



## ACADEMIC BOARD

Wednesday 26 February 2014

### MINUTES

*PRESENT*<sup>1</sup>:

President and Provost (*Chair*)

Professor Michelle Baddeley, Mr Malcolm Bailey, Dr Paul Bartlett, Professor Polina Bayvel, Dr Bob Blizzard, Professor David Bogle, Professor Stephen Caddick, Dr Elettra Carbone, Ms Sue Chick, Professor Lucie Clapp, Professor Mary Collins, Professor Susan Collins, Dr Caroline Essex, Professor Susan Evans, Professor Michael Ewing, Professor Margot Finn, Professor Jon French, Dr Martin Fry, Professor Mary Fulbrook, Mr Keir Gallagher, Professor Michael Gilbey, Dr Hugh Goodacre, Dr George Grimble, Professor Graham Hart, Dr Arne Hofmann, Dr Katherine Holt, Mr Ed Johnston, Mr Rex Knight, Professor Susanne Kord, Professor Axel Korner, Dr Antonio Lazzarino, Dr Helga Lúthersdóttir, Professor Sandy MacRobert, Professor Gesine Manuwald, Professor Charles Marson, Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia, Professor Susan Michie, Professor Kevin Middlebrook, Dr Jenny Mindell, Professor Maxine Molyneux, Ms Nida Mushtaq, Dr Nicholas Ovenden, Ms Laura Parrett, Professor Alan Penn, Mr Frank Penter, Mr Tim Perry, Professor Ian Preston, Dr Sophia Psarra, Dr Kerstin Sailer, Dr Seb Savory, Professor Ralf Schoepfer, Dr Stephanie Schorge, Professor Alwyn Seeds, Professor Sonu Shamdasani, Professor David Shanks, Professor Elizabeth Shephard, Professor Richard Simons, Dr Talvinder Sihra, Professor Lucia Sivilotti, Professor Anthony Smith, Professor Sacha Stern, Dr Martin Stocker, Mr Mark Sudbury, Professor Alan Thompson, Dr Cecil Thompson, Professor Derek Tocher, Mr Ben Towse, Ms Susan Ware, Dr Thomas Wilks, Dr Gavin Winston, Professor Jonathan Wolff, Ms Kuen Yip Porter, Professor Jose Zalabardo, Ms Danni Zhao.

*In attendance:* Mr Jason Clarke (*Secretary*), Ms Eleanor Day, Dr Vanessa Diaz, Mr Dominique Fourniol, Mr Nick McGhee, Mr Andy Saffery, Dr Hazel Smith.

*Apologies for absence were received from:* Ms Sarah Alleemudder, Professor Jürg Bähler, Professor Francois Balloux, Professor Franco Cacialli, Professor Matteo Carandini, Professor Marc-Olivier Coppens, Professor Giulio Cossu, Professor Simon Dixon, Professor Tariq Enver, Professor Anthony Finkelstein, Professor Michael Hanna, Ms Lori Houlihan, Ofer Lahav, Paul Longley, Professor Philip Luthert, Professor Alejandro Madrigal, Professor Usha Menon, Professor Susan Morrissey, Mr Tony Overbury, Professor Barbara Pedley, Professor David Price, Professor Thilo Rehren, Dr Alison Joy Sleeman, Dr Christina Smith, Professor Iain Stevenson, Professor Sir John Tooke, Professor Rosemary Varley, Professor Yiannis Ventikos, Professor Claire Warwick, Mr Nigel Waugh.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 – [jason.clarke@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:jason.clarke@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.

*Key to abbreviations*

AB	Academic Board
AC	Academic Committee
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
IoE	Institute of Education
JISC	Joint Information Systems Committee
NSS	National Student Survey
STEM	science, technology, engineering and mathematics [subjects]
UCU	University and College Union

### 13 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 23 OCTOBER 2013

**Confirmed:**

- 13.1 The Minutes of the meeting of AB held on 23 October 2013 [AB Mins. 1-12, 23.10.13], subject to the following amendments:
- 1.12 On the reform of Statute 18, the withdrawal by senior management of the original proposed revised Statute was welcomed by AB...
  - 1.13 That Academic Board (i) welcomes the withdrawal by senior management of the original proposed revision to Statute 18 ...

