28.   Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2022

28.1.   RIGEC approved the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2022 [Minutes 17-26, 2021-22].

29.   Matters arising from the Minutes

29.1.   Arising from Minute 19.3, it was noted that the London Economics Review report into UCL's economic and social impact would be published in June and would give a very impressive account of UCL's contribution to the UK.

Part II: Matters for Discussion

30.   UCL REF2021 Results (Paper 4-13)

30.1.   The Chair introduced the UCL Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 results that were announced today. The key points made were:
   a. UCL had come 2nd in the UK for research power, behind Oxford (1st) and ahead of Cambridge (3rd).
   b. 92.5% of UCL's research was graded 4* (world leading) and 3* (internationally excellent).
   c. UCL's research received a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.50 (out of 4), up from 3.22 in REF2014. UCL was ahead of Oxford in terms of GPA.
   d. UCL maintained its position as top for research power in Main Panels A (life and medical sciences) and C (social sciences). UCL's performance in Panel B (physical sciences, engineering and mathematics) had strengthened considerably in REF2021 to be ranked 5th while UCL was ranked 6th for Main Panel D (arts and humanities).
   e. 78% of the three elements of 'output', 'impact' and 'environment' submitted across 32 units assessed received higher or the same GPA than in REF2014.
   f. It was considered that if UCL's 1* and 2* research activity had been scored 3*, its GPA would have increased to 3.8%.
   g. In terms of UCL's whole-Unit of Assessment (UoA) overall rankings, 4 of those were ranked 1st. Those were: Archaeology; Architecture, Built Environment and Planning; Education; and Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience.
   h. In terms of those UoAs where UCL's submission was ranked as the top HEI on overall 4* score without weighting by size, those were: Area Studies – Institute of the Americas; Law; and Philosophy.
   i. In terms of those UoAs where UCL submitted the highest percentage of overall 4* work, those were: Computer Science and Informatics; Area Studies –

       needed as different actions would be required in different areas to improve their GPA.

g. In terms of developing public engagement case studies, it was noted that Panel B's membership included an external assessor to cover this area which proved very helpful.

h. The REF Manager also expressed his thanks to all those involved in preparing UCL's submissions and to the Executive Director of Innovation and Enterprise and colleagues in her area.

31. Eoling issues and impact on the Research, Innoation and Global Engagement areas

31.1. The Chair invited members to raise any evolving issues in their respective areas of work that might impact on research, innovation and global engagement. The following points were raised in discussion:

a. **European Research Council Funding (ERC)**: It was noted that communications had been sent out to UCL researchers who had held ERC awards since 2001

     i.   Elsevier would now publish Open Access outputs at no extra cost which was considered to be a significant achievement.

     j.   UCL Press had published 244 monographs to date and achieved 6 million downloads.

32. Research Culture Update (Paper 4-14)

32.1. Emma Todd, Head of Research Culture, introduced the progress report on the projects that formed part of the Enhancing Research Culture programme. The key points made were:

    a.   Research England awarded £33m of funding to Higher Education providers in England in January 2022, to enable them to develop and initiate new activities on response to the R&D People and Culture Strategy.

    b.   UCL received £1.073m and it was allocated, by the Research Culture Operations Group, to proposals that aligned with both the funders criteria and UCL's priorities and offered long-term benefits for UCL beyond the current financial year.

    c.   All 39 projects (15 cross-UCL projects and 24 local/faculty projects) were now underway. Each project had an associated action plan and an internal reporting exercise would commence in September.

    d.   This short-term programme of activity was complemented by concurrent work to develop a long-term research culture roadmap that would be considered at future meetings of RIGEC and University Management Committee (UMC) respectively.

    e.   In terms of the roadmap, it was considered that UCL needed a more joined up approach to research culture.

    f.   It was intended that the Vice-Provost (RIGE) and the Chief People Officer would act as sponsors for this area of work.

    g.   Plans were also being made to liaise with departments and faculties and to ensure work in this area was made more visible across the institution.

32.2. The following points were raised in discussion:

    a.   It was noted that research culture would be a key element in the next REF exercise.

    b.   In relation to the Autumn phase of activity, it was suggested that UCL might organise a forum for its researchers about research culture.

    c.   It was considered that some projects were likely to be more successful than others.

    d.   The Chair expressed his thanks to the Head of Research Culture for all her efforts in this important area of work.

d. It was queried whether some of the work around technical support staff be brought into the Action Plan and/or recommendations.

33.3. RIGEC:
a. Approved the 2022-24 HREiR Action Plan.

34. Confidential: Due Diligence Exempt Organisations (Paper 4-16)

34.1. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

34.2. Exempt from publication, please see confidential minutes.

Part III: Other Business for Approal or Information

35. Professor Daid Price

35.1. It was noted that Professor Price would be succeeded in his role as Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation and Global Engagement) by Professor Geraint Rees with effect from 16th May 2022. On behalf of RIGEC, Professor Rees noted that UCL was in Professor Price's debt for both his past 15 years as Vice-Provost and prior to that in his other management roles at UCL. He would leave a legacy of creating amazing excellence in research and innovation across the institution. Professor Rees noted that he had been a transformative, inspirational and supportive leader and drew attention to the three, core values Professor Price held that he was of the opinion had shaped both his and others' careers of: (i) intellectual leadership; (ii) focusing on developing people, and (iii) possessing integrity and speaking truth to those in power. Members expressed their sincere thanks to Professor Price and wished him well for the future.

35.2. Professor Price expressed his thanks to the committee and extended especial thanks to Jeremy Barraud, Director of Governance and Delivery in RIGE, for all his work in the area of research operations and governance since he took up post at UCL. He also extended especial thanks to Rachel Port as Secretary who had supported both RIGEC, and its predecessor Research Governance Committee for over a decade, as well as handling other research integrity activities.

36. Date of the next meeting

36.1. The next meeting of RIGEC would take place on Thursday 30th June 2022 at 10:00am on MS Teams.

Ms Rachel Port, Governance Manager: Research Integrity, Secretariat, Office of General Counsel
June 2022