



Council

Thursday 9 July 2020, 2:00pm

Video-Conferencing Meeting conducted via Zoom

Minutes

Present Members:

Professor Michael Arthur; Mr Minto Bhandari; Mr Victor Chu CBE (Chair); Professor Lucie Clapp; Dr Alun Coker; Professor Annette Dolphin; Dr Andrew Gould; Professor Patrick Haggard; Ms Lindsay Nicholson MBE; Mr Turloch O'Brien CBE; Ms Caroline Paige; Professor Hynek Pikhart; Professor Helen Roberts; Lord Sharkey; Ms Ashley Slanina-Davies; Mr Philip Sturrock MBE; Mr Justin Turner QC; Baroness Valentine; Ms Sarah Whitney.

Observers:

Mr Ayman Benmati
Dr Martin Fry
Professor Ralf Schoepfer

Attendees:

For Minutes 112-136: Dame Nicola Brewer, Vice-Provost (International)
For Minutes 112-136: Dr Celia Caulcott, Vice-Provost (Enterprise)
For Minutes 112-136: Mr Phil Harding, Director of Finance and Business Affairs
For Minutes 112-136: Professor David Lomas, Vice-Provost (Health)
For Minutes 112-136: Professor David Price, Vice-Provost (Research)
For Minutes 112-136: Ms Fiona Ryland, Chief Operating Officer
For Minutes 112-136: Professor Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs)
For Minute 121: Mr Tom Rowson, TOPS Programme Director
For Minute 121: Ms Kay Whittaker, TOPS Delivery Director
For Minute 122: Mr Kevin Argent, Director of Estates Development
For Minute 122: Professor Stephen Porter, Director of Eastman Dental Institute
For Minutes 122-124: Ms Francesca Fryer, Director of Estates Operations
For Minute 123: Mr David Fettes, Fettes Real Estate Advisors Ltd
For Minute 123: Professor Paola Lettieri, Academic Director for UCL East
For Minute 123: Ms Helen Fisher, UCL Operations Lead
For Minute 124: Mr Duncan Palmer, Director of Campus and Accommodation Services
For Minute 124: Mr Matthew Keenan, Senior Procurement Manager

Apologies:

Mr Dominic Blakemore

Officer(s):

Ms Wendy Appleby, Secretary to Council

Ms Anne Marie O'Mullane, Assistant Secretary to Council

Ms Olivia Whiteley, Governance Officer

Part I: Preliminary Business

112. Welcome

112.1. The Chair set out the protocols for the operation of the meeting via Zoom. As members of Council could see and hear each other simultaneously and the meeting was quorate, the Council meeting was validly constituted as permitted by Charity Commission guidance.¹

112.2. Mr Ayman Benmati, Dr Martin Fry and Professor Ralf Schoepfer were welcomed as observers to the meeting. Mr Benmati would be joining Council on the 16 July 2020 as a student member of Council. Professor Ralf Schoepfer and Dr Martin Fry would be joining Council on the 1 October 2020 as an elected professorial member of Council and an elected non-professorial member of Council respectively.

113. Vote of Thanks to outgoing members of Council

113.1. Council expressed its sincere thanks to Professor Patrick Haggard, Professor Hynek Pikhart and Ms Ashley Slanina-Davies for their contributions to Council and Council committees during their period of appointment.

114. Moment of Reflection

114.1. Council observed a minute's silence for those impacted by the loss of loved ones and for those who have lost their lives due to Covid-19.

114.2. Council extended its sincerest sympathy to the families of UCL staff and students who had lost their lives to Covid-19 as well as to members of our community who had experienced the loss of family and friends due to Covid-19.

