



## Council

Thursday 18 June 2020, 2:00pm

Video-Conferencing Meeting conducted via Zoom

### Minutes

#### Present Members:

Professor Michael Arthur; Mr Mintoo 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 Turlogh 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.

#### Apologies:

Mr Dominic Blakemore

#### In attendance:

For Minutes 91-102: Dame Nicola Brewer, Vice-Provost (International)

For Minutes 91-102: Dr Celia Caulcott, Vice-Provost (Enterprise)

For Minutes 91-102: Mr Phil Harding, Director of Finance & Business Affairs

For Minutes 91-102: Professor David Lomas, Vice-Provost (Health)

For Minutes 91-102: Professor David Price, Vice-Provost (Research)

For Minutes 91-102: Ms Fiona Ryland, Chief Operating Officer

For Minutes 91-102: Professor Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost (Education & Student Affairs)

For Minutes 91-97: Dr Matthew Blain, Executive Director of Human Resources

For Minutes 91-97: Mr Matthew Swales, Director of Finance, Services and Reporting

For Minute 99: Ms Anne Lane, Director of UCLB

For Minute 99: Mr Andrew Fineberg, Partner, MTS Partner

For Minute 100: Mr Kevin Argent, Director of Estates Development

#### 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**

### **91. Operation of the Meeting**

91.1. 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<sup>1</sup>.

### **92. Declarations of Interest**

92.1. Dr Andrew Gould declared a new interest due to the establishment of a number of AGP Group businesses:

- Partner, AGP Group, Singapore;
- Director, AGP Sustainable Real Assets Holdings Pte Ltd (Singapore);
- Director, AGP Sustainable Real Assets Ltd (UK);
- Director, AMPYR Energy UK;
- Director, Energy Potential Technology Solutions Ltd.

Dr Gould advised that all of these businesses are involved in the renewable energy sector and none would represent a conflict in relation to his membership of UCL Council.

### **93. Minutes (5-73)**

93.1. Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2020 subject to following amendments being made:

- a. Minute 72.1: Insert “was not defined in” before “UCL Statutes” instead of “permitted by” and a footnote to the relevant Charity Commission guidance on the definition and forms of a meeting.
- b. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- c. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

### **94. Matters Arising**

94.1. There were no matters arising to report.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

## Part II: Strategic Items for Discussion

### 95. Provost's Business

95.1. The Provost reported on key developments since his last report to Council:

#### **Covid-19 – addressing the impact**

- a. Re-opening activity was taking place, primarily focussing on opening laboratories. Plans currently focussed on 15-20% occupancy.
- b. Overall the new online assessment methods had gone well and the week had seen 2300 online exam candidatures.
- c. The Office for Students (OfS) had set an expectation that universities would communicate with applicants in good time to enable them to make their decision by the UCAS deadline of June 18 2020 (the deadline for accepting offers of places on UCL programmes). The OfS asked universities to provide absolute clarity on how next academic year's teaching would be delivered. Decisions had been taken on the Temporary Operating Model for 2020/21 and communications had been made within the required timeline. UCL planned to provide online teaching with face-to-face wherever safely possible.
- d. A consultation was currently underway on the education principles for 2020/21. The consultation was running until 1 July 2020; so far 289 responses had been received. Feedback received by the 12 June 2020 had been circulated to Council members: most questions related to how the planned delivery would be operationalised and how staff would be supported.
- e. Academic Board had an informal engagement event conducted on Teams with SLIDO which allowed attendees to vote on questions. There were challenging questions and the session went well.
- f. An announcement was expected shortly on how the government would support research in the light of the anticipated loss of income from overseas students' fees as cross subsidy from this had previously funded around £2bn research activity in the UK.

#### **Student Recruitment: Acceptances of Offers**

- g. Undergraduate (UG): across all domiciles, acceptances had increased 31% in comparison to 2019. Postgraduate (PG): across all domiciles, acceptances had increased 50.9% in comparison to 2019. For England, UG acceptances had increased 14% in comparison to 2019. However, there were several unknown factors still at play, such as A-level results and the deferral rate.

#### **Accommodation Bookings**

- h. Accommodation bookings for UG were down by 9.7% in comparison to last year. PG accommodation bookings were down by 14.6% in

comparison to last year. Of the UG bookings, 49% were for overseas students and of the PG, 96% were bookings from overseas.

- i. Ensuite accommodation would be offered to students and steps were being taken to ensure affordability for those who needed it most. A Council member raised the need to remember the squeezed middle in the structures being put in place to address affordability.

**Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE)**

- j. Sir Patrick Vallance had written to the President and Provost to advise of the major contribution UCL staff members had made in their capacity as members of SAGE.

**QS World University Rankings 2021**

- k. UCL had fallen two places to tenth position in the QS World League Rankings. Steps would be taken to dissect the reasons for the fall.

95.2. Council:

- a. Received the Provost's update on key developments since the last meeting of Council.
- b. Extended their sincere thanks to UCL staff who were members of SAGE and agreed that the Chair of Council would circulate a letter thanking the staff members for their outstanding national contribution.

**96. Confidential: Financial Sustainability – Liquidity Support (5-74)**

- 96.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 96.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 96.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 96.4. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 96.5. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 96.6. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

**97. Confidential: Recommended Options for Reducing Staff Expenditure (5-75)**

- 97.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 97.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.
- 97.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes

**98. Confidential: Council Effectiveness Review Report (5-76)**

98.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

98.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

98.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

**Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information**

**99. Confidential: UCLB and BioMarin Agreement (5-77)**

99.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

99.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

99.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

**100. Confidential: Astor College Re-Development (5-78)**

100.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

100.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

100.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

**101. Eugenics Inquiry Recommendations: Proposals for Denaming Spaces (5-79)**

101.1. The President and Provost introduced the paper which set out the proposals for denaming spaces. The following key points were made during the presentation:

- a. The Inquiry into the History of Eugenics had been established two years ago and was chaired by Professor Iyiola Solanke. The Inquiry reported at the end of February 2020, unfortunately coinciding with the need to respond to the impact of COVID-19. The death of Mr George Floyd had prompted the Provost to resume progress with the recommendations of the Inquiry as a matter of priority.
- b. The Inquiry into the History of Eugenics at UCL recommended that UCL should dename the Galton Lecture Theatre, the Pearson Lecture Theatre and the Pearson Building because of the leading role that Francis Galton and Professor Karl Pearson played in establishing and promoting eugenics in the UK. The Buildings Naming and Re-naming Committee (BNRC) met on 15 June 2020 and agreed to recommend that the spaces

be denamed. The Provost agreed to recommend the proposals of the BNRC to Council for approval.

101.2. During discussion, Council members emphasised the importance of the decision being contextualised. The President and Provost confirmed that there would be plaques or signs that communicated the decision and the reasons underlying it as well as provision of information online. UCL staff and students would also learn about this history.

101.3. Council on the recommendation of the President and Provost:

- a. Approved the denaming of the Galton Lecture Theatre, the Pearson Lecture Theatre and the Pearson building;
- b. Agreed that there should be contextualisation of the decision within the spaces themselves;
- c. Agreed that a working group of the Building Naming and Renaming Committee should oversee the production of appropriate text;
- d. Noted that the contextualisation of the decision within the spaces should be initiated in parallel with the de-naming; and
- e. Agreed that temporary names should be adopted, with wide community consultation on any future names.

## **102. UCL Disclosure of Conflict and Declarations of Interest Policy (5-80)**

102.1. Council:

- a. Approved the UCL Disclosure of Conflict and Declarations of Interest Policy.
- b. Approved the recommendation that the following actions were taken to support implementation:
  - i. A review and assessment to determine the usability of the policy for UCL staff and Doctoral students;
  - ii. Establishment of the Conflicts of Interest Committee so any arising issues may be addressed; and
  - iii. To report back to Council with a review of the new policy and implementation in Autumn 2021.

## **103. Confidential: Re-Appointment of Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences (5-81)**

103.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

## **104. Confidential: Re-Appointment of Dean of the Faculty of Brain Sciences (5-82)**

104.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

104.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

104.3. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

**105. Degree Outcomes Statement (5-83)**

105.1. Council approved UCL's Degree Outcomes Statement for publication.

**106. Confidential: Remuneration and Human Resources Strategy Committee Annual Report (5-84)**

106.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

**107. Confidential: SLASH Report (5-85)**

107.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

**108. OfS Reportable Events (5-86)**

108.1. Council received a report on the continued approach to oversee UCL's compliance with the Office for Students (OfS) Regulatory Framework, including information that had 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.

**109. Confidential: Action Taken by the Chair since the last meeting (5-87)**

109.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

**110. Confidential: Minutes of Academic Board and Finance Committee (5-88)**

110.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

**111. Date of Next Meeting**

111.1. The next meeting of Council was due to take place on Thursday 9 July 2020. The meeting would be held virtually should social distancing measures continue.

Wendy Appleby, Secretary to Council  
June 2020