23.4 Based on the outputs from the REF, HEFCE would develop a funding formula to allocate funds to 4* and 3* rated departments. It was noted that because HEFCE's research budget has only been ring-fenced in 'cash terms' for the past number of years, it is estimated that UCL's income will only increase slightly as a consequence of this success.
- 23.5 The Vice-Provost reported that UCL would now need to start preparations for REF 2020, emphasising that HEFCE had already indicated that all submissions to that cycle would need Open Access at the time of publication, not at the time of submission to REF. Some discussions were currently taking place with HEFCE about the required timescales for publishing research to Open Access.

Discussion:

- 23.6 In response to questions about REF 2020, the Vice-Provost reported that information on Open Access had been disseminated to Faculty Deans for wider circulation and clearer guidance on the criteria for submissions would be provided as the requirements are clarified.
- 23.7 Members asked about the analysis on submissions to REF and UCL's plan for increasing the staff submission figure from 91%. The Provost reported that UCL would seek to support all staff to develop the quality of their research so that a higher proportion of staff could be submitted to the next cycle. A concentrated effort towards submissions of 4* quality would be encouraged.

24 GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

Received:

- 24.1 At AB 2- 2 (14-15) a draft of the UCL Global Engagement Strategy, presented by the Vice-Provost (International), Dame Nicola Brewer.

Reported:

- 24.2 The Vice-Provost (International) introduced the GES by explaining that it was deliberately in close alignment to the overall UCL 2034 Strategy and in particular to the sixth theme: *Delivering Global Impact*. All the enablers and the six themes contained the global theme. The draft is based on extensive consultation and feedback from staff and students at over sixty individual consultation events and a survey that was open to all staff.
- 24.3 It was highlighted that a key focus of the GES would be on international impact, working collaboratively on global initiatives across UCL as well as with other organisations. There would be clear guidance on types of partnerships encouraged and supported by UCL and how those partnerships can be developed to the mutual benefit of UCL and the partner organisations.

Discussion:

- 24.4 In response to a question from a member on academic engagement with the GES, the Provost highlighted that open meetings had been arranged for all academics to comment and respond to the draft GES and an open website had been made available too. An extensive period of consultation has been ongoing for all colleagues to engage in discussion.
- 24.5 In response to a question from a member on international recognition of UCL, the Vice-Provost (International) responded that although UCL's reputation has grown steadily in the UK and globally, more work was required to grow and embed the global recognition of UCL, this is a key aim of the GES.

25 EDUCATION STRATEGY

Received:

- 25.1 An oral report from the Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs), Professor Anthony Smith, on the UCL Education Strategy.

Reported:

- 25.2 The Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs) reported that the current Learning and Teaching Strategy took UCL through to 2015 and plans for a new Education strategy were being proposed for the next five years (2015 – 2020).
- 25.3 The Vice-Provost explained that the new strategy would aim to ensure that UCL develops creative approaches to integrating research and education and responds to the fact that (post-merger with the IoE) UCL is the only comprehensive university in the UK with a majority postgraduate student body.
- 25.4 The consultation process on the new strategy would involve numerous opportunities for staff and students to contribute to the discussion and a further opportunity for Academic Committee and Academic Board to discuss drafts of the strategy.

Discussion:

- 25.5 In response to questions about the future of the NSS, the Vice-Provost commented that HEFCE are currently exploring options to improve the survey questions. It appears that the questions are unlikely to change significantly but some of the language and tone would be updated and some questions removed to make way for more focussed questions about student engagement.

26 UCL AUSTRALIA

Received:

- 26.1 At AB 2- 3 (14-15) a paper outlining the plans for UCL Australia, reported by the President and Provost, Professor Michael Arthur.

Reported:

- 26.2 The Provost reported that UCL's activities in Australia had helped to grow UCL's global footprint and engagement with key partners, but that funding agreements with the partners were due to end in 2017 and therefore it was necessary to review our activities and nature of our ongoing presence and partnerships in Australia.
- 26.3 Staff and students at UCL Australia had been informed of the review and consultations with them would be taking place over the next few months to gain their feedback and input into plans for the future. UCL has made a clear commitment to existing students, that they will be supported to achieve their UCL qualifications.
- 26.4 AB would be kept updated on the progress on consultations and discussions with UCL Australia.

27 ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF ACADEMIC BOARD TO SERVE ON COUNCIL

Received:

- 27.1 At AB 2- 8 (14-15) a note on the process for members of Academic Board to be elected to Council, reported by the Registrar, Ms Wendy Appleby.

Reported:

- 27.2 The Registrar reported that two professorial vacancies had arisen for Council as the existing members had reached the end of their 3 year term.

Discussion:

- 27.3 Members asked about the representation of each of UCL's schools, recently there had been 6 places on Council for members of AB which had been filled by two representatives per school on an informal rotation, following the integration of the IoE as a fourth school, this was no longer possible.
- 27.4 It was suggested that the number of AB members on Council could be increased to 8, to allow two representatives per school. The Provost emphasised that no members of Council are elected or appointed to represent the views of a particular constituency rather to bring their experience and perspective and act in the interest of UCL as a whole. There was a desire to see the membership of council reflecting all schools, however this might be achieved through agreement that at least one person is elected from a school that is not representative, even where they did not win the ballot overall.

- 27.5 The Registrar explained that the membership of Council could not be changed at this meeting because that would involve changes to the Statutes and Management Regulations, the former requiring appeal to the Privy Council. However the points raised would be fed back to Council and included in the review of Governance that is due to take place in 2015/16. Meanwhile, elections would be held to identify the two representatives for Council membership.

28 REVISED STUDENT DISCIPLINARY CODE AND PROCEDURE

Approved – for recommendation to Council:

- 28.1 The student disciplinary code and procedure at AB 2- 4 (14-15).

29 RENAMING OF DEPARTMENTS

Approved – for recommendation to Council:

- 29.1 The Department of Management Science & Innovation (MS&I) at AB 2- 5 (14-15).

30 NOMINATION OF ACADEMIC STAFF MEMBER TO SERVE ON GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Approved:

- 30.1 The nomination of an academic staff member to serve on Grievance Committee at AB 2- 6 (14-15).

31 LIBRARY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

Noted:

- 31.1 The above annual report at AB 2- 7 (14-15).

32 AWARDS TO UCL STAFF

Noted:

- 32.1 At AB 2- 9 (14-15) a note on the award of major prizes *etc* to members of the academic community of UCL since the previous meeting of AB.

33 APPOINTMENTS

Noted:

- 33.1 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 – at AB 2- 10 (14-15).

34 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC BOARD

Noted:

- 34.1 Since the last meeting of AB, the Chair took action on behalf of AB to approve:
- the appointment of Professor Martyn Rady to the Masaryk Chair of Central European History with effect from 1 October 2014;

34A Academic Board Working Groups on Established Chairs and Readerships

Noted:

- 34A.1 Since the last meeting, action has been taken by the Chair of AB, on behalf of AB, to approve the membership of the ABWGs listed at ^{*2} AB 2- 11 (14-15).

35 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted:

- 35.1 The next meeting of AB will be on **Wednesday 13 May 2015 at 4.05pm in Roberts 106** [Deadline to submit items: Wednesday 29 April 2015 by 12 noon].

DERFEL OWEN

Director of Academic Services and Secretary to Academic Board

[telephone 020 7679 8594, UCL extension 28594, email: d.owen@ucl.ac.uk]

25 March 2015

² 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 request to the AB Secretary (telephone 0207 679 8594, internal extension 28594, email academic.services@ucl.ac.uk)