



COUNCIL

Monday 1 October 2012

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Sir Stephen Wall (*Chair*)

Professor David Attwell	Mr Ven Balakrishnan
Dr Bob Barber	Lord Clement-Jones
Mr Edwin Clifford-Coupe	Ms Philippa Foster Back
Ms Natasha Gorodnitski	Professor Malcolm Grant
Mr Mark Knight	<i>(President and Provost)</i>
Mr Simon Melliss (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Ms Vivienne Parry (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)
Ms Katharine Roseveare	Dr Gill Samuels
Dr Stephanie Schorge	Dr Sarah Snyder
Professor Chris Thompson	Professor Nick Tyler
Baroness Warwick	Professor Maria Wyke

In attendance: Mr Andrew Grainger (Director of UCL Estates) [for Minute 8]; Mr Phil Harding (Director of Finance and Business Affairs); Mr Rex Knight (Vice-Provost (Operations)); Mr Nick McGhee (Assistant Secretary to Council); Mr Tim Perry (Secretary to Council); Mr Mark Sudbury (Director of Communications) [for Minute 8].

No apologies for absence were received.

Key to abbreviations used in these Minutes:

DARO	Development and Alumni Relations Office
EPSRC	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
HE	Higher Education
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HEI	Higher Education Institution
MRC	Medical Research Council
REF	Research Excellence Framework
SLMS	School of Life and Medical Sciences
SMT	(Provost's) Senior Management Team
UoA	Unit of Assessment
USS	Universities Superannuation Scheme

Preliminary Formal Business

1 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Received

- 1.1 APPENDIX C 1/01 (12-13) – a note by the Secretary on changes to the procedure for declaration of interests by members of Council.

Noted

- 1.2 Any member of Council who had (or who knew of a family member who had) a material, personal, financial or other beneficial interest in any item on the Agenda was requested to declare that interest at the beginning of the meeting in order that such declaration could be recorded in these Minutes. No such interests were declared.

2 COUNCIL – TERMS OF REFERENCE, CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP 2012-13, STANDING ORDERS

Received

- 2.1 APPENDIX C 1/02 (12-13) – Council's terms of reference, constitution and membership for the session 2012-13, and a note by the Secretary on Council Standing Orders.

3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Received

- 3.1 APPENDIX C 1/03 (12-13) – a note by the Secretary on the role and responsibilities of members of Council.

4 MINUTES

Approved

- 4.1 The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 July 2012 [*Council Minutes 80-103, 2011-12*] were confirmed by Council and signed by the Chair.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5A Timetable for Statute 18 reform

Received

- 5A.1 APPENDIX C 1/04 (12-13) – a note confirming the proposed timetable for Academic Board / Council consideration of proposed amendments to Statute 18.

Matters for discussion

6 VICE-PROVOST (RESEARCH) REPORT

[Council Minute 20, 2011-12]

Received

- 6.1 APPENDIX C 1/05 (12-13) – a report by Professor David Price, Vice-Provost (Research).

Reported

- 6.2 UCL's research grant income continued to rise despite the challenging economic environment, with both application rates and new awards reaching an all-time high in recent months. The continued growth in the numbers of UCL's contract research staff and research students, while gratifying, was also increasing the pressure on space.
- 6.3 Professor Price drew attention to UCL's relative dependence on four major funding bodies (MRC, Wellcome Trust, EPSRC and, increasingly, the European Commission). Research income from charitable sources had increased significantly in 2011, however, following a period of stagnation resulting largely from concerns about the recovery of overheads on charitable research. Industrial income had also risen steadily in recent years, in contrast to that of a number of UCL's major competitors. Further growth in this area was anticipated, driven by the industrial funding strategy put in place by the Vice-Provost (Enterprise).

Discussion

- 6.4 Work had started on the development of impact case studies for REF 2014, assisted by internal funding for editorial and evidence-gathering support. UCL had already taken part in a HEFCE pilot scheme in this area.
- 6.5 The staff selection process for the REF, including the consideration of cases of special circumstances submitted by individual staff, was underway but not yet complete. It was therefore not possible at this stage to provide equality and diversity data.
- 6.6 It was suggested that the structure of the data on SLMS faculty income in section 3.2 of the report was affected by staff transfers resulting from the recent restructuring of SLMS.
- 6.7 While UCL supported the principle of open access to research publications, Professor Price drew attention to problems with the 'gold' open access approach favoured by the Coalition Government. UCL's concerns in this area were shared by other Russell Group members. A unilateral adoption of this approach by the UK would involve an estimated annual cost of £250m to the UK HE sector in order to satisfy

the requirement to make research freely available, without yielding any reciprocal benefits in the cost of journal subscriptions if the rest of the world were not to follow suit. The level of compensation envisaged was far from sufficient to offset this expense. 'Green' open access therefore remained UCL's preferred model.

- 6.8 Professor Price held regular meetings with the Director of Development and Alumni Relations to discuss such matters as the strategy for particular research areas, the Grand Challenges, and the development of a portfolio of specific projects available for funding. DARO had provided funding for a number of small projects relating to the Grand Challenges, which were then fed back as examples of the potential impact of philanthropic funding.
- 6.9 The need for a more unified postgraduate research recruitment strategy was noted. UCL's scholarship provision, in particular the disconnect between marketing activities and scholarship programmes, was currently being reviewed in light of significant overseas competition. The potential for a significant philanthropic impact in this area was noted.
- 6.10 Council thanked Professor Price for an excellent report which should serve as a model for others in UCL by analysing weaknesses as well as strengths and by showing how weaknesses were being addressed.

