



## COUNCIL

Thursday 27 November 2014

## MINUTES

### *PRESENT:*

Dame DeAnne Julius (*Chair*)

Professor Michael Arthur  
(*President and Provost*)

Lord Clement-Jones

Dr Martin Fry

Mr Omar Khan

Mr Simon Melliss (*Treasurer*)

Ms Vivienne Parry

Baroness Valentine

Professor David Attwell

Mr Ven Balakrishnan

Professor David Coen

Dr John Hurst

Mr Lukmaan Kolia

Ms Lindsay Nicholson

Dr Gill Samuels

*In attendance:* Dame Nicola Brewer (Vice-Provost (International)); Professor Stephen Caddick (Vice-Provost (Enterprise and London)); Mr Phil Harding (Director of Finance and Business Affairs); Mr Rex Knight (Vice-Provost (Operations)); Mr Nick McGhee (Acting Secretary to Council)

EIRC	Ethical Investment Review Committee
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
IOE	Institute of Education
NSS	National Student Survey
REF	Research Excellence Framework
UCLB	UCL Business
UCU	University and College Union



<b>Matters for discussion</b>
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**23 PROVOST'S BUSINESS**

**23A Institute of Education**

23A.1 As required under the terms of its charter, the IoE Council had reconfirmed at a meeting on 25 November its resolution to approve the proposed merger, which would consequently proceed with effect from 2 December 2014. The Provost paid tribute to the leadership of the IoE in taking this historic decision.

**23B USS Pensions**

23B.1 In light of an agreement to recommence negotiations, the UCU had announced a suspension of all industrial action, effective 20 November, in relation to its dispute over the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

**23C REF 2014**

23C.1 performance in the REF 2014 were expected on 16<sup>th</sup> December, with comparative data against the sector following on 17<sup>th</sup> December, embargoed to 18<sup>th</sup>. It was intended that a report would be circulated to Council members at that time.

**23D Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill**

23D.1 The Home Secretary had recently announced plans for a Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill that would introduce a UK-wide statutory duty for universities and other public bodies to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. The sector was being consulted on the detail of the proposals. The Provost noted the existing legal obligation under the Higher Education Act 1986 that universities protect freedom of speech on campus.

**23E Appointment of Vice-Provost (Health)**

23E.1 The Provost was pleased to announce the appointment with effect from 1 August 2015 of Professor David Lomas, Dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, as Vice-Provost (Health), in succession to Professor Sir John Tooke.

**23F UCL and the fossil fuels sector**

23F.1 The Provost reported on two related issues: (1) the campaign by Fossil Free UCL, which proposed that UCL disinvest from the fossil fuels sector; and (2) the acceptance by UCL of philanthropic donations from two companies in this sector [*Council Minute 10A, 2014-15*].



24A.5 In respect of the amber rating for donations and endowments, the Provost noted his intention that the relationship between Council and the Gift Acceptance Committee be reviewed [see Minute 23F above].

24A.6 Lord Clement-Jones recorded his thanks to the members of the Audit Committee, and to the Director of Finance and Business Affairs and the Vice-Provost (Operations) for their contribution to the process.

**RESOLVED** on the recommendation of the Audit Committee:

24A.7 **That the Audit Committee annual report 2013-14**

**RESOLVED** on the recommendation of Finance Committee:

24C.2           **That the Annual Sustainability Assurance Report be approved, subject to the amendments noted above.**

25   **VICE PROVOST (EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS) UPDATE**

[APPENDIX C 2/16 (14-15)]

- 25.1           **Received** an update from Professor Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs).
- 25.2           Professor Smith summarised the report by saying that the student experience at UCL was in an improving position, with most indicators moving in the right direction, though in many cases with much further improvement still sought. Student recruitment for admission in September 2014 had been healthy and there were encouraging signs of improvement in student satisfaction levels, as well as a sense of gathering momentum behind education agenda.
- 25.3           Undergraduate satisfaction data were drawn principally from the National Student Survey (NSS), and postgraduate data from the Student Barometer. The low response rate to the Student Barometer, typical for the sector, meant that data needed to be interpreted carefully.
- 25.4           Council was anxious to understand what remediation plans were in place in respect of examinations arrangements and careers advice. Members highlighted the importance of the examinations timetable to the student experience, and the predictable if non-trivial nature of the annual task.
- 25.5           Council noted that the data at subject level were vulnerable to the vagaries of a small sample size, and were sometimes at odds with written comments from students. Interpretation was further hampered by a mismatch between UCL departments or programmes and subject area codes. It was nevertheless clear that new leadership within a department had the potential to be transformative, and that seeking to increase the response rate and to engage students in finding solutions to identified problems were two of the more effective levers available to UCL.



29 **UCLU Code of Practice and Financial Statements**  
[APPENDIX C 2/20 (14-15)]

- 29.1 **Received** the proposed UCL/UCLU Code of Practice (at Annexe 1),  
and the