

ACADEMIC BOARD

Wednesday 2 March 2011

MINUTES

*PRESENT*¹:

President and Provost (*Chair*)

Mr James Agar, Professor Edward Allington, Dr Janet Anders, Professor Jonathan Ashmore, Professor Jan Atkinson, Professor David Attwell, Dr Paul Ayris, Mr Malcolm Bailey, Dr Bob Barber, Mr Fred Bearman, Mr Milo Bem, Mrs Rachel Benedyk, Professor Michael Berkowitz, Ms Julie Black, Professor David Bogle, Mr Matthew Bowles, Mr Greg Brown, Dr Wendy Brown, Dr Eric Brunner, Mr Peter Cadley, Dr Ben Campkin, Professor John Carroll, Mr Michael Chessum, Dr Beverley Clark, Professor Shamshad Cockcroft, Dr Susan Collins, Mr Ben Colvill, Professor Chris Danpure, Dr Sally Day, Professor Peter Delves, Professor Annette Dolphin, Ms Fiona Duffy, Professor Vince Emery, Dr Caroline Essex, Professor Susan Evans, Dr Andrew Faulkner, Mr Marco Federighi, Dr Susan Ferguson, Professor Anthony Finkelstein, Mr Dominique Fourniol, Dr Martin Fry, Professor Mary Fulbrook, Mr Sol Gamsu, Dr Hugh Goodacre, Professor David Green, Professor Hugh Gurling, Professor Helen Hackett, Mr Sean Hanna, Professor Graham Hart, Professor Jem Hebden, Professor Therese Hesketh, Ms Sandra Hinton, Dr Christine Hoffmann, Dr Josef Kittler, Mr Rex Knight, Dr Dilwyn Knox, Professor Nicos Ladommatos, Mr Bill Lehm, Dr Dewi Lewis, Dr Patrick Lewis, Ms Sally Macdonald, Professor Roger Mackett, Dr Liora Malki-Epshtein, Dr Charles Marson, Dr Sajeda Meghji, Professor Neil Millar, Dr Charlotte Mitchell, Dr John Mitchell, Dr Sara Mole, Dr Jenny Morgan, Dr Tarit Mukhopadhyay, Dr Caroline Newton, Dr Julie Olszewski, Dr Iris Oren, Dr Nicholas Ovenden, Professor Alan Penn, Mr Frank Penter, Ms Sarah Pickering, Dr Hynek Pikhart, Professor Sarah Price, Dr Stephen Price, Professor Thilo Rehren, Dr Benet Salway, Dr Seb Savory, Dr Stephanie Schorge, Dr Chris Scotton, Professor Richard Simons, Dr Joy Sleeman, Dr David Spratt, Professor Kalia Srail, Professor Sacha Stern, Professor Iain Stevenson, Dr Sherrill Stroschein, Mr Simon To, Professor Derek Tocher, Professor Sir John Tooke, Dr Andrea Townsend-Nicholson, Professor Nick Tyler, Professor Gabriella Vigliocco, Dr Ivan Wall, Dr Claire Warwick, Dr Andrew Wills, Professor Matthew Wing, Dr Astrid Wingler, Professor Michael Worton, Professor Henry Woudhuysen, Professor Maria Wyke, Dr Robert Wykes.

In attendance: Mr Tim Perry (*Secretary*), Ms Julia Abbott, Mr Peter Hart, Ms Valerie Hogg, Mr Nick McGhee, Dr Tom Stern, Mr Nigel Waugh, Ms Katy Wood.

Apologies for absence were received from: Dr Robin Aizlewood, Dr Ruth Bell, Dr Helene Burningham, Professor Franco Cacialli, Professor Steve Caddick, Professor Mary Collins, Dr Vanessa Diaz, Professor Simon Dixon, Mr Mick Farrell, Professor Dame Hazel Genn, Professor Marcus Giaquinto, Professor Xavier Golay, Mr Christopher Hallas, Dr Susanna Harris, Professor Faraneh Vargha-Khadem, Professor George Kolankiewicz, Professor Ofer Lahav, Professor Jonathan Ledermann, Dr Jennifer Linden, Professor Paul Longley, Professor Phil Luthert, Dr Susan Parekh, Dr Matt Piper, Professor Andrew Ramage, Professor Paul Riley, Dr Nicola Shelton, Professor Lorraine Sherr, Professor Valery Smyshlyaev, Dr Pam Sonnenberg, Ms Katherine Sturgeon, Dr Julian Thompson, Dr Nalini Vittal, Dr Gavin Winston, Professor Mehrdad Zangeneh.

