

Academic Board

Wednesday 26 January 2022¹

MINUTES

Present: Dr Michael Spence, President and Provost (Chair).

Dr Ali Abolfathi, Professor Ibrahim Abubakar, Mr James Agar, Professor Lynn Ang, Professor Kathleen Armour, Dr Manuel Arroyo-Kalin, Professor Jonathan Ashmore, Professor David Atkinson, Dr Paul Ayriss, Dr Sakiru Badmos, Professor Jurg Bahler, Professor Angus Bain, Professor Gianluca Baio, Dr Emily Baker, Professor Jamie Baker, Professor Kristin Bakke, Professor Simon Banks, Professor Yolande Barnes, Dr Cecile Bats, Professor Polina Bayvel, Professor Costante Bellettini, Mr Ayman Benmati, Professor Michael Berkowitz, Professor Robert Biel, Professor Stephanie Bird, Dr Matthew Blain, Professor Martin Bobak, Professor David Bogle, Professor Noemie Bouhana, Professor Douglas Bourn, Professor Rachel Bowlby, Dr Patrick Bray, Professor Annie Britton, Professor Geraldine Brodie, Ms Annabel Brown, Professor Jamie Brown, Professor Robert Brownstone, Professor Stella Bruzzi, Professor Vishwanie Budhram-Mahadeo, Professor Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski, Dr Tim Button, Mr Tadhg Caffrey, Dr Velia Cardin, Professor Claire Carmalt, Dr Alisia Carnemolla, Professor Madeline Carr, Professor Rachel Chambers, Dr Declan Chard, Professor Elaine Chase, Professor Joanna Chataway, Andrey Chau, Professor Michael Cheetham, Professor James Cheshire, Dr Evangelia Chrysikou, Professor Olga Ciccarelli, Professor Beverley Clark, Professor Shamshad Cockcroft, Dr Alun Coker, Professor Susan Collins, Professor Barbara Conrath, Professor Anna Cox, Ms Sonja Curtis, Professor Izzat Darwazeh, Professor Nathan Davies, Professor Sally Day, Professor Marc Deisenroth, Professor Zongyi Deng, Professor

an operational strategy had potentially very significant impact. Members cited as examples the carbon emissions arising from international student travel and the potential impact of the equality challenge on the culture of the institution. The Provost noted in this respect the importance of appropriate financial resource. When the strategy was submitted to Council it would be accompanied by a detailed financial plan.

- A query was raised as to what was envisaged in respect of the evaluation of the Grand Challenges against the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Provost acknowledged the challenge in ensuring that the document did not make facile reference to the Sustainable Development Goals, and instead engaged meaningfully with their ethos. This section of the paper would require further intellectual input.
- Members requested a mapping of the decision-making process for consideration of the proposed projects. The Provost noted the expectation that large-scale proposals would be brought to UMC by Deans or Directors of Services, involving as appropriate the contribution of Academic Board, and sign-off by Council where necessary. The clarification of such decision-making procedures was part of the reasoning for making public the minutes of UMC, which was the body through which the Provost intended to exercise his delegated authority, as well as the recent diversification of representation on the UMC committee structure.
- Members queried the role of Academic Board in the process, suggesting that an AB sub-group could contribute to the academic review of proposed projects as part of its statutory function in advising Council on academic matters. The Provost noted the need for AB's input into big investment decisions.
- It was agreed that it would be valuable to have a clearer statement of the provenance of the strategy documents as they developed, giving an indication of the bodies or groups who had contributed in the pre-consultation phase. It was noted in some areas of the document, such as the section on mathematics and statistics, there would be many contributors over a number of years as these areas were ongoing projects now described in the papers.
- In response to queries about whether the plans were deliverable under UCL's current financial model, the Provost noted that the proposed investment was relatively modest as a proportion of the institutional turnover and that not all projects set out would be taken forward; this would be the subject of further discussion through the process. The question of UCL's resource allocation model would be further addressed in the Enablers paper.

Part III: Other Business for approval or Information

22 MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES (Paper 3-15)

22.1 Noted.

23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

23.1 The next meeting would be held on **Wednesday 9 February 2022**, 14:05-16:00.

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