



Council

Monday 6 November 2023 at 2:00pm

Council Room, South Wing / via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present Members:

Victor Chu CBE (Chair); Professor David Attwell; Professor Stephanie Bird; Dominic Blakemore; Roger Blundell; Professor Jon Butterworth; Shaban Chaudhary; Phil Clark (Minutes 1 – 14); Tina Harris; Tania Holt (Minutes 1 – 11 & 13 – 29); Dr Sandra Leaton Gray; Mary McHarg; Turlogh O'Brien CBE; Professor Helen Roberts; Lord Sharkey; Dr Michael Spence; Dr Justin Turner KC (Minutes 1 – 7 & 12); Sarah Whitney (Minutes 1 – 8 & 12).

Apologies:

Dr Alun Coker.

In attendance:

Aimie Chapple, Vice-President (Operations)
Charu Gorasia, Chief Financial Officer
Dr Clare Goudy, Chief of Staff, President & Provost's Office
Natasha Lewis, General Counsel
Professor Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost (Faculties) (Minutes 1 – 8 & 12)

For Minutes 1 – 7:

Professor Kathleen Armour, Vice-Provost (Education and Student Experience)
Paul Clark, Vice-President (Strategy)
Donna Dalrymple, Chief People Officer
Angharad Milenkovic, Vice-President (Advancement)
Kirsty Walker, Vice-President (External Engagement)

For Minutes 1 – 7 and 12:

Professor Geraint Rees, Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation & Global Engagement)

For Minute 10:

Helen Bonneville, Director of Property and Asset Management
Ian Dancy, Executive Director of Operations
Tom Porter-Williams, Assistant Director Property and Asset Management
Neil Turvey, Interim Director of Capital Projects
Julie Whetton, Executive Director of Estates Development

For Minute 12:

Katy Bruce, Chief Financial Officer, UCL Business Ltd (UCLB)
Anne Lane, CEO UCLB

For Minute 15

Dr Joanna Carrington, Executive Director of Health and Safety
Dr Patrick Ward, Interim Executive Director of Health and Safety

Officers:

Edward Hossack, Assistant Secretary to Council
David Pacey, University Secretary
Olivia Whiteley, Governance Officer

Part I: Preliminary Business

1. Welcome to new members of Council

1.1. Professor David Attwell, Roger Blundell, Shaban Chaudhary, Dr Sandra Leaton Gray and Mary McHarg were welcomed to Council at its first meeting of the academic year.

2. Operation of the meeting

2.1. The meeting was held in a hybrid format. Some members of Council participated by video conference and some attended together face to face, using tools that enabled all members to see and hear each other simultaneously. It was noted that a quorum was achieved by all those Council members who attended the hybrid meeting.

2.2. While some items on the agenda were considered based on the availability of individual Council members at the meeting, the minutes reflect the order of the agenda.

3. Declaration of Interests

3.1. The Chair of Council invited Council members to declare any new interests they may have or any interests they had in the items being considered at the meeting. The following interests were declared:

- a. In respect of Minute 12, Dr Justin Turner declared an interest as a Director of UCLB.
- b. In respect of Minute 12 Lord Sharkey declared an interest as Chair of Specialised Healthcare Alliance.
- c. Roger Blundell declared an interest in respect of Minute 16 (appointment of Treasurer) and Minute 21 (confidential and disclosed to the Chair).

- d. In respect of Minute 21 the interest of members of Nominations Committee in any decision concerning their appointment to Council's standing committees and their sub-committees was noted.
- e. Phil Clark declared an interest in respect of Minute 21 (confidential and disclosed to the Chair).

4. Minutes of the last meeting (1-01)

- 4.1. Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023. Dominic Blakemore noted that congratulations were due to Victor Chu for his reappointment as appointed Member of Council and Chair as approved by Council at the meeting on 13 July 2023.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

- 5.1. No matters arising were identified.