Key to abbreviations

AB	Academic Board
CIF	Capital Investment Framework
ESPS	European Social and Political Sciences
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HEI	higher education institution
MRC	Medical Research Council
NPP	Research Department of Neuroscience, Physiology and Pharmacology
OFFA	Office for Fair Access
QR	Quality-related research [funding]
REF	Research Excellence Framework
SLMS	School of Life and Medical Sciences
SMT	[Provost's] Senior Management Team
SoP	School of Pharmacy
UCL SERAus	UCL School of Energy and Resources, Australia

19 **MINUTES**

Approved

- 19.1 The Minutes of the AB meeting held on 20 October 2010² [AB Minutes 1-17, 2010-11] were confirmed by the Board and signed by the Chair.
- 19.2 The Minute of the AB Special Meeting held on 16 December 2010³ [AB Minute 18, 2010-11] were confirmed by the Board – subject to the addition of Dr Patrick Lewis to the list of those present – and signed by the Chair.

20 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

[see also Minutes 22 and 24 below]

20A **Council approval of Academic Board recommendations**

[AB Minute 8, 2010-11]

Noted

- 20A.1 At its meeting on 24 November 2010 Council had approved, on the recommendation of AB, the annual report 2009-10 of the Disability Committee.

20B **Election of members of Academic Board to other committees**

[AB Minute 10, 2010-11]

Received

- 20B.1 APPENDIX AB 3/17 (10-11) – a note of AB members elected to other UCL committees for the two academic years 2010-11 and 2011-12 following elections conducted in the Autumn Term 2010.

20C **European Social and Political Sciences (ESPS) – contact time**

[AB Minute 18.13, 2010-11]

Reported

- 20C.1 Following comments made by an AB student member at the last meeting to the effect that he had three hours per week contact time on the ESPS programme, the Academic Director of the programme had confirmed that, excluding non-timetabled support from the dissertation supervisor in the second, third and fourth years, the student concerned had an average contact time per week of a little over 6.5 hours, while students not taking the dissertation option received 8 hours contact time per week.

² http://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-services/governance/ab/documents/minutes/1011/ab_101020.pdf

³ http://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-services/governance/ab/documents/minutes/1011/ab_101216.pdf

21 **AWARDS TO UCL STAFF**

Received

- 21.1 APPENDIX AB 3/18 (10-11) – a note on the award of major prizes *etc* to members of the academic community of UCL since the October 2010 meeting of AB.

Reported

- 21.2 The list of awards represented an extraordinary array of success. The Provost also drew AB's attention to the previous day's announcement by the Minister of State for Universities and Science, confirming Department for Business, Innovation and Skills funding for the UK-wide 2012 birth cohort study led by Professor Carol Dezateux of UCL's Institute of Child Health. The total grant was worth £28.5 million and was additional to funding of £5m previously confirmed by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Medical Research Council (MRC).

22 **FUTURE FUNDING POSITION**

[AB Minutes 6 and 18, 2010-11]

Received

- 22.1 An oral report by the Provost.

