



COUNCIL

Tuesday 14 February 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Dame DeAnne Julius (*Chair*)

Professor Michael Arthur
(*President and Provost*)

Professor Lucie Clapp
Professor David Coen

Dr Martin Fry

Mr Simon Melliss

Ms Lindsay Nicholson

Baroness Valentine

Dr Andrew Wills

Mr Ven Balakrishnan

Ms Halima Begum

Lord Clement-Jones

Professor Annette Dolphin

Dr John Hurst

Mr Zakariya Mohran

Mr Philip Sturrock (*Treasurer*)

Baroness Warwick (*Vice-chair*)

In attendance: Ms Wendy Appleby (Secretary to Council); Dame Nicola Brewer (Vice-Provost (International)); Dr Celia Caulcott (Vice-Provost (Enterprise and London)); Mr Philip Harding (Director of Finance and Business Affairs); Mr Rex Knight (Vice-Provost (Operations)); Professor David Lomas (Vice-Provost (Health)); Mr Nick McGhee (Assistant Secretary to Council); Professor David Price (Vice-Provost (Research)).

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr Dominic Blakemore; Dr Andrew Gould; Mrs Lori Houlihan (Vice-Provost (Development)); Ms Nahid Majid; Professor Anthony Smith (Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs)).

Key to abbreviations used in these Minutes:

EPSRC	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
IoE	UCL Institute of Education
NSS	National Student Survey
QS	Quacquarelli Symonds
SLMS	School of Life and Medical Sciences
TEF	Teaching Excellence Framework
UoL	University of London

Preliminary Formal Business

41 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

41.1 No interests were declared.

42 MINUTES

42.1 In respect of Minute 24, it was noted that the CUC Code specified that approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements was reserved to the Governing Body for collective decision without delegation (para. 3.7). The Secretary advised that the procedure followed in respect of the Financial Statements for 2015-16 (discussion of the unaudited statements followed by email consultation on the audited statements and then Chair's action to approve on that basis) was consistent with the CUC guidance in that Council had not delegated it to one of its committees, such as the Finance or Audit Committee.

42.2 **Approved:** the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2016 [*Council Minutes 20-40, 2016-17*] were confirmed by Council and signed by the Chair, subject to the replacement of the word 'improvements' in Minute 27.4 by 'an increase'.

43 MATTERS ARISING

[See Minutes 49 & 50 below]

43.1 The Chair noted that the two external Council vacancies arising in October 2017 had recently been advertised. Council members were encouraged to draw these to the attention of any suitably qualified candidates.

Matters for discussion

44 PROVOST'S BUSINESS

44A Capital programme

44A.1 A number of Council members had toured the recently-opened 22 Gordon Street directly before the meeting. The Provost had recently visited a number of sites around Bloomsbury where significant building work or refurbishment was ongoing: the Wilkins Terrace, the Kathleen Lonsdale Building, the Courtauld Building, Charles Bell House, and Bentham House. All of these projects were scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017.

44B Research successes

44B.1 Since the last meeting of Council, the Wellcome Trust had confirmed the renewal for a further five years of the funding for the Wellcome Centre for Neuroimaging at UCL, as well as the creation of the Wellcome / EPSRC Centre for Surgical

and Interventional Sciences. UCL had also been selected as the hub for the new £250m UK Dementia Research Institute.

44C Queen Square House

44C.1 At a future meeting Council would be invited to consider proposals for the redevelopment of Queen Square House. The Provost had been working with the Dean of the Faculty of Brain Sciences and the Director of the Institute of Neurology over arrangements for the decant of staff necessary for the redevelopment to take place. An external report into arrangements in respect of the P-Block at Clare Hall [*Council Minute 17, 2016-17*] had recently made a number of recommendations, following a review of the views of project licence holders.

44C.2 Council discussed arrangements around the relocation costs associated with the project.

44D Fossil Free UCL

44D.1 The Provost had recently met with representatives of the Fossil Free UCL Campaign, and had received a petition from 2,000 students. The Campaign was not satisfied that the decision to move UCL's investments into a segregated fund mirroring the Sarasin Climate Active Endowment Fund [*Council Minute 78, 2015-16*] adequately allayed their concerns. A meeting was being arranged for the Provost, representatives of the campaign, and colleagues from the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, to discuss the issues.

44E Higher Education Bill

44E.1 The Higher Education Bill was approaching the report stage in the House of Lords. There was some reason to hope that the issues identified concerning university autonomy would be addressed. The Provost and other leaders in the sector had held meetings with the Minister for Universities and Science and there had been some recognition in recent weeks of the view that NSS metrics had been overplayed in the TEF. There was reason to be optimistic that a small number of amendments to the bill would be secured. The appointment of Professor Sir Mark Wolpert as Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation was noted.

44F Brexit

44F.1 The Provost had recently written to all staff and students following the House of Commons' passing of the government bill allowing Article 50 to be triggered, and to draw attention to assurances given in a letter from the Home Secretary, dated 6 February 2017, regarding the future residency rights of EU citizens.

45 UCL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION REPORT

[*PAPER 3-32, 2016-17*]

[*Professor Becky Francis, Director, UCL Institute of Education, was in attendance for this item.*]

45.1 The UCL Institute of Education (IoE) was widely recognised as the international leader in its field, and had been ranked first in Education in the QS World University Rankings for three consecutive years. Professor Francis drew attention to a number of successes since the merger with UCL in December 2014, including: the award of the Queen's Anniversary Prize in 2015; an upturn in

postgraduate applications and international students; winning the tender for provision of 'Teach First' training in London; securing a three-year trainee numbers allocation from the Department for Education; and continued strong performances in student evaluation exercises. Work on the IoE's Estates Masterplan was scheduled to commence in the summer of 2017.

- 45.2 In 2015-16 the IoE had met its contribution targets, but would need to reshape its business to ensure that challenging targets could be met in future years. This would involve a review of the overall balance of the student and staff profile – notably an expansion of the proportion of undergraduate and overseas students – and a rationalisation of postgraduate offerings.
- 45.3 The integration of systems and processes with those of UCL would inevitably take some time, but there was reason to expect that significant progress would be made over the coming 12 months. It was noted that recent discussions over the treatment of discretionary accounts had highlighted the variation in this respect between the IoE and the rest of UCL.

46 **SCHOOL OF LIFE AND MEDICAL SCIENCES REPORT**

[PAPER 3-33, 2016-17]

- 46.1 The Vice-Provost (Health) paid tribute to SLMS staff for the outstanding successes of 2015-16, drawing attention in particular to: a 33% increase in research income over the past three years; overall satisfaction levels of 89% in the NSS; and a central contribution in 2015-16 of £124m, which represented an increase of £26m since 2013/14. The identification of UCL as the hub of the Dementia Research Institute *[see Minute 44B above]* was also noted.
- 46.2 Undergraduate applications for 2017 entry were currently positive, despite a declining picture nationally.
- 46.3 The School's 14 silver and one gold Athena Swan awards were testament to the progress made in gender equality issues in recent years. Professor Lomas' aim was to achieve a silver award across the whole of SLMS. Achieving progress against BME goals was more difficult, although the success of the Athena Swan strategy provided a helpful roadmap for future improvements in this area.
- 46.4 In discussing the complexities and risks around the proposed refurbishment of Queen Square House and the associated decant of staff, it was agreed that an opportunity for Council members to visit the building would be sought.

47 **GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

[PAPER 3-34, 2016-17]

- 47.1 It was not currently possible for an institution to have a University title whilst retaining membership of the University of London (UoL), but this would be changed by the University of London Act. Council noted that other UoL institutions were expected to apply for a University title, and that an increasing number of new entrants to the HE market would also be enabled to secure this status as a result of the HE Bill. It was confirmed that there was no intention of changing UCL's name.

- 47.2 In respect of the proposed amendments to the UoL Statutes, members discussed the arrangements around quoracy rules for meetings and the passing of resolutions by email, noting that these applied to the operation of the UoL only. After a vote in which 14 members were in favour, Council approved the proposed amendments to the UoL Statutes.
- 47.3 Council discussed the suggestion that UCL take the opportunity presented by the UoL Bill and University Title to embark on a more general review of its own Charter and Statutes. It was agreed that the review should focus on modernising and clarifying the UCL constitutional documents, where necessary, rather than undertaking a more fundamental consideration of governance. The Secretary would establish a working group to discuss detailed proposals.
- 47.4 A number of queries were raised about the proposed amendments to the UCL Regulations for Management. It was agreed that these would be brought back to the next meeting of Council.

RESOLVED

- 47.5 **That Council endorse UCL’s embarking on the process for securing a University title;**
- 47.6 **That the proposed amendments to the University of London Statutes should be approved;**
- 47.7 **That the Secretary establish a working group to consider potential light-touch review of the Charter and Statutes, to report to Council in due course.**

48 **CODE OF ETHICAL PRINCIPLES**
[PAPER 3-35, 2016-17]

- 48.1 In agreeing to approve the Code of Ethical Principles, Council members drew attention to the importance of seeking to ensure staff awareness of such processes, and of keeping links to other policies updated.

RESOLVED

- 48.2 **That the Code of Ethical Principles be approved.**

49 **ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY RETURNS: LESSONS LEARNED**
[PAPER 3-37, 2016-17]

- 49.1 It was suggested that UCL should look at revising its annual audit timetable so that results could be supplied to the Audit Committee significantly earlier in the year. The Director of Finance and Business Affairs thanked members of the Audit Committee in particular for their flexibility at what had been a difficult time. Council noted the importance of ensuring appropriate resource to support the completion of the audit process in a timely fashion.
- 49.2 The Secretariat would look again at the previously confirmed meeting date of 29 November 2017 *[Council Minute 75, 2015-16]*.

Matters for approval or information
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50 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

[PAPER 3-38, 2016-17]

50.1 **Received** – proposals from the Nominations Committee.

RESOLVED – *on the recommendation of Nominations Committee*

50.2 **That Ms Nahid Majid, Ms Lindsay Nicholson, Mr Philip Sturrock and Baroness (Jo) Valentine be reappointed as members of Council for a second three-year term with effect from 1 October 2017;**

50.3 **That Ms Sarah Whitney be appointed a member of Council for a term extending from 1 August 2017 to 30 September 2020;**

50.4 **That Mr Dominic Blakemore be appointed Chair of the Audit Committee with effect from 7 April 2017;**

50.5 **That the Terms of Reference of the Nominations Committee be amended as set out in Paper 3-38 (16-17).**

51 **VICE-CHAIR OF COUNCIL**

[PAPER 3-39, 2016-17]

51.1 **Received** – a proposal for the appointment of a successor to Baroness Warwick as Vice-chair of Council.

RESOLVED

51.2 **That Baroness (Jo) Valentine be appointed Vice-Chair of Council with effect from 1 October 2017.**

52 **DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNTS – UPDATE**

[PAPER 3-40, 2016-17]

52.1 **Received** – a note of the proposals made by the Discretionary Accounts Working group, chaired by Professor Annette Dolphin.

53 **RESEARCH INTEGRITY ANNUAL STATEMENT**

[PAPER 3-41, 2016-17]

53.1 **Received** – the Research Integrity annual statement 2015-16.

54 **UCL EQUALITY CHAMPIONS**

[PAPER 3-42, 2016-17]

- 54.1 **Received** – a note on the arrangements for Council and SMT Equality Champions. The Council champions were currently: John Hurst (LGBTQ+); Martin Fry (Disability); Diana Warwick (Gender, to 30.09.17); Annette Dolphin (Gender, from 01.10.17).

55 **MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES**

[PAPER 3-43, 2016-17]

- 55.1 **Received** – a note of minutes of Council committees received since the last report.

56 **ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR**

[PAPER 3-44, 2016-17]

- 56.1 **Received** – a note of action taken by the Chair since the last report.

57 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 57.1 The next meeting was scheduled for 30 March 2017 at 3pm at the Francis Crick Institute.

Wendy Appleby
Secretary to Council
February 2017