



## ACADEMIC BOARD

### Special Meeting

Wednesday 30 January 2013

## MINUTES

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

Professor David Price (*Acting Chair*)

Dr James Agar, Professor Jonathan Ashmore, Dr Bob Barber, Dr Stephanie Bird, Dr Bob Blizard, Dr Ben Campkin, Professor Lucie Clapp, Mr Edwin Clifford-Coupe, Ms Alice Dunbabin, Dr Martin Fry, Mr Keir Gallagher, Dr Hugh Goodacre, Ms Natasha Gorodnitski, Mr Sean Hanna, Dr Mark Hewitson, Dr Mary Hilson, Dr Dilwyn Knox, Professor Susanne Kord, Professor Andrew Leak, Dr Francesco Lescai, Dr Helga Lúthersdóttir, Ms Giulia Mari, Dr Jann Matlock, Dr Maria-Novella Mercuri, Mr Dante Micheaux, Professor Susanne Michie, Professor Veronique Munoz-Darde, Dr Nicholas Ovenden, Mr Frank Penter, Mr Tim Perry, Dr Sophia Psarra, Ms Martha Robinson, Professor Ralf Schoepfer, Dr Ernest Schonfield, Professor Sonu Shamdasani, Mr Joe Simpson, Professor Lucia Sivilotti, Professor Alan Sokal, Professor Claudio Stern, Dr Andrea Townsend-Nicholson, Mr Ben Towse, Mr Andrew Turton, Dr Thomas Wilks, Professor John Wood, Ms Kuen Yip Porter.

*In attendance:* Mr Jason Clarke (*Secretary*), Mr Nick McGhee.

*Apologies for absence were received from:* President and Provost, Dr Paul Ayris, Ms Julie Black, Dr Steven Bloch, Professor Graziella Branduardi-Raymont, Professor Peter Brocklehurst, Professor Franco Cacialli, Professor Matteo Carandini, Professor John Collinge, Professor Mary Collins, Professor Susan Collins, Professor Bryony Dean Franklin, Professor Anthony Finkelstein, Dr Jane Gilbert, Professor Helen Hackett, Dr Katherine Holt, Professor Katherine Homewood, Professor Monica Lakhanpaul, Professor Jonathan Ledermann, Dr Virginia Mantouvalou, Professor Gesine Manuwald, Professor Timothy Mathews, Professor Christopher McGregor, Professor Andrew Nevins, Ms Cheryl Newsome, Dr Andrew Pink, Dr Matthew Piper, Professor Jane Portlock, Professor Thilo Rehren, Professor Jane Rendell, Dr John Sabapathy, Dr Kerstin Sailer, Dr Stephanie Schorge, Dr Chris Scotton, Professor Sacha Stern, Professor Iain Stevenson, Professor Alan Thompson, Professor Faraneh Vargha-Khadem, Professor Laura Vaughan, Professor Claire Warwick, Dr Gavin Winston.

---

<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 – [h.lilley@ucl.ac.uk](mailto: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.

*Key to abbreviations*

AB	Academic Board
BEAMS	School of the Built Environment, Engineering, and Mathematical & Physical Sciences
SELCS	School of European Languages, Culture and Society
SLASH	School of Laws, Arts & Humanities, and Social & Historical Sciences
SLMS	School of Life and Medical Sciences
SMT	Senior Management Team

17 **REFORM OF STATUTE 18**

**Reported:**

- 17.1 The Provost, who sent his apologies for the meeting, was unavailable to attend and had invited Professor David Price to take the Chair in his place.
- 17.2 This Special Meeting of AB had been convened at the written request of ten AB members in accordance with the Board's Standing Orders. The sole purpose of the meeting was to discuss the specific proposition submitted by those members with their request for the meeting. Items of routine business which would normally be taken at scheduled meetings of the Board (eg minutes of the last meeting, matters arising, any other business), would not be considered at this meeting. Having reminded those present that only those colleagues who were members of the Board or officers in attendance should remain, the Chair then invited the signatories of the request for the Special Meeting to talk to the proposition which had been submitted.

**Discussion:**

- 17.3 Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia, one of the ten signatories of the request for the Special Meeting, introduced the proposition, which read as follows:

We, the undersigned,

With reference to the proposition passed overwhelmingly at the special meeting of Academic Board, 21 Nov 2012, approving the creation of a Working Group to explore a Statute 18 reform proposal that a) preserves existing staff rights in statute, and b) expands academic freedom protections to staff not already covered, call for a special meeting of Academic Board to discuss the following proposition:

Academic Board approves that:

- 1) The 'Working Group on Statute 18' shall be convened, composed of the persons in (2) below, for the purpose of exploring, and if possible, drafting a new Statute 18 proposal to be considered by Academic Board for referral to Council. It shall meet at least 3 times before April 2013, and after its last meeting its chair shall report to Academic Board on its findings, and if possible submit a provisional proposal for presentation and discussion at a meeting of Academic Board. The members of the Working Group shall select their own Chair and *quorum* shall be 6 voting members.
- 2) The membership of the Working Group is to be as follows:

Voting members:

  1. Novella Mercuri (Teaching Fellow, SELCS, SLASH)
  2. Hugh Goodacre (Teaching fellow, Economics, SLASH)
  3. Prof. Andrew Leak (SLASH)
  4. Prof. Sonu Shamdasani (SLMS)
  5. Prof. Ralf Schoepfer (SLMS)
  6. Prof. Lucie Clapp (SLMS)
  7. Prof. Jane Rendell (BEAMS)
  8. Martin Fry (BEAMS)
  9. Martha Robinson (Student Representative to Academic Board)
  10. A representative selected by the Academic Board Non-professorial Group
  11. A volunteer/nominee (*if one is forthcoming*) from the meeting at which this proposition is discussed,
  12. A representative supplied by the Senior Management Team

plus:

Persons to be coopted as (non-voting) **advisors** to the Working Group

13. Dr. Nicola Contouris (Laws - expert in Labour Law; Coordinator: *Labour rights institute*; Co-director: *Centre for Law and Governance in Europe*)
  14. A representative supplied by UCU
  15. A representative supplied by Unison
  16. A representative supplied by Unite
- 17.4 The proposition had been signed by the following members of AB: Professor Jonathan Ashmore, Dr Mark Hewitson, Dr Mary Hilson, Professor Susanne Kord, Professor Cecile Laborde, Dr Helga Lúthersdóttir, Professor Philippe Marliere, Professor Timothy Mathews, Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia, Mr Ben Towse.
- 17.5 Dr Meckled-Garcia confirmed that it was the intention that any recommendations from the Working Group would be submitted to a future meeting of AB for consideration and, if necessary, another Special Meeting of AB would be called for that purpose. It was noted that the next Ordinary meetings of AB were scheduled for 20 February 2013 and 22 May 2013, and that Council, at its meeting on 28 November 2012, had resolved to defer further discussion of the issue to its meeting of 10 April 2013. Given that the meeting was only just quorate, the Chair suggested that it might be preferable for the Working Group to report to a scheduled meeting of AB in order to maximise the opportunity for members of the Board to participate in the discussion. The Chair suggested further that it would be helpful if the Working Group, at its first meeting, could commit to a specific date by which their report would be submitted to AB. The AB and Council officers could then confer to try to produce a timetable that would enable the matter to be discussed at an appropriate meeting of AB in advance of it being discussed by Council.
- 17.6 Dr Meckled-Garcia confirmed that a request for expressions of interest in joining the Working Group had been sent to all members of AB listed on the AB web page<sup>2</sup>, with the exception of those who were members of SMT, as a place for a representative of SMT had been incorporated in the proposed membership. The proposed membership included colleagues from across the three Schools. No non-academic staff had put their names forward, but it was suggested that the administrative role of the one of the proposed Teaching Fellow members would enable this perspective to be adequately represented on the Working Group. AB noted that some Council members had been contacted to discuss the issue but the general view had been that appointing a Council member to the Working Group would create an unacceptable conflict of roles.
- 17.7 In respect of the place for 'a volunteer/nominee (*if one is forthcoming*) from the meeting at which this proposition is discussed', Professor Susanne Kord was nominated and seconded by two AB members. Professor Kord accepted the nomination.
- 17.8 In drawing the meeting to a close, in order to gauge the mood of the meeting, the Chair asked for a show of hands for and against the proposition which had been submitted to AB. Following the show of hands, the Chair noted that the following proposition had been approved *nem con*:

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ras/acs/governance/committees/ab>

**That:**

**1) The ‘Working Group on Statute 18’ shall be convened, composed of the persons in (2) below, for the purpose of exploring, and if possible, drafting a new Statute 18 proposal to be considered by Academic Board for referral to Council. It shall meet at least three times before April 2013, and after its last meeting its chair shall report to Academic Board on its findings and, if possible, submit a provisional proposal for presentation and discussion at a meeting of Academic Board. The members of the Working Group shall select their own Chair and *quorum* shall be six voting members.**

**2) The membership of the Working Group is to be as follows:**

**Voting members:**

- 1. Dr Novella Mercuri**
- 2. Dr Hugh Goodacre**
- 3. Professor Andrew Leak**
- 4. Professor Sonu Shamdasani**
- 5. Professor Ralf Schoepfer**
- 6. Professor Lucie Clapp**
- 7. Professor Jane Rendell**
- 8. Dr Martin Fry**
- 9. Ms Martha Robinson**
- 10. A representative selected by the Academic Board Non-professorial Group**
- 11. Professor Susanne Kord**
- 12. A representative supplied by the Senior Management Team**

**plus:**

**Persons to be coopted as (non-voting) advisors to the Working Group**

- 13. Dr Nicola Contouris**
- 14. A representative supplied by UCU**
- 15. A representative supplied by Unison**
- 16. A representative supplied by Unite**

JASON CLARKE

Secretary to Academic Board

ii/2013

[telephone 020 7679 8594; internal extension 28594; e-mail – [jason.clarke@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:jason.clarke@ucl.ac.uk)]