¹ Guidance, Charities and Meetings (Charity Commission England and Wales)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-and-meetings-cc48/charities-and-meetings#the-definition-and-forms-of-a-meeting>

115. Declaration of Interests

115.1. No interests were declared.

116. Minutes from the last meeting (6-89)

116.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

Part II: Strategic Items for Discussion

117. Provost's Business

117.1. The Provost reported on key developments since the last meeting of Council:

It's All Academic Campaign

- a. The UCL It's All Academic Campaign had exceeded the ambitious targets of £600m and 250,000 volunteer hours. The campaign had reached £603m and logged 263,000 hours.
- b. Council congratulated all those involved for this exceptional team effort and particularly recognised the phenomenal contribution to this achievement of Ms Lori Houlihan.

Open Days

- c. The approach to Open Days had been changed to an online methodology. Last week there were six days of open day activities which attracted 43,000 page views and 8,800 unique attendees. There were 200 events organised by the academic community. Council congratulated all those involved in supporting this activity, particularly Communications and Marketing who co-ordinated the Open Days.

Student Recruitment & Acceptances

- d. Undergraduate acceptances had increased 41.5% since last year. Postgraduate acceptances had increased 51.5% since last year. Modelling of conversion rates indicated a 6,313 undergraduate intake, 408 above the undergraduate target. Modelling the conversion rate for the postgraduate intake was more difficult with the lower model indicating an intake of 4,000 below the target, the higher model indicating 2,800 above the target and the middle model indicating 935 below the target. Budgets would be reset when actual figures were known as PGT recruitment might also be impacted by geopolitical issues as well as the pandemic.

Accommodation Figures

- e. Bookings for student accommodation were up 2.5% on where they were at this point last year, which was a positive indicator of intention to study at UCL.

Research and Innovation

- f. There had been £494m received in research grant funding this year. In comparison, £492m had been received in research grant funding at this point last year.
- g. UCL spin-out companies had attracted more investment than any other UK universities with £597m invested to date. Council congratulated all involved including the researchers, Vice-Provost (Enterprise), her team, and UCLB.

Government Support

- h. The Director of Finance and Business Affairs provided an update on the recent announcement about support for research. The total value of support available was the level of loss of international fee income relative to the amount achieved in 2018/19 of non-public funded research income. This was estimated to be £86m and would be split between 25% grant and 75% loans. Grant funding would be in the form of extensions to UKRI grants; it was estimated the value would be £11m. There was a requirement of delivering an adequate level of efficiencies and grant funding would only be awarded if loans were taken at the same time.

USS update

- i. A consultation was currently underway in relation to the current valuation process. USS were consulting on measures designed to support their assessment of the covenant strength of employers in the scheme. They were proposing two measures, one on debt monitoring and pari passu security and one on employer participation. The latter measure would result in a permanent rule change that would leave it to the discretion of the Trustee to approve requests from employers to withdraw from the scheme.
- j. The Trustee would confirm the outcome of the valuation in October 2020, including their assessment of the strength of the covenant and would set the 'price' in terms of the total contribution requirement for existing benefits. It was expected that this would result in increased contributions despite the best efforts of the Joint Evaluation Panel and the University and College Union methodology.

Schedule of re-opening campus

- k. Campus was on schedule to be reopened for the beginning of September with 25% of staff and students on campus at any one time.

- l. In response to a question on whether students and staff would be screened for Covid-19, the Provost advised that the cost associated with testing was still too prohibitively high but the matter was kept under constant review. The approach being taken was to observe the two metre social distancing rule and wearing personal protective equipment where necessary.
- m. In response to a query on whether masks were mandatory on campus, the Provost advised that he would check that communications were clear on this matter.

Vice-Provost International

- n. Dame Nicola Brewer would be stepping down from her role as Vice-Provost (International) at the end of July after six and a half years at UCL to pursue a portfolio career.
- o. Council thanked Dame Nicola for her outstanding contribution which included the establishment of the Global Engagement Office, the Global Engagement Strategy and a number of strategic partnerships including Peking University and University of Toronto.

