



COUNCIL

Wednesday 4 April 2012

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Sir Stephen Wall (*Chair*)

Professor David Attwell
Ms Anne Bulford (*Treasurer*)
Professor Malcolm Grant
(*President and Provost*)
Ms Katharine Roseveare
Dr Gill Samuels
Professor Chris Thompson

Dr Bob Barber
Ms Philippa Foster Back
Mr Mark Knight
Mr Simon Melliss
Dr Benet Salway
Dr Stephanie Schorge
Professor Nick Tyler

In attendance: Professor Steve Caddick (Vice-Provost (Enterprise)); Mr Sam Gaus (UCLU Council); Mr Rex Knight (Vice-Provost (Operations)); Mr Nick McGhee (Assistant Secretary to Council); Mr Tim Perry (Secretary to Council); Mr James Skuse (Democracy and Communications Officer, UCLU); Mrs Alison Woodhams (Director of Finance and Business Affairs); Professor Michael Worton (Vice-Provost (International)).

Apologies for absence were received from: Lord Clement-Jones, Mr Luke Durigan, Mr Rob Holden, Ms Vivienne Parry (*Vice-Chair*), Mr Tim Rees Jones, Baroness Warwick and Professor Maria Wyke.

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.

Key to abbreviations used in these Minutes:

HEI	Higher Education Institution
HEIF	Higher Education Innovation Fund
HR	Human Resources
ISD	Information Systems Division
QR	Quality Research Funding
SMT	(Provost's) Senior Management Team
UCLU	UCL (Students') Union
UoA	Unit of Assessment

Preliminary Formal Business

50 **MINUTES**

Approved

- 50.1 The Minutes of the Council meeting of 1 March 2012 [*Council Minutes 38-49, 2011-12*] were confirmed by Council and signed by the Chair, subject to the amendment of James Skuse's title to 'Democracy and Communications Officer, UCLU'.

51 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Reported

- 51.1 The matters of the Gift Acceptance Policy [*Council Minute 23, 2011-12*] and ISD Governance were carried over to the meeting of 15 May 2012.

Matters for discussion

52 **FINANCIAL UPDATE 2011-12 AND HEFCE GRANT 2012-13**

Received

- 52.1 APPENDIX C 4/44 (11-12) – the financial update 2011-12, with a cash flow forecast for 2011-12 at Annexe 1 and details of the HEFCE grant 2012-13 at Annexe 2.
- 52.2 An oral report from Alison Woodhams, Director of Finance and Business Affairs.

Reported

- 52.3 The forecast showed an overachievement against budget of £1.4m, and it was expected that there would be some further improvement by the end of the year. The update incorporated the School of Pharmacy budget and actuals since January 2012, resulting in an increase in revenue of approximately £12m. An adverse variance was currently forecast in respect of Corporate Support Services, principally due to unbudgeted costs relating to the Stratford development, an agreed overspend on the Smart IT project triggered by extensions to the consultation process, and a scaling down of the forecast of release of deferred capital grants following a review of the fixed asset register. Capital expenditure was currently below budget as several Bloomsbury

Masterplan projects were behind schedule. There had been an improvement in the debtors position, aided by a further substantial payment of approximately £10m of NHS debt received in recent days.

- 52.4 UCL's total HEFCE grant for 2012-13 was £174.3m, down £7.5m (4.1%) on 2011-12. This compared favourably with a fall of 18.8% across the sector and was due to a lower than average fall in the T grant of 14.7% at UCL (against 25% for the sector) and an increase in QR of 2.1% (against a standstill for the sector). The combined grant represented an improvement of £3.8m on the forecast one year ago. UCL's total HEFCE grant had risen from the fifth to the second largest nationally, and in terms of research funding UCL remained in third position behind Oxford and Cambridge.
- 52.5 There had been a number of significant changes to the methodology employed by HEFCE for the calculation of the grant, in addition to the phasing out of the mainstream teaching grant. Funding for students who had entered under the former funding regime would continue at 1% below the 2011 rates.
- 52.6 The cap on student numbers in respect of those achieving A-level grades of AAB+ had been removed. UCL's intake of students with grades below that level was restricted to 580. This allowance would also need to accommodate those applicants whose grades were regarded as AAB+ equivalent by UCL but not by HEFCE.
- 52.7 The formula for calculation of mainstream QR had been adjusted to remove the weighting for 2* activity; the £35m thereby saved nationally had been transferred to increase the funds available to support the cost of UK/EU postgraduate research students, although this funding stream was now restricted to the first three years of each student's period of research study. UCL's mainstream QR was therefore down by £458k, but the share of postgraduate research funding had increased by £3.6m.