Reported

- 22.2 Publication of the Coalition Government's Higher Education White Paper, previously expected in mid-March, had been postponed until May 2011. As HEIs were required to determine their proposed UK/EU undergraduate fee levels in time to prepare draft access agreements for submission to OFFA by 19 April 2011, they would now be doing so still incognisant of the Government's intentions regarding two important variables: the student numbers framework; and the residual funding for bands A and B subjects. The Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Exeter had already announced their intention to charge the maximum £9,000 fee. The Finance Committee and the Council, at their respective meetings on 23 March 2011 and 24 March 2011, would be confirming the level of fee to apply at UCL for 2012-13, bearing in mind the need to provide UCL with a sustainable financial future against the background of major reductions in funding from the Teaching (T) grant and the Capital Investment Framework (CIF).
- 22.3 Universities were currently allotted an annual quota of EU/UK undergraduate students, with fines imposed for admission of students above the HEFCE 'tolerance band'. Lord Browne of Madingley's independent review of higher education funding and student finance had suggested that such control over student numbers was

23B Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014

Reported

23B.1 The relative weightings of research outputs, impact and the research environment in the overall quality profile for each submission in the REF had been confirmed as 65%, 20% and 15% respectively. Impact would be judged by all members of the HEFCE assessment panels, not just the user members.

23C Role of the Vice-Provosts

Reported

23C.1 In consideration of UCL's expanding overseas presence, and an ever-increasing need for investment in the educational aspect of UCL's activity, the Provost had concluded that the portfolio of the Vice-Provost (Academic and International) should be divided between two posts. Professor Michael Worton would continue as Vice-Provost (International), with the role of Vice-Provost (Education) being advertised in the near future.

23D Director of Human Resources

Reported

23D.1 The Provost welcomed Nigel Waugh, newly-appointed Director of Human Resources, to his first meeting of Academic Board.

[see also Minute 28A below]

24 FACULTIES AND ACADEMIC UNITS OF UCL

Noted

24.1

24A.8 Professor Tooke stressed the crucial importance of SLMS maintaining its ability to be internationally successful, in a rapidly changing and increasingly competitive global environment. AB endorsed in principle the restructuring proposals.

24B **UCL-Q**

Received

the Director of UCL SERAus reporting to the Vice-Provost (Academic and International) (or Vice-Provost (International) in due course – see Minute 23.5 above) and ultimately to the Provost.

Discussion

- 24C.2 Operational complications in the case of UCL SERAus (for example currency fluctuations or differences between Australian and UK tax and employment laws) meant that the Faculty of Engineering Sciences was not always best placed to address the range of issues that might arise. Moreover, the academic scope of UCL SERAus had rapidly broadened beyond engineering so that the academic case for its being part of Engineering Sciences was no longer strong. In response to questions

26 **APPOINTMENTS**

Received

- 26.1 APPENDIX AB 3/22 (10-11) – a list of recent appointments (i) of Dean of Faculty, (ii) of Heads of Academic Departments and (iii) to established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL.

27 **ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC BOARD**

Noted

- 27.1 The Chair had taken action on behalf of AB to approve:
- the Student Accommodation Committee annual report 2009-10;
 - the renaming of the established Richard Cristin Chair of Hepatology and the Chair of Geriatric Medicine.

27A **Academic Board Working Groups on Established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL**

Noted

- 27A.1 The Chair had taken action on behalf of AB to approve the membership of the AB Working Groups on established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL listed at APPENDIX * AB 3/23 (10-11).

28 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

28A **Questions to Provost**

Noted

- 28A.1 A student member of AB raised a query regarding the ethics of the Provost's recent trip to the Middle East as part of the Prime Minister's delegation. In response, the Provost noted that the invitation to accompany the Prime Minister to the Middle East had been a particular honour for UCL, the only university represented on the delegation. In light of the creation of the UCL campus in Qatar [see Minute 24B above] and the many students from that part of the world who were members of the UCL community, the Provost considered the trip to be entirely legitimate UCL business.
- 28A.2 The same student member also raised a query with the Provost about a management issue. Clarification was sought by another AB member as to whether it was appropriate for such issues to be raised at AB. The AB Secretary advised that the Board's role was to advise the Council upon academic matters and questions affecting the educational policy

of UCL. The Provost agreed, nevertheless, to look into the matter raised by the student member, of which he had not previously been aware.

28B Registry and Academic Services

Noted

28B.1 Further to the announcements in the Provost's all-staff newsletter, the Convenor of the AB non-professorial group expressed thanks to the outgoing Academic Registrar Christopher Hallas, who would shortly be leaving UCL, and welcomed the appointment of Tim Perry