Part II: Strategic Items for Discussion

6. Confidential: NSS, APS, TEF, Graduate Outcomes Survey and Education Excellence Statement (1-02)

- 6.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 6.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 6.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

7. Year in review and year in preview (1-03)

- 7.1. Dr Michael Spence, President and Provost, introduced the year in review and year in preview which set out the projects and actions which his team had committed to progress in the 2023/24 academic year.
- 7.2. The following points were raised in the presentation:
 - a. The President and Provost noted that disciplinary procedures reform was to be considered holistically, with stakeholders from across the University included and represented in the working group established by UMC. A wholesale review of Statute 18 was not proposed, although the reform could necessitate some amendments to Statute 18.
 - b. The work required to address disability across the University was acknowledged as part of a review of Equality, Inclusion and Diversity (EDI).

- c. The establishment of a data framework to inform academic planning for shape, and the measurement of financial sustainability of teaching and research would be further considered by UMC.
- d. The President and Provost informed Council that a review of professional services functions across the University was underway: the proposed next steps would be brought to Council in due course.

7.3. The following points were raised in discussion:

- a. The President and Provost confirmed to Council that legal employment advice was to be sought as part of the disciplinary procedures reform.
- b. Council noted the need for clarity that the impetus for any review of EDI was to be as driven by the institution, not as a result of any external pressure to do so.
- c. It was noted by Council that work on strategy would need to be holistic with a focus on excellence of standards as well as growth.
- d. Giving context to the Student Life Strategy, Council noted the benefit of student experience in some territories, notably the United States of America and Australia.
- e. Council agreed that the development of the strategic plan was at a point where the best outcome would be achieved through advice provided by Council on priorities identified within the strategy, rather than involvement in informing the strategy. It was agreed that a small number of strategic priorities would be identified to be considered by Council in depth at future meetings.

7.4. Council noted the year in review and discussed the year in preview.

8. Provost's Report to Council (1-04)

8.1. Dr Michael Spence, President and Provost, introduced the Provost's Report to Council.

8.2. The following points were raised in the presentation:

- a. The President and Provost informed Council that the result of the latest UCU vote had not resulted in strike action or a marking and assessment boycott.
- b. The challenge to address salaries was acknowledged, particularly in line with other London universities and institutions.

8.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

8.4. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

8.5. Council received the Provost's Report to Council.

9. Confidential: Financial performance 2022/23 (1-05)

9.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

9.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

9.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

10. Confidential: Dr Williams's Library and Henry Morley Building acquisition proposal (1-06)

10.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

10.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

10.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

10.4. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

10.5. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

11. SU UCL 130th anniversary update

11.1. Shaban Chaudhary, Education Officer, Students' Union UCL, and Mary McHarg, Union Affairs Officer, Students' Union UCL, presented an oral update on the SU UCL's 130th anniversary.

11.2. During discussion the following points were raised:

a. Council noted the national and international engagement of SU UCL.

b. Events had been held on 18 October 2023 to mark the anniversary.

Thanks were noted to the Chair of Council for providing the foreword to a book *Students' Union UCL: A Short History* and a message provided as part of the celebrations.

c. The Education Officer, Students' Union UCL and Union Affairs Officer, Students' Union UCL outlined the SU UCL's objectives of 'effective influence, amazing experience, vibrant and inclusive community, and excellent union' and drew Council's attention to progress in the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan 'Student Life Strategy'.

d. Council was informed that a feasibility study for a new home for the Students' Union would be considered by Estates Committee (as a specific and focused part of the Estates Strategy) to be considered by Council in due course. Thanks were expressed to Ian Dancy, Executive Director of Operations and Julie Whetton, Executive Director of Estates Development for their involvement.

e. The Provost acknowledged the strength of UCL's student leadership.

11.3. Council received the Students' Union UCL 130th anniversary update.

12. Confidential: Project Reign (1-07)

12.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

12.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

12.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

13. Confidential: Committee Reports

13.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

13.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

14. UCLB update report

14.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

15. Workplace Health and Safety Report (1-08)

15.1. Dr Patrick Ward, Interim Executive Director of Health and Safety presented the Workplace Health and Safety Report for May 2023.

