



## ACADEMIC BOARD

10 February 2016

### MINUTES

*PRESENT<sup>1</sup>:*

President and Provost (*Chair*)

Professor Adriana Allen; Ms Wendy Appleby; Professor David Attwell; Dr Paul Ayris; Dr Sunny Bains; Dr Simon Banks; Dr Jason Blackstock; Professor David Bogle; Dame Nicola Brewer; Professor Frances Brodsky; Professor Andrew Brown; Mr Simon Cane; Professor Lucie Clapp; Dr Ben Clifford; Dr Alun Coker; Professor Susan Collins; Professor Marc-Olivier Coppens; Professor Julio D. Davila; Dr Jason Davis; Professor Jan Derry; Miss Elizabeth Dow; Dr Rosalind Duhs; Professor Andrew Eder; Dr Karen Edge; Dr Agapi Emmanouilidou; Professor Susan Evans; Ms Ava Fatah gen. Schieck; Mr Dominique Fourniol; Dr Richard Freeman; Professor Jane Holder; Mrs Lori Houlihan; Dr Martin Fry; Ms Anna M Golab; Dr Hugh Goodacre; Dr Alistair Greig; Dr Paul Groves; Dr Sean Hanna; Professor Graham Hart; Professor Michael Heinrich; Professor Jonathan Hill; Dr John Hurst; Mr Azfar Javed; Ms Lina Kamenova; Professor Robert Kleta; Dr Sarabajaya Kumar; Professor Diana Laurillard; Dr Sandra Leaton Gray; Professor Alena Ledeneva; Dr Helga Luthersdottir; Ms Fiona McClement; Professor Raymond MacAllister; Professor Alejandro Madrigal; Professor Anson Mackay; Professor Sandy MacRobert; Dr Merle Mahon; Dr Helen Matthews; Dr Margaret Mayston; Professor Susan Michie; Professor Neil Millar; Professor Zoran Milutinovic; Dr Jenny Mindell; Dr Richard Mole; Professor Richard Mott; Dr Caroline Newton; Mr Angus O'Brien; Professor Martin Oliver; Dr Kit Opie; Professor Jonathan Oppenheim; Professor Norbert Pachler; Professor Alan Penn; Professor David Price; Professor Jane Rendell; Mr Tom Robinson; Dr Kerstin Sailer; Miss Wahida Samie; Professor Ralf Schoepfer; Professor Sonu Shamdasani; Professor Anthony Smith; Professor Eva Sorensen; Professor Andrew Stahl; Professor Susan Clare Stanford; Professor Melvyn Stokes; Dr Fiona Strawbridge; Dr Sherrill Stroschein; Professor Nigel Titchener-Hooker; Mr Simon To; Professor Derek Tocher; Mr Ben Towse; Professor Andrea Townsend-Nicholson; Dr Matt Wakelin; Dr Michael Walls; Ms Susan Ware; Mr Nigel Waugh; Professor Robert West; Dr Andrew Wills; Dr Gavin Winston; Professor Jonathan Wolff.

*In attendance:* Mr Derfel Owen (Secretary to Academic Board); Ms Chandan Shah.

Apologies for absence were received from: Dr Catia Andreassi; Professor James Bainbridge; Professor Jonathan Bell; Professor Maurice Biriotti; Professor Graziella Branduardi-Raymont;

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<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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.

