

## Academic Board

Wednesday 8 May 2024<sup>1</sup>

### MINUTES

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

Dr Mojtaba Abdi-Jalebi; Dr Ali Abolfathi; Dr Simona Aimar; Dr Bojan Aleksov; Professor Gareth Ambler; Dr Jake Anders; Professor Kathleen Armour; Professor Jonathan Ashmore; Professor Tomaso Aste; Dr Glory Atilola; Professor Juliette Atkinson; Professor Jan Axmacher; Dr Paul Ayris; Professor Jurg Bahler; Professor Gianluca Baio; Dr Neha Batura; Professor Yasminah Beebeejaun; Emily Bellshaw; Professor Mette Berg; Professor Michael Berkowitz; Professor Jeff Bezemer; Professor Stephanie Bird; Robert Bodden; Dr Neus Bover Fonts; Dr Jeff Bowersox; Professor Steven Bramwell; Dr Raina Brands; Professor Tanya Bressey; Dr Damian Bright; Professor Annie Britton; Professor Geraldine Brodie; Professor Jamie Brown; Professor Rob Brownstone; Professor Stella Bruzzi; Dr Suzy Buckley; Professor Richard Bucknall; Professor Vishwanie Budhram-Mahadeo; Professor Gaetano Burriesci; Professor Jon Butterworth; Dr Boyana Buyuklieva; Tadhg Caffrey; Noël Caliste; Professor Benjamin Caplin; Professor Licia Capra; Dr Velia Cardin; Professor Claire Carmalt; Professor Madeline Carr; Professor David Cassidy; Professor Paola Ceccarelli; Dr Edith Chan; Professor Richard Chandler; Dr Declan Chard; Professor Elaine Chase; Shaban Chaudhary; Professor Umber Cheema; Professor Julian Childs; Professor Beverley Clark; Professor Benjamin Clifford; Professor D'Maris Coffman; Dr Alun Coker; Dr Silvie Cooper; Kimberly Cornfield; Dr Sarah Correia; Professor Nicola Countouris; Dr Ludovic Coupaye; Professor Alessandro Cozzi-Lepri; Dr Hélène Crutzen; Dr Jason Davies; Professor Sally Day; Professor Jan Derry; Dr Duygu Dikicioglu; Professor Snezana Djordjevic; Professor Annette Dolphin; Dr Alex Donovan; Dr Johanna Donovan; Elizabeth Dow; Dominique Draï; Professor Paulo Drinot; Professor Oliver Duke-Williams; Dr Karen Edge; Professor Sohier Elneil; Dr Alex Elwick; Professor Marc Esteve; Professor Susan Evans; Shirui Fan; Professor Suzanne Farid; Professor Joanna Faure Walker; Professor Carina Fearnley; Professor Delmiro Fernandez-Reyes; Dr Liory Fern-Pollak; Professor Margot Finn; Professor Elizabeth Fisher; Dr Andrew Flinn; Dr David Foster; Professor Becky Francis; Dr Richard Freeman; Dr Lisa Fridkin; Dr Bettina Friedrich; Professor David Frost; Professor Jonathan Gale; Dr Federico Galvanin; Dr Anna Garnett; Professor Guido Germano; Professor Adam Gibson; Professor Shirli Gilbert; Dr Hugh Goodacre; Dr Rebecca Gordon; Professor Eric Gordy; Professor Lewis Griffin; Professor Ann Griffin; Professor François Guesnet; Professor Ana Guinote; Dr Lucia Patrizio Gunning; Dr Oliver Hadelar; Professor Patrick Haggard; Professor Stephen Hailes; Martin Hall; Rachel Hall; Professor Sue

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<sup>1</sup> This meeting was held via videoconference.

Hamilton; Professor Kirsten Harvey; Professor Angela Hassiotis; Professor Michael Heinrich; Dr Katie Hemer; Professor Evangelos Himonides; Dr Joshua Hollands; Dr Pam Houston; Professor Jie Huang; Professor Andrew Hudson-Smith; Professor Alun Hughes; Dr Charles Inskip; Dr Talia Isaacs; Dr Joana Jacob Ramalho; Professor Dan Jagger; Professor Helene Joffe; Professor Philip Jones; Professor Lily Kahn; Dr Jens Kandt; Professor Tony Kenyon; Professor Nicoletta Kessar; Dr John Kiappes; Professor John King; Professor Josef Kittler; Professor Nikolaos Konstantinidis; Edyta Kostanek; Dr Sandra Leaton Gray; Dr Borja Legarra Herrero; Professor Paola Lettieri; Dr Jonathan Lezmy; Amy Lightstone; Professor Claire Lindsay; Professor Vladimir Litvak; Professor Alison Lloyd; Dr Kris Lockyear; Dr Lorenzo Lotti; Professor Robert Lowe; Dr Helga Lúthersdóttir; Professor Sandy MacRobert; Professor Mairead MacSweeney; Dr Antony Makrinos; Dr Elvira Mambetisaeva; Professor Virginia Mantouvalou; Dr Joanne Marks; