



ACADEMIC BOARD

2 May 2018

MINUTES

PRESENT¹:

Provost (Chair)

Ms Sarah Al-Aride; Ms Wendy Appleby; Professor Jonathan Aspinall; Professor Dr Paul Dr William Coppola; Countouris; Ms Sonja Curtis; Professor Izzat Darwazeh; Dr Rachele De Felice; Dr Vanessa Diaz; Professor Annette Dolphin; Dr Karen Edge; Professor Andrew Edkins; Professor Piet Eeckhout; Professor Susan Evans; Professor Elizabeth Fisher; Professor Maria Fitzgerald; Professor Becky Francis; Dr Richard Freeman; Dr Martin Fry; Professor Mary Fulbrook; Dr Andrew Gardner; Professor Derek Gilroy; Professor Eric Gordy; Professor Elizabeth Graham; Ms Jessica Gramp; Professor Andrew Green; Professor Lee Grieveson; Dr Jennifer Griffiths; Professor Patrick Haggard; Professor Mordechai Haklay; Professor Michael Hanna; Professor Michael Heinrich; Dr Arne Hofmann; Ms Lori Houlihan; Professor Benjamin Kaplan; Ms Iida Kayhko; Professor Robert Kleta; Mr Rex Knight; Professor Martin Koltzenburg; Dr Patty Kostkova; Dr Sarabajaya Kumar; Professor Paola Lettieri; Professor David Lomas; Dr Helga Luthersdottir; Ms Collette Lux; Professor Gesine Manuwald; Professor John Martin; Professor Robin McAnulty; Professor Neil Millar; Professor John Mitchell; Professor Gudrun Moore; Professor Ruth Morgan; Professor John Mullan; Dr Mark Newman; Professor Mignon Nixon; Mr Angus O'Brien; Professor Moses Oketch; Professor Norbert Pachler; Professor Enrico Palandri; Professor Ivan Parkin; Professor Alan Penn; Dr Hynek Pikhart; Professor David Price; Professor Sarah Price; Mr Kieren Reed; Professor Geraint Rees; Professor William Richardson; Professor Miguel Rio; Ms Fiona Ryland; Dr Benet Salway; Professor Vieri Samek-Lodovici; Professor Rose Marie San Juan; Professor Ralf Schoepfer; Professor David Selwood; Professor Sonu Shamdasani; Professor David

¹ An attendance sheet was circulated for signature at the meeting. Any colleagues present who did not sign the sheet and whose names are therefore not recorded as present are invited to notify the AB Secretary's office (e-mail – academic.services@ucl.ac.uk) so that their names can be included in the record when these Minutes are confirmed at the next scheduled meeting of AB.

2. MATTERS ARISING

- 2.1 It was noted that Item 17, Annual Report of Academic Committee: Session 2016-17, was a matter arising from the AB meeting on the 17th January 2018.

Matters for Discussion

3. Provost's Business

3A. SMT Away Day

- 3A.1 The Chair of the OfS, Sir Michael Barber, was a guest at the SMT Away Day. It was an excellent opportunity to hear the views of the Chair of the OfS on the HE sector and he was complimentary about UCL. The focus of the Away Day was improving education and the student experience at UCL. The Vice-Provost Education's team has modelled potential outcomes for the subject-level TEF and the results showed the need for greater attention to the student experience. This was a matter that AB would focus on at its first meeting in 2018/19.

3B. Recently Asked Questions and Factual Information

- 3B.1 The Recently Asked Questions and Factual Information documents that had been circulated to Academic Board members would be appended to the 2nd May 2018 minutes.

3C. UCL East

- 3C.1 Outline planning had been approved and the invitation to tender for MG1 had gone out. UCL was awaiting an announcement on the award of a governmental grant that would assist with building UCL East. A number of academic presentations were planned for this meeting of AB, however, due to the busy schedule for this meeting, they had been deferred.

3D. Vice-Provost (Operations)

- 3D.1 The VP (Operations) was due to retire at the end of the year. One AB member had written to the Provost expressing views on the process for appointing the VP (Operations) replacement. The Provost explained that he was currently consulting with colleagues about the future of the role and the way in which central professional services would be led and managed in the future. The Provost invited members of AB to contact him with any views they have about the role. There was some discussion on AB involvement in recruitment of VPs. It was confirmed that VP appointments were appointments of Council.

4. USS PENSIONS SCHEME AND ACCURATELY REPRESENTING THE POSITION OF UCL TO UNIVERSITIES UK

- 4.1 Dr Alun Coker presented the paper 'USS Pensions Scheme and Accurately Representing the Position of UCL to UUK'. The paper was prompted by the two occasions when the SMT, represented by the Director of Finance, responded to consultations by the UUK on the USS Pensions Scheme. The structure of the consultation process meant that the communications were presented as views of UCL. However, it was noted that the wider staff community had not been involved in the process of agreeing UCL's position.
- 4.2 The Provost noted that it was custom and practice for the accountable officer (the Provost) to respond to consultations. The Director of Finance responded to these consultations in the accountable officer's name. However, the Provost accepted responsibility for not bringing the matter to AB and would bear this in mind for the future.
- 4.3 During discussion, a concern was expressed whether there was a need to consult with members of the Institution as was set out on the first page of the paper and whether if there was disagreement with proposals whether it would paralyse UCL from communicating "the view of the University". It was confirmed that this was not the intention of the motion which proposed consultation with AB in order that it could represent the views of AB to Council.
- 4.4 AB undertook a vote by show of hands on the following motion:
- a) This fact (that the 2014 and 2017 responses to UUK consultations on the USS pensions scheme are not the views of the Institution) is promptly communicated to UUK by UCL's SMT/Phil Harding, and that a report of this communication is returned to the next meeting of Academic Board;
 - b) Any future communication with UUK claiming to represent the University on *decisions* that will directly affect the terms and conditions of service of academic staff must be notified to Academic Board, so as to consult it in advance;
 - c) Where no such consultation has taken place, then no view must be returned as the view of the University;
 - d) Where the view of SMT differs to that of the Academic Board, any reporting must use the following form of words "This is the view of SMT, not of the university, and SMT is not a formal or statutory committee of the university".
- 4.5 The vote by show of hands overwhelmingly supported the motion.

5.

UCLB. UCLB would remain a wholly owned subsidiary of UCL and the Board of UCLB would be accountable to UCL for its performance. There was a discussion on the critical role of Business Managers as the productive unit of UCLB and the purpose for the development of the Heads of Terms. The latter was the initial step in the journey of refreshing the relationship between UCL and UCLB.

8. CITIES PROGRAMME

[Paper 5-36, 2017-18]

- 8.1 Dame Nicola Brewer, Vice-Provost (International) presented an update on the UCL City Specific Funding Programme (Cities Programme) purpose & preparations. The Cities Programme was a cross-UCL initiative that supported, funded and promoted the research and teaching that UCL academics undertook with partners in key
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11. School of Life and Medical Sciences Annual Report

[Paper 5-38, 2017-18]

- 11.1 **Received** – the SLMS Annual Report reporting on activities and performance of SLMS since its last report in February 2017.

12. Amendment to the Name of UCL Institute of Neurology

[Paper 5-39, 2017-18]

- 12.1 **Received** – a proposal for recommendation to Council, to change the name of the UCL Institute of Neurology to the UCL Queen Square House Institute of Neurology with effect from 1 July 2018.