15.2. The following points were made in the presentation and discussion:

- a. Dr Joanna Carrington was introduced to Council as UCL's new Executive Director of Health and Safety.
- b. Council was informed that the Work Health and Safety Committee Annual report was shortly to be considered by UMC and would be presented to Council at its next meeting in December.
- c. Safety Services assurance conducted had included a focus on high power laser advisory visits.
- d. Responding to a question from Council about timeliness of reporting, Dr Ward noted that this was a focus for UMC. The need to emphasise this with Heads of Department was acknowledged.
- e. Thanks were noted to Dr Ward for his service as Interim Executive Director of Health and Safety.

15.3. Council received the Workplace Health and Safety Report.

Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information

16. Appointment of Treasurer (1-09)

- 16.1. Council appointed Roger Blundell under Statute 4(3) as Treasurer from 1 January 2024 for the duration of his current term as appointed member of Council (due to end on 30 September 2026).

17. Confidential: Appointed Council Member Vacancy and Appointment of Senior Appointed Officer (1-10)

- 17.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 17.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

18. Amendment to Regulation for Management 4.6 (1-11)

- 18.1. Council approved the proposed amendments, on the recommendation of the Audit Committee, to Regulation for Management 4.6 concerning the Audit Committee Terms of Reference.

19. Amendment to Regulation for Management 4.9 (1-12)

- 19.1. Council approved the proposed amendments to Regulation for Management 4.9 concerning the membership and Terms of Reference of the Nominations Committee.

20. Amendment to Regulation for Management 5.9 (1-13)

- 20.1. Council approved the proposed amendments to Regulation for Management 5.9.

21. Confidential: Nominations Committee recommendations (1-14)

- 21.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

22. Confidential: Appointment to Nominations Committee (1-15)

- 22.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

23. Prevent Monitoring: Accountability and Data Return 2023 (1-16)

- 23.1. Council noted the Prevent Accountability information provided, and approved that the Chair of Council be authorised to approve and sign the final version of the Prevent Accountability Declaration and any other documents to satisfy the requirement of the OfS for and on behalf of UCL.

24. Confidential: Acceptance of donation and legacy policy (1-17)

24.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

25. Upcoming events in 2023-24 (1-18)

25.1. Council noted the list of upcoming events in 2023/24, and that it was anticipated that this would continue to be updated throughout the year.

26. To Receive the Following Reports:

Register of Interests (1-19)

26.1. Council noted the current Register of Interests for members of Council and attendees at Council meetings for the period 1 October 2023 – 30 September 2024.

OfS Standing Report (1-20)

26.2. Council received the OfS Standing Report.

Confidential: Chair's Action report (1-21)

26.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

26.4. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

26.5. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

Confidential: UCL Seal Report (1-22)

26.6. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

Suspension and Exclusion of Students 2022-23 (1-23)

26.7. Council noted the report on the number of students suspended and/or excluded from UCL in the academic year 2022-23, in accordance with Statute 11(3).

Confidential: Current Litigation Summary (1-24)

26.8. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

27. To Receive the Following Paper:

Terms of Reference, Constitution and Membership (1-25)

27.1. Council noted the Council Terms of Reference, Constitution and Membership for 2023/24.

28. To Receive the Following Committee Minutes:

Audit Committee Confirmed Minutes, 23 June 2023 (1-26)

28.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

Finance Committee Confirmed Minutes, 18 July 2023 (1-27)

28.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

Finance Committee Confirmed Minutes, 15 August 2023 (1-28)

28.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

Finance Committee Confirmed Minutes, 11 September 2023 (1-29)

28.4. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

Audit Committee Unconfirmed Minutes, 19 October 2023 (1-30)

28.5. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

29. Date of the Next Meeting

29.1. The date of the next meeting of Council would be 11 December 2023.

Edward Hossack, Assistant Secretary to Council
November 2023