7 FINANCIAL UPDATE

Received

- 7.1 APPENDIX C 1/06 (12-13) – the Financial Update (October 2012).

Reported

- 7.2 The provisional results showed a surplus of £24.2m on a turnover of £856m, both higher than forecast. A full report and commentary would be presented to the Council meeting of 28 November.

Discussion

- 7.3 Council noted that the £24.2m 'surplus' figure represented a vital contribution towards a very extensive capital investment programme, as well as acting as insurance against unforeseen calls on cash reserves. The funding councils' expectation that HEIs achieve a 3% surplus was no longer in place, but against the background of a significant contraction in the HEFCE capital funding stream it was nevertheless essential to budget for a surplus. It was suggested that, as neither the true costs of maintaining the estate nor UCL's share of potential liabilities in respect of the USS pension scheme were included on UCL's balance sheet, any such surplus should be regarded with caution. It was further suggested, and agreed, that, while HEIs were required to present their financial statements in a prescribed form, the way in which financial information was presented to Council and Finance Committee should be reviewed in the interest of greater accessibility.

8 NEW CAMPUS UPDATE

Received

- 8.1 APPENDIX C 1/07 (12-13) – a note by Andrew Grainger, Director of UCL Estates.
- 8.2 A number of letters from residents of the Carpenters Estate had been received by the Council Secretary and circulated to members of Council in advance of the meeting.

Reported

- 8.3 Work over the summer had focussed on sharing UCL's vision for the site with Newham Council and progressing commercial negotiations. A series of meetings had been held with residents, most recently a public meeting on 24 September. Work would now commence on the development of partnership principles. Following a Newham cabinet meeting on 25 October it was hoped that discussions could proceed towards agreement of Heads of Terms at a subsequent cabinet meeting in December. On the basis of this timetable, a draft of the proposed Heads of Terms was expected to be submitted to the Finance Committee and Council meetings on 26 and 28 November 2012 respectively.

Discussion

- 8.4 The decision to redevelop the site had been taken by Newham Council in 2010. Although the redevelopment would doubtless have proceeded with an alternative partner if UCL had not become involved, Council nevertheless acknowledged a moral obligation to satisfy itself that the relocation arrangements offered to residents were satisfactory.
- 8.5 It was suggested that UCL should make a clear statement of how its vision for the site was expected to benefit the local community, for example in respect of long-term skilled employment, health, volunteering and outreach. It was also recognised, however, that residents were understandably concerned with fair value and the maintenance of community links rather than with the nuances of UCL's vision.
- 8.6 Council members were keen to see a more detailed vision for the site. A project plan was now being put together and consultation with faculties would then begin. It was suggested that there was a need to encourage the academic community to view the project as an opportunity to think at a fundamental level about what a university is and does, rather than seeing it primarily as an opportunity for academic expansion. It was anticipated that a master planner would not be appointed until the end of January 2013, and that the project was at least a year away from any legal commitment.
- 8.7 After further discussion Council approved an amendment to the press statement which had been agreed in July 2012.

- 8.8 The Provost was minded to arrange a meeting for Council members with the Mayor of Newham.
- 8.9 It was agreed that, in liaison with the Director of Estates, the Chair would respond to the letters from residents on behalf of Council¹.

Matters for approval or information

9 REGULATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT: AMENDMENT

Received

- 9.1 APPENDIX C 1/09 (12-13) – a note by the Secretary to Council, introducing proposed amendments to UCL Regulations for Management.

RESOLVED

- 9.2 **That the amendments to Regulation for Management as set out in the Secretary's note at APPENDIX C 1/09 (12-13) be approved.**

10 INDEPENDENCE OF CLERKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCIL

[Council Minute 12, 2011-12]

Received

- 10.1 APPENDIX C 1/10 (12-13) – a note by the Chair.

RESOLVED

- 10.2 **That Council confirm its satisfaction with the independence of its clerking arrangements in the period 1 October 2011 – 30 September 2012.**

11 NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12

Received

- 11.1 APPENDIX C 1/11 (12-13) – the annual report of the Nominations Committee for 2011-12.

RESOLVED

- 11.2 **That the Annual Report 2011-12 of the Nominations Committee – APPENDIX C 1/11 (12-13) – be approved.**

¹ The Chair of Council responded to the letters subsequent to the meeting, after consultation with other Council members.

12 REGISTER OF INTERESTS 2012-13

Received

12.1 APPENDIX C 1/12 (12-13) – a note by the Secretary.

Noted

12.2 The Register of Interests had been endorsed by the Provost and approved by the Chair, on behalf of Council.

12.3 The report on UCL's risk management, control and governance arrangements, issued by the HEFCE Audit Service following a visit to UCL in February 2005, recommended that 'To ensure completeness members [of Council] should sign off their own annual declaration [in the Register of Interests] at the first meeting they attend each session'. Members of Council were therefore asked to sign off their entry in the Register during the course of the meeting.

13 USE OF THE UCL SEAL: ANNUAL REPORT

Received

13.1 APPENDIX C 1/13 (12-13) with Annexe 1 – a list of sealings executed in the period 1 October 2011 to 20 September 2012, together with a list of officers authorised to witness the use of the UCL seal.

14 ESTABLISHMENT / DISESTABLISHMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Received

14.1 APPENDIX C 1/14 (12-13) – a note by the Senior Academic Support Officer (Registry and Academic Services) listing standing committees established and dissolved during 2011-12.

15 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL

Received

15.1 APPENDIX C 1/15 (12-13) – a note summarising action taken by the Chair since the last report to Council.

Tim Perry
Secretary to Council (and Director of Registry and Academic Services)
October 2012