Appointment of interim Vice-Provost (International and Advancement)

- p. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- q. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

118. Confidential: Liquidity Support – Covid Corporate Financing Facility Governance (6-90)

- 118.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 118.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 118.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

119. Confidential: Forecast 2 and Budget 2020/21 (6-91)

- 119.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 119.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 119.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

120. Confidential: Governance Working Group (6-92)

120.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

120.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

120.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

121. Confidential: Transforming Our Professional Services (Portfolio) Update and Investment Request (6-93)

121.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

121.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

122. Confidential: EDI and UCLMS Co-Location Project: Additional Budget Request (6-94)

122.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

122.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

122.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

123. Confidential: UCL East Facilities Management Solution (6-95)

123.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

123.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

123.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

124. Confidential: UCL Catering Contracts (6-96)

124.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

124.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

124.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information

125. Confidential: Nominations Committee Recommendation (6-97)

125.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

126. Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee Recommendation for UCL Honorary Medal (6-98)

126.1. Council approved, on the recommendation of Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, the procedure of the award of UCL Honorary Medals.

127. Terms of Reference of Committees and Sub-Committees of Council (6-99)

127.1. Council received the terms of reference and constitutions of Council committees and sub-committees.

127.2. Council approved the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, Remuneration and Human Resources Strategy Committee and Nominations Committee.

127.3. Council approved the proposed amendments to the constitution of Nominations Committee.

127.4. The matter of student representation on Remuneration and Human Resources Strategy Committee would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

128. Changes to the Regulations for Management (6-100)

128.1. Council approved the amendments to the Regulations for Management with effect from 1 August 2020 subject to the following minor changes being made to regulations 9.3 and 9.16 with the insertion of a comma after “achievement” in 9.3 and insertion of a forward slash between “and” and “or” in 9.16.

129. Students’ Union UCL Annual Impact Report 2019/20 (6-101)

129.1. Council received the Students’ Union UCL Annual Impact Report, and in particular noted the significant progress that the Students’ Union had made over the past year, including:

- increasing its impact for students and its effective response to the Coronavirus pandemic, and
- the effective partnership that it had developed with UCL that enabled increased student input into decision making at all levels across the university.

129.2. Council congratulated the Students’ Union UCL on their efforts.

130. Confidential: Report on how the 2015-20 Global Engagement Strategy has contributed to Principal Theme 6 of UCL 2034 (6-102)

130.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

131. Confidential: COVID-19 Strategic Risk Register (6-103)

131.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

132. BEAMS Annual Report (6-104)

132.1. Council received the annual report from School of BEAMS comprising of The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, The Faculty of Engineering Sciences (FES) and the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MAPS).

132.2. Council congratulated BEAMS on their efforts and the quality of the report. Engineering were particularly congratulated for their communications to students during the pandemic.

133. OfS Reportable Events (6-105)

133.1. Council received a report on the continued approach to oversee UCL's compliance with the OfS Regulatory Framework, on UCL's compliance, including the Reportable Events that have been reported since the last Council meeting in June 2020, information that has been requested by the OfS as part of their continued monitoring of the ongoing conditions of registration for UCL and information on the OfS approach to Covid-19 and UCL's compliance with their guidance.

134. Confidential: Minutes of Audit Committee (6-106)

134.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

135. Council Meeting Dates (6-107)

135.1. Council received the Council meeting dates for 2020/21:

- Monday 19 October 2020, 14:30-18:30;
- Monday 23 November 2020, 14:30-18:30;
- Thursday 18 February 2021, 14:30-18:30;
- Council Meeting and Away Day, Thursday 29 April 2021, 9:30-17:30;
- Monday 14 June 2021, 14:30-18:30; and
- Council Meeting and Dinner, Thursday 8 July 2021, 14:30-18:30.

136. Date of the Next Meeting

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136.1. The next meeting of Council was due to take place on Monday 19th October 2020 at 2:30pm. The next meeting would be held virtually should social distancing measures continue.

Wendy Appleby, Secretary to Council
July 2020