Discussion

- 52.8 It was noted that the HEFCE grant, though a very positive result in the national context, was only a one-year settlement. The confirmation of funding to support students in price groups A, B and C was encouraging, as was the uplift in respect of London weighting, but the latter element in particular would continue to be at risk.
- 52.9 The concentration of QR brought about by the removal of weighting for 2* activity had resulted in some HEIs losing up to 40% of their QR funding. Institutions in this position would be obliged to investigate new models of income generation, which were likely to involve an increase in student numbers. This in turn would increase the cost to the Treasury loan book, thereby raising the prospect of the Government seeking to recover costs from other funding streams within the sector.

53 **REFORM OF HR COMMITTEES**

Received

- 53.1 APPENDIX C 4/48 (11-12) – a note on proposed amendments to the HR committees structure.
- 53.2 An oral report from Rex Knight, Vice-Provost (Operations).

Reported

- 53.3 At the meeting on 23 November 2011 Council members had raised several queries regarding the proposals for reform of HR committees [*Council Minute 24.5, 2011-12*], including the future arrangements for consultation with trade union representatives. The revised proposals included the establishment of a Joint Consultative Committee with trade union representation, as well as a number of other amendments made in response to Council's comments at the November 2011 meeting.

Discussion

- 53.4 Mr Gaus noted the reduced number of student members on the proposed Equalities and Diversity Committee, compared with the Committee for Equal Opportunities. He requested that the constitution of the new committee include one of the student sabbatical officers rather than 'one student union nominee'. Mr Knight would draw this point to the attention of the Director of HR.
- 53.5 The revised membership of the HR Policy Committee would consist of the members of the SMT plus the Director of HR, but under the new arrangements the committee would have a formal reporting line to Council.

RESOLVED

- 53.6 **That the amendments to UCL's HR committee structure as set out in the note at APPENDIX C 4/48 (11-12) be approved.**

54 **PROVOST'S BUSINESS**

54A **Doctoral Training Centre in Biochemical Engineering**

Reported

- 54A.1 The Provost reported on the award earlier in the week of a ninth doctoral training centre at UCL, in Biochemical Engineering.

54B **Director of Finance and Business Affairs**

Reported

- 54B.1 Mr Phil Harding, currently Director of Finance at City University, had

been appointed to succeed Alison Woodhams as Director of Finance and Business Affairs, and would take up his post in late June 2012. The Provost thanked Simon Melliss for his help in the recruitment process.

Matters for approval or information
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55 **REGULATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT**

Received

55.1 APPENDIX C 4/51 (11-12) – a note introducing proposed amendments to the UCL Regulations for Management.

RESOLVED

55.2 **That the amendments to Regulation for Management as set out in the note at APPENDIX C 4/51 (11-12) be approved.**

56 **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

[Council Minute 26, 2011-12]

Received

56.1 APPENDIX C 4/52 (11-12) – an update on UCL’s Strategic Risk Register for 2011-12 and the associated Risk Improvement Plans.

Noted

56.2 The Chair commended the improved presentation of the update and the Risk Improvement Plans.

RESOLVED

56.3 **That Council approve the updated Strategic Risk Register for 2011-12 and the Improvement Plans for risks rated ‘intolerable’ or ‘severe’.**

57 **LIBRARY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Received

57.1 APPENDIX C 4/53 (11-12) – the Library Committee annual report 2010-11.

RESOLVED

57.2 **That the Library Committee annual report 2010-11 be approved.**

58 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Received

- 58.1 APPENDIX C 4/54 (11-12) – proposals from Nominations Committee in respect of: the term of appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council; membership of the Audit Committee; and the term of appointment of lay members of the Audit Committee, Nominations Committee and the proposed Remuneration and Strategy Committee.

RESOLVED

- 58.2 **That the proposals of the Nominations Committee as set out in APPENDIX C 4/54 (11-12) be approved.**

59 **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES TO COUNCIL**

Received

- 59.1 APPENDIX C *¹4/55 (11-12) – a list of committee minutes received by Council officers since the last meeting of Council.

60 **CHAIR'S ACTION ON BEHALF OF COUNCIL**

Received

- 60.1 APPENDIX C 4/56 (11-12) – a note summarising action taken by the Chair since the previous meeting of Council.

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

¹ An appendix or annexe reference preceded by an asterisk indicates that, for the sake of economy, the document was not issued with the Agenda but was available on request to the Council Secretary's office and is filed with these Minutes.