Professor Franco Cacialli; Dr Ben Campkin; Professor Helen Chatterjee; Professor John Collinge; Professor Stephen Colvin; Dr Rachele De Felice; Professor Jorge Diaz-Cintas; Professor Simon Dixon; Professor Peter Earley; Professor Mark Emberton; Professor Bryony Franklin; Professor Mary Fulbrook; Professor Dame Hazel Genn; Professor Lucie Green; Professor Helen Hackett; Dr Gareth Hagger-Johnson; Miss Ruth Harper; Dr Andrew Harris; Professor Kenneth Harris; Mr Rex Knight; Professor Susanne Kord; Professor Jan Kubik; Professor Ofer Lahav; Dr Andrew Logsdail; Professor David Lomas; Professor Paul Longley; Mr Murilo Lubambo; Professor Genise Manuwald; Professor Charles Marson; Professor Usha Menon; Professor Kevin Middlebrook; Ms Suguna Nair; Dr Julie Olszewski; Professor Alison Park; Dr Anne Peasey; Professor Geraint Rees; Professor Thilo Rehren; Jonathan Roiser; Professor Andreas Schaefer; Professor Mala Shah; Professor Lorraine Sherr; Dr Ariane Smart; Mrs Emanuela Tilley; Professor Alan Thompson; Professor Jayant Vaidya; Professor Rosemary Varley; Professor Sarah Walker; Professor Dominic Wyse; Professor Tarek Yousry.

*Key to abbreviations*

AB	Academic Board
AC	Academic Committee
HER	Higher Education Review
IoE	Institute of Education
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency
RDC	Research Degrees Committee
SED	Self-Evaluation Document
SMT	Senior Management Team
StARs	Student Academic Representatives
TEF	Teaching Excellence Framework
UCLU	University College London Union
VP	Vice Provost

**Preliminary business**

**17 MINUTES OF 13 OCTOBER 2015 MEETING**

- 17.1 **Approved** – the Minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 13 October 2015 [AB Minutes 1-16, 2015-16].

**18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**18A DOCTORAL EDUCATION AT UCL**

[PAPER 1-06 (15-16)]

[AB Minute 08, [13 October 2015]]

- 18A.1 The Pro Vice-Provost (Doctoral School) reported that comments from AB members had been incorporated into the strategy and the final version was approved by RDC. The strategy was now live on the Doctoral School website with an action plan in place. AB will receive a progress update on the activities and action lines. The Pro Vice-Provost informed members that the Doctoral School would be moving shortly to its new location in Taviton Street.

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

**19A Awards**

19A.1 The Provost congratulated UCL Staff members mentioned in the New Year Honours List (2016), staff awarded during the first round of the Provost's Excellence Awards and reported that a recent graduate from the Bartlett School of Architecture had received a Posters in Parliament Research Prize: evidence of the Connected Curriculum and Education based Research in action.

**19B Bloomsbury Theatre**

19B.1 As part of the redevelopment of the UCL Estate, some work had been planned to improve the Bloomsbury Theatre, which had led to a planned closure for a short period. Unfortunately, this work had exposed a significant amount of asbestos in the building which had forced a decision to close the theatre until January 2018. The Estates Management Committee have confirmed that every effort will be made to find alternative space for student production in the interim period.

**19C Olympic Park**

19C.1 Following a call for proposals for academic scenarios the Olympic Park campus, a shortlist of four scenarios has been proposed by the Academic programme Board, Chaired by Professor David Price. There will be opportunities for AB and UCL Staff to comment on these through the website and pop-up demonstration events throughout February. Proposals would need to be finalised by end of March so that work can commence to schedule.

**19D IoE**

19D.1 A new Director of the IoE had been appointed and was due to start at the beginning of the next academic year.

**20 GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK – UPDATE**

*[PAPER 2-01, 2015-16]*

20.1 **Received** - an oral introduction to the paper from Ms Wendy Appleby, Registrar and Secretary to Council

20.2 The Registrar reported that the paper provides an update following the last AB meeting and on the full set of Council papers on Governance and Management Regulations that were subsequently circulated to AB members.

20.3 The Registrar reported that a Council effectiveness review was underway particularly and was looking in to the relationship between AB and AC to provide clarity on the committees' remit and ensure that communications between these key committees is clear and effective. Comments received from members would be fed into the review.

- 20.4 In response to members' comments, the Registrar reiterated that this was an ongoing process with an aim to engage members of AB and AC to make recommendations to the review group. All items highlighted in the paper were under active discussion with a view to update the governance framework and increase transparency around structures, decision making and processes.