### 14 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

[See also Minutes 15 and 19 below]

#### 14A Council approval of Academic Board recommendations

[AB Mins.3.2 and 7, 23.10.13]

**Noted:**

- 14A.1 At its meeting on 27 November 2013, Council approved, on the recommendation of AB, the following:
- that the Mental Health Sciences Unit be established as an academic unit of UCL, named the Division of Psychiatry, within the Faculty of Brain Sciences, with effect from 1 January 2014;
  - the Library Committee's Annual Report for 2012-13.

### 15 PROVOST'S BUSINESS

**Received:**

- 15.1 An oral report from the Provost.

#### 15A UCL Strategy 2034

**Reported:**

- 15A.1 Members of the Council, Finance Committee and Senior Management Team had discussed the draft Strategy at an away day on 24 February. The document would be circulated to Heads of Department shortly before being released for consultation across the wider UCL community. A series of town meetings would be scheduled and a web-based version would be released. It was intended that the Strategy would be an item for discussion at AB on 14 May 2014.

#### 15B National funding situation for higher education

**Reported:**

- 15B.1 The annual funding letter from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to HEFCE had been received on 10 February. The letter reaffirmed the ring-fenced protection afforded to the science and research budget and confirmed a net reduction of £45m on the 2014-15 recurrent teaching grant. The letter indicated that savings should be delivered in ways that would protect high cost (including STEM) subjects,

widening participation measures, and small and specialist institutions. HEFCE was also urged to seek to maintain the quality of the student experience and to ensure that institutions take forward actions recommended by the Wakeham and Diamond reviews. The Government was proceeding with the announcement made in the Autumn Statement of up to 30,000 additional full-time student places in 2014-15 and the removal of student number controls altogether in 2015-16. The Provost noted the apparent vulnerability of a number of smaller funds such as the JISC and Higher Education Academy funds.

## **15C National Student Survey**

### ***Reported:***

- 15C.1 As of 19 February, 28% of eligible UCL students had completed the NSS 2014. This compared favourably to 17.6% at a comparable stage in 2013, but was nevertheless well behind the sector average of 37.1%. The NSS would remain open until 30 April; colleagues were requested to redouble their efforts in encouraging students to respond, although the Provost noted that it was crucial that no inadvertent encouragement be given to return any particular response. It was noted that a higher response rate would produce a more meaningful result, and that written comments from students were highly informative, whatever the shortcomings of the data.

## **15D Chair of Academic Committee**

### ***Received:***

- 15D.1 A background paper at [AB 2-12 \(13-14\)](#).

### ***Reported:***

- 15D.2 In view of the prioritisation of the student experience and the vision for the development of a research-led pedagogy, the Provost was minded to take on the role of Chair of AC with effect from 1 April. It was also hoped that this would have the benefit of improving the flow of information between AC and AB and Council.

### ***Discussion:***

- 15D.3 Some AB members noted that they were unclear as to the respective powers of AB and AC, including the delegation of certain powers from AB to AC. At the request of an AB member the Secretary undertook to prepare a briefing note clarifying this matter.
- 15D.4 AB supported the decision that the Provost chair the AC with effect from 1 April.

## **15E Reform of Statute 18**

### ***Reported:***

- 15E.1 The Provost noted the clarification of the Minute from the last meeting relating to the withdrawal of the original proposal for the reform of Statute 18 [*Minute 13.1 above refers*]. The Provost reiterated the view which he had expressed at the previous meeting that the AB Working Group had undertaken some valuable work in relation to this issue, but that further work would need to be undertaken, particularly in respect of developing an understanding of the full implications around introducing a fairness principle. That further work would have to involve a formal negotiation process between UCL management and the UCU and the other campus trades unions, and a

meeting with union representatives to discuss how to take this forward had been arranged. The UCU had also suggested that one or two members of the AB Working Group could be invited to be observers in that negotiation process which, in the Provost's view, seemed to be a very constructive and helpful suggestion. A more general review was also required in respect of academic career pathways and titles, and contractual arrangements for different groups of staff. Proposals would be brought back to AB in due course following negotiations with the UCU and other campus trades unions, and prior to their submission to Council.

**Discussion:**

- 15E.2 It was suggested that the AB Working Group observers be designated to represent the Teaching Fellow and contract researcher constituencies. The Provost agreed that it would be possible to have a conversation with the UCU about this given the spirit of the AB discussions around this matter.

**16 UCL AND THE INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION**

**Noted:**

- 16.1 At their meetings on 4 and 11 February 2014 respectively, the Councils of the Institute of Education and UCL had approved a proposal to proceed with formal negotiations and due diligence on a possible merger between the two institutions.

**Received:**

- 16.2 At Document C 3-51 (13-14) the paper that was submitted to UCL Council at its meeting on 11 February 2014 regarding this matter, with four annexes.

- 16.3 An oral report from the Provost.

**Reported:**

- 16.4 The primary driver behind the proposal was academic rather than organisational or financial. Out of the top twenty universities in the world, UCL was the only one without a faculty of education. The world-leading research undertaken by the IoE in the areas of education and social science was complementary to many areas of work undertaken by UCL. A merger between the two institutions would also bring financial benefits for the IoE as it would free-up its reserves which could be used for investment in future academic excellence.

**Discussion:**

- 16.5 AB noted the extensive academic synergies between the two institutions and was apprised of a number of major opportunities for cross-institutional initiatives. Significant effort had been put into the development of joint research and education opportunities since the establishment of the strategic partnership between UCL and the IoE in 2012 *eg* colleagues in the two institutions were now working on the development of combined undergraduate social science teaching; there were exciting opportunities for collaboration on longitudinal cohort studies; working in partnership, the two institutions had secured significant external investment above what could have been achieved separately (there had been a recent successful joint application to Nuffield for three lectureships, two of which had come to UCL).

- 16.6 The Dean of the Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences noted that UCL does not currently offer a degree programme in social science, and staff within the Faculty were therefore enthusiastic at the prospect of collaborating with IoE colleagues on a new undergraduate degree in this area. Similar opportunities arose in the field of psychology; while both institutions had departments of psychology, UCL's strengths in cognitive psychology and the IoE's in developmental psychology were essentially complementary. The Dean of the Faculty of Population Health Sciences observed that a merged institution would have unparalleled cohort study resources, with UCL's strengths focussed in population health and those of the IoE in social science, whose staff also have access to hard empirical data and strong quantitative and methodological expertise.
- 16.7 AB members noted the possibility for collaboration beyond the social sciences and the potential benefits for the development of innovative teaching practice. The opportunity for developing a more clearly defined career pathway for Teaching Fellows was also raised.
- 16.8 The differences in the definition of 'academic staff' between the statutes of the two institutions were noted. Issues relating to terms and conditions would need to be considered as part of the due diligence process and could also be looked at as part of the work to be undertaken by UCL management and the trades unions on statute reform referred to earlier. Although any merger would result in the IoE dissolving its charter and transferring its assets to the merged institution, UCL would be keen to benefit from good practice at the IoE and it was clearly possible that UCL might wish to adopt the IoE's approach in certain areas. It was intended that if the merger were to proceed the IoE would enter the merged institution as a discrete faculty.
- 16.9 The Provost noted that internal consultation within the IoE had now begun and the due diligence process was progressing. Ultimately if the IoE was minded to proceed, the (UCL) Council would receive a formal proposal for merger. However, Council would wish to have the opinion of AB in order to inform its decision, so the matter would therefore return to AB in May 2014 before going to Council in July. In the meantime, the Provost noted AB's strong support for UCL and the IoE proceeding with formal negotiations and due diligence on a possible merger between the two institutions, especially in light of the possibilities for closer academic collaboration and partnership with colleagues at the IoE which would arise from such a merger.

## 17 REVISED STUDENT COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

### **Noted:**

- 17.1 UCL Statute 13(2) provided that
- 'Council, on the advice of the Academic Board, and after consulting the Students' Union, shall ... determine procedures, including a student complaints and appeals procedure ...'
- 17.2 A proposed revised UCL Student Complaints Procedure, with a covering explanatory note from the Deputy Registrar (Operations & Planning), was at AB 2-13 (13-14). The proposed new Procedure would replace the existing Student Grievance Procedure, a copy of which was at AB 2-14 (13-14)<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> This was also available from the UCL *Academic Manual* at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/part-5/student-grievance-procedure>

**RECOMMENDED (to Council)**

- 17.3 That the new UCL Student Complaints Procedure at AB 2-13 (13-14) be approved.

**18 GRADUATE SCHOOL – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012-13**

**Noted:**

- 18.1 Highlights of the Graduate School's Annual Report 2012-13 were at AB 2-15 (13-14). A copy of the full report would be filed with these Minutes as \*<sup>3</sup> AB 2-16 (13-14) with seven annexes. AB was invited to endorse the report before it was submitted to the Council meeting on 25 March 2014 for formal approval.

**RECOMMENDED (to Council)**

- 18.2 That the Graduate School's Annual Report for 2012-13 at \*AB 2-16 (13-14) with seven annexes, be approved.

**19 ELECTION OF NON-PROFESSORIAL ACADEMIC STAFF, TEACHING FELLOW STAFF AND NON-ACADEMIC STAFF TO SERVE ON ACADEMIC BOARD IN SESSIONS 2014-15 AND 2015-16**

[AB Min.10, 23.10.13]

**Noted:**

- 19.1 At its last meeting AB noted that, in accordance with arrangements previously agreed by the Board, elections would be held in the Spring Term 2014 for non-professorial academic staff, Teaching Fellow staff and non-academic staff to serve on AB for sessions 2014-15 and 2015-16.
- 19.2 A note on the outcome of the above elections was at AB 2-17 (13-14).

**Discussion:**

- 19.3 The convenor of the non-professorial members of AB noted that he had approached the Human Resources Division to ask for contact details for Teaching Fellow staff from across UCL in order to contact them regarding the elections to AB, but had been advised that it would not be possible for that information to be provided and that a freedom of information request should be submitted. AB noted that there might be data protection issues involved, but that officers would look into this matter further to see if an alternative solution could be identified.

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<sup>3</sup> An appendix reference preceded by an asterisk indicates that, for the sake of economy, the document was not circulated in hard copy but was available from the AB web pages at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/srs/governance-and-committees/governance/ab> and would be filed with these Minutes.

## 20 AWARDS TO UCL STAFF

**Noted:**

- 20.1 At AB 2-18 (13-14) a note on the award of major prizes *etc* to members of the academic community of UCL since the previous meeting of AB.

## 21 APPOINTMENTS

**Noted:**

- 21.1 The list of recent appointments (i) of Heads of Academic Departments and (ii) to established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL at AB 2-19 (13-14).

## 22 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC BOARD

**Noted:**

- 22.1 Since the last meeting of AB, the Chair had taken action on behalf of AB to approve:
- that the Chair of Architectural Studies be renamed the Chair of Architectural Design with effect from 1 December 2013;
  - that the Director of the Slade School of Fine Art henceforth be appointed to the established Slade Chair of Fine Art for the duration of their Directorship and that Professor Susan Collins be appointed to the established Slade Chair of Fine Art, tenable at UCL, with effect from 1 December 2013 until the end of her term as Director of the Slade School of Fine Art;
  - that the re-designation of UCL Australia as an academic unit within the Faculty of Engineering Sciences with effect from 1 February 2014 be recommended to Council. A copy of the note submitted to the Provost by the Vice-Provost (Education and International) and the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences explaining the rationale for, and proposed timing of, the transfer was for information at AB 2-20 (13-14).

## 22A Academic Board Working Groups on Established Chairs and Readerships

**Noted:**

- 22A.1 Since the last meeting, action had been taken by the Chair of AB, on behalf of AB, to approve the membership of the ABWGs listed at \* AB 2-21 (13-14).

## 23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Noted:**

- 23.1 The next meeting of AB had been rescheduled to **Wednesday 14 May 2014 at 2.45pm** in the **Darwin Lecture Theatre, B40**.