



Council

Thursday 13 July 2023 at 2:00pm

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present Members:

Victor Chu CBE (present and Chair for Minutes 118-129 and present and Chair for Minutes 131-142); Hamza Ahmed; Deniz Akinci; Professor Stephanie Bird; Dominic Blakemore (present and Chair for Minute 130); Professor Jon Butterworth; Dr Alun Coker; Dr Martin Fry; Tania Holt; Lindsay Nicholson MBE; Turlogh O'Brien CBE; Christine Ohuruogu MBE; Professor Helen Roberts; Professor Ralf Schoepfer; Dr Michael Spence; Dr Justin Turner KC; Sarah Whitney (for Minutes 123-142).

Apologies:

Aimie Chapple; Phil Clark; Tina Harris; Lord Sharkey.

In attendance:

Natasha Lewis, General Counsel

For Minutes 118-129 and 131-142: Roger Blundell; Charu Gorasia, Chief Financial Officer; Dr Clare Goudy, Chief of Staff; Dr Sandra Leaton Gray; Mary McHarg.

For Minutes 123-129 and 131-142: Professor Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost (Faculties).

For Minute 124: Paul Clark, Vice-President (Strategy).

For Minute 126: Clare Foyle, Strategy Delivery Account Manager, Office of the Vice-President (Strategy).

For Minute 127: Dr Patrick Ward, Interim Executive Director of Health and Safety; Max Hill, Director of Workplace Health.

For Minute 128: Adrien Cooper, Director of Campus Infrastructure and Operations; Ian Dancy, Executive Director of Operations.

For Minute 129: Professor Kathy Armour, Vice-Provost (Education and Student Experience); Donna Dalrymple, Chief People Officer; Zak Liddell, Director of Education Services, Student and Registry Services.

Officers:

Edward Hossack, Assistant Secretary to Council

David Pacey, University Secretary

For Minutes (118-129 and 131-142): Olivia Whiteley, Governance Officer

Part I: Preliminary Business

118. Welcome and Vote of Thanks to outgoing members of Council

118.1. Council expressed its sincere thanks to Hamza Ahmed, Deniz Akinci, Lindsay Nicholson MBE, Professor Ralf Schoepfer and Dr Martin Fry for their contributions to Council and Committees during their terms as members of Council.

119. Operation of the meeting

119.1. The meeting took place online via Microsoft Teams.

119.2. While some items on the agenda were considered based on the availability of Dominic Blakemore to join the meeting and chair Minute 130, the minutes reflect the order of the agenda.

120. Declaration of Interests

120.1. 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.

120.2. In respect of Minute 129, Dr Alun Coker declared an interest as an officer of UCL UCU. In respect of Minute 129 Professor Helen Roberts, Dr Martin Fry and Professor Ralf Schoepfer declared their interest as members of UCL UCU. Victor Chu CBE declared an interest in respect of Minute 130 as it related to his reappointment as an appointed member and Chair of Council.

121. Minutes of the last meeting (7-01)

121.1. Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2023 subject to the following change being made:

a. Minute 104.2.a.: replace “by 133%” with “from 11% to 13%”.

122. Matters arising from the minutes

122.1. No matters arising were identified.

Part II: Strategic Items for Discussion

123. Provost's Report to Council (7-02)

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

123.2. The following points were raised in discussion:

- a. The Provost agreed to confirm whether the voluntary resignation scheme offered to UCL security staff was on equivalent terms to that offered to UCL employees.
- b. A member of Council stated that they had been receiving email correspondence of concern directly from the Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain in connection with the transformation of UCL's security services: the Provost agreed to investigate with Security.
- c. The Provost informed Council that a joint statement was due to be received from Unison and Bidvest Noonan in connection with the transformation of security services which would be shared with Council.
- d. Council noted that the context of any branding changes as an outcome of the integration of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies would be considered in the context of a wider appraisal of UCL's brand in the approach to bicentenary celebrations.
- e. Responding to a question from Council concerning any increased expenditure connected to the provision of mental health support, the Provost confirmed to Council that staff numbers in Student Services were being increased (23.3 FTE for Disability Mental Health and Wellbeing and 8 FTE in Student Psychological Counselling Services) from the start of the forthcoming academic year.

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

124. Confidential: Strategic Plan Progress Report (7-03)

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.

125. Students' Union UCL Impact Report and Budget 2023/24 (7-04)

125.1. Hamza Ahmed, Education Officer, Students' Union UCL, and Deniz Akinci, Union Affairs Officer, Students' Union UCL, presented the Students' Union UCL Impact Report and Budget 2023/24.

- 125.2. During discussion the following points were raised:
- a. The Chair and Provost both noted the impressive Impact Report, reflecting on the excellence of the Students' Union UCL's leadership and its consideration of competing interests and issues across the University.
 - b. Council noted the opening of UCL East and its proximity to the Olympic Park, and the potential additional opportunities which could be available to enable student participation and excellence. Mary McHarg, incoming Union Affairs Officer, updated Council on the importance of Project Active and plans to expand its impact.
 - c. Council provided positive feedback on the collaboration between the Students' Union UCL and Student Services concerning student welfare and mental health issues and resilience. A member of Council raised the potential benefit of a more explicit articulation of mental health itself as well as activities which have been seen to have beneficial impact.
 - d. A member of Council noted the potential value of engagement on mental health issues at a subject and faculty level.

125.3. Council received the Students' Union UCL Impact Report 2023 and approved the Students' Union UCL Budget 2023-24.

126. Confidential: Strategic Risk Register Report (7-05)

126.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

126.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

126.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

127. Workplace Health and Safety Report (7-06)

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

- 127.2. The following points were made in the presentation and discussion:
- a. The Interim Executive Director of Health and Safety noted that staff and student injury rates had stabilised. Further work was being undertaken concerning the timeframe for incident reporting such as what level of reporting is required and that reporting be made within five working days. Work was underway to consider an 'Inside UCL' app to improve incident reporting. Performance in high hazard departments had improved, and all departments would have an incident plan in place by the end of July.

- b. Since distribution of the Report to Council, the Director of Workplace Health informed Council that funding had been secured to support staff mental health awareness and the work of the Mental Health Feedback group.
- c. Provost reported to Council a recent incident in the School of Pharmacy. As a result a process was underway to investigate notification systems: Council would be provided further information in its next Workplace Health and Safety Report.

127.3. Council noted the Workplace Health and Safety Report.

128. Confidential: Fire Safety Update (7-07)

128.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

128.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

128.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

129. Confidential: Marking and Assessment Boycott

129.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

129.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

129.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

130. Chair of Council: reappointment as appointed member of Council and Chair of Council (7-09)

130.1. The Chair of Council absented himself from the meeting. Vice-Chair of Council Dominic Blakemore acted as meeting chair for this item on the agenda.

130.2. David Pacey, University Secretary, presented the paper, which proposed reappointment of the Chair of Council as an Appointed Member for a third term and Chair of Council for a period of three years from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2027.

130.3. The following points were raised in discussion:

- a. Council noted the Chair of Council's achievements, including support provided to the President and Provost and to Council Committee Chairs, the Chair of Council's advocacy on behalf of the University and the challenges faced by Council since the Chair of Council's appointment (including the pandemic).

- b. Council considered that a review of future reappointment processes would be beneficial as part of any governance effectiveness review following the appointment of David Pacey as University Secretary. The process of providing feedback to the Chair of Council would be included as part of this governance review process overall.
- 130.4. Council approved that Victor Chu CBE be appointed for a third term as an Appointed Member of Council and Chair of Council for a period of three years from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2027.

Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information

131. Confidential: Recommendations of Nominations Committee concerning membership of Council Committees from 1 October 2023 (7-10)

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

132. Reappointment to Nominations Committee (7-11)

- 132.1. Council approved the proposal to re-appoint Professor Helen Roberts to Nominations Committee for a further term from 1 October 2023.

133. Changes to Regulations for Management: addition of academic units as part of UCL Institute of Education (7-12)

- 133.1. Council approved, on the advice of Academic Board, amendment of section 11.1 of the Regulations for Management as set out in Appendix 1 of the paper with effect from 1 August 2023.

134. Changes to Regulations for Management: integration of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSES) as a constituent academic unit of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities (7-13)

- 134.1. Council approved, on the advice of Academic Board, amendment of sections 3.2, 3.3, 11.1 and 11.2 of the Regulations for Management as set out in Appendix 2 of the paper with effect from 1 September 2023.

135. Confidential: Update on Renewal of Wellcome Africa Health Research Institute Grant 2023 (7-14)

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

136. Confidential: May 2023 (P10) Month End Management Accounts (7-15)

136.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

137. SU UCL changes to Articles of Association (7-16)

137.1. Council approved the revised Articles for the Students' Union from 16 July 2023.

138. Confidential: Chadwick Trust – approach to investments (7-17)

138.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

139. To Receive the Following Reports:

OfS Standing Report (7-18)

139.1. Council received the OfS Standing Report.

Confidential: UCL Seal Report (7-19)

139.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

Confidential: Current Litigation Summary (7-20)

139.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

140. To Receive the Following Committee Minutes:

Academic Board Special Meeting Confirmed Minutes, 9 June 2023 (7-21)

140.1. Council received the confirmed minutes of the Special Meeting of Academic Board held on 9 June 2023.

Academic Board Confirmed Minutes, 14 June 2023 (7-22)

140.2. Council received the confirmed minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 14 June 2023.

Audit Committee Unconfirmed Minutes, 23 June 2023 (7-23)

140.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

141. Confidential: UCL Statute 18: Proposed appointment of Tribunal (7-26)

141.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

142. Date of the Next Meeting

142.1. The date of the next meeting of Council would be 6 November 2023.

Edward Hossack, Assistant Secretary to Council
July 2023