## 21 COUNCIL REPORTS TO ACADEMIC BOARD

[PAPER 2-02, 2015-16]

- 21.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from Professor Ralf Schoepfer, Faculty of Life Sciences proposing a motion to AB that 'The agenda of future meetings of the Academic Board should normally include the item "Report from the academic members elected by AB to Council".'
- 21.2 The Provost commented that the Council minutes were available to the public as a formal record of the meeting and therefore available to AB members. Via the Secretary to AB, members of AB are able to raise issues to be discussed at the meeting and can do so based on matters raised at Council.
- 21.3 The Provost proposed an alternative approach where, in addition to making Council minutes available to UCL staff and students online, the minutes of recent meetings of Council should be included on the agenda for each AB meeting so members could raise questions in advance of the meeting.
- 21.4 In response to members' comments, the Secretary to Council reminded members that although AB had elected members of AB to be members of Council, they were individuals on Council providing an academic perspective, not as representatives of AB. She emphasised that as part of the governance review, better communication and transparency across committees would be considered and this issue can be fed into the report.

### **RESOLVED**

- 21.5 Majority of the AB members voted against the proposed motion. The Provost affirmed that the suggestion to include minutes of recent Council meetings on the agenda for AB would be taken forward from the next meeting.

**ACTION: Secretary to AB**

## 22 EDUCATION STRATEGY

[PAPER 2-03, 2015-16]

- 22.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from Professor Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs)
- 22.2 The VP (E&SA) reported that there had been an extensive consultation period over eight months which included interacting with Faculty Teaching Committees, Student facing Professional Services, two AB meetings, two Town Hall meetings and Students and UCLU.
- 22.3 The VP invited AB members to comment on the draft strategy which explores ambitions of theme two of UCL 2034 Strategy. More emphasis has been given to recognise students as partners and collaborative working with UCLU and the StARs scheme.

- 22.4 In response to members' comments, the VP reported that the purpose of the Strategy was to keep it as a high level document and as a guide for staff and students without being overly prescriptive, significant effort had been made to reflect the traditional values of UCL including the desire to encourage and support intellectual curiosity in our students.
- 22.5 The VP informed members that the Strategy would be reviewed in light of comments from AB and would be submitted to AC for formal approval at its next meeting in March.

**23 UCL'S RESPONSE TO THE HE GREEN PAPER: TEACHING EXCELLENCE, SOCIAL MOBILITY AND STUDENT CHOICE**  
*[PAPER 2-04, 2015-16]*

- 23.1 **Received** – an oral update from the Provost, Professor Michael Arthur
- 23.2 The Provost reported that UCL's response to the HE Green Paper had been reviewed by the VPs and Senior Management Team within the tight consultation timeframe and submitted by 14 January. UCL's response presents a critical view of the Green Paper, which was also similar to that of responses by Russell Group universities and other main universities.
- 23.3 The Provost highlighted the following key areas that were highlighted as concerns in UCL's response: changes to the HE funding infrastructure where funding for research and teaching would be divided; the proposed link between Teaching Excellence and student fees through assessment of different levels of teaching; and the lack of clarity about the definition of teaching excellence.
- 23.4 It was also noted that the full documentation, Green Paper and responses to it was in the public domain.
- 23.5 In response to members' comments, the Provost reported that the response indicates the uncertainty of proposals provided in the Green Paper which aligns with the view within the sector. Although consultations with other universities, other education contributors has not yet occurred, the general consensus in the sector is in favour of unlinking student fees from teaching excellence.

**24 MOTION ON FOSSIL FUEL INVESTMENT**  
*[PAPER 2-05, 2015-16]*

- 24.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from Professor Jane Rendell, Faculty of the Built Environment
- 24.2 Professor Rendell reported that the motion proposed was for AB to discuss UCL's current investment in Fossil Fuel, to consider alternative options and to raise the issue through Council to the Ethical Investments Review Committee.
- 24.3 Professor Rendell highlighted that since 2015 eleven other universities have divested from investments in Fossil Fuel. She reported that divestment would not be an immediate process but would be over 5 years, therefore UCL ought to consider aligning investments with the current Investment Strategy, Environmental Strategy and with UCL aims and principles.

- 24.4 The Director of Business and Finance Affairs commented on the active steps taking place in the sector with campaign groups working with companies to reduce omissions and amending their policies to be more transparent and open in their transactions. He reported that UCL Investment Policy was currently actively considering its investments portfolio and options to shift to a 'Socially Responsible Investments' portfolio.
- 24.5 A wide ranging discussion followed and a number of comments were made including:
- The advisability of AB expressing a view when a commit of UCL, the Ethical Investments Review Committee, was responsible for investigating such matters and had already initiated an investigation;
  - That further evidence and information of the range of research and enterprise collaborations between UCL and firms involved with fossil fuel extraction would be helpful to inform decision making;
  - The UCL's investments portfolio should take broader ethical considerations into account, such as sustainability and human rights;
  - That UCL is already making a significant contribution to the environment by making improvements to the estate to reduce carbon footprint, it would be helpful to consider these efforts as part of a bigger picture;
  - A number of universities have chosen to divest, but a larger number have not and in some instances have actively rejected the proposition, most notably Massachusetts Institute of Technology where a deliberate approach of constructive engagement has been adopted.

**RESOLVED**

- 24.6 AB voted in favour of the proposed motion 'That UCL should commit to divesting from the fossil fuel industry and to shifting those funds to ethical investments in renewable energy in 5 years' and for this sentiment to be raised through Council to the Ethical Investments Review Committee.

**ACTION: Secretary to AB and Secretary to Council**

**25 VICE-PROVOST (RESEARCH) ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL**

*[PAPER 2-06, 2015-16]*

- 25.1 To allow time for discussion for minute item 24 (agenda item 8), the Provost requested AB members to directly raise any questions relating to the VP annual report to Council with the Vice-Provost (Research).

**26 QAA HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW – SED UPDATE**

*[PAPER 2-07, 2015-16]*

- 26.1 To allow time for discussion for minute item 24 (agenda item 8), the Provost requested AB members to directly raise any questions relating to the QAA HER with the Director of Academic Services.

**27 APPOINTMENTS**

*[PAPER 2-12, 2015-16]*

- 27.1 **Received** – a list of recent appointments (i) of Vice-Provosts; (ii) of Deans of Faculty; (iii) of Heads of Academic Departments, and (iv) to established Chairs tenable at UCL.

- 27.2 A member of AB had requested for this item to be discussed but to allow time for discussion for minute item 24 (agenda item 8), the Provost requested this item was deferred to the next meeting of AB.

<b>Other matters for approval or information</b>
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**28 LEAD OFFICER REPORT 2014-15: STUDENT WELFARE**

*[PAPER 2-08, 2015-16]*

- 28.1 **Received** – the annual lead officer report for 2014-15.

**29 LEAD OFFICER REPORT 2014-15: STUDENT ACCOMMODATION**

*[PAPER 2-09, 2015-16]*

- 29.1 **Received** – the annual lead officer report for 2014-15.

**30 LIBRARY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15**

*[PAPER 2-10, 2015-16]*

- 30.1 **Received** – the annual Library Committee report for 2014-15.

**31 AWARDS TO UCL STAFF**

*[PAPER 2-11, 2015-16]*

- 31.1 **Received** – a note on the award of major prizes etc to members of the academic community of UCL since the previous meeting of AB.

**32 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR (including Academic Board Working Groups on Established Chairs and Readerships)**

*[PAPERS 2-13 and 2-14, 2015-16]*

- 32.1 **Received** – a note of action taken by the Chair on behalf of Academic Board since the last report.

**33 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 33.1 The next Academic Board meeting would be held on Wednesday 27 April 2016 at 2.05pm.

DERFEL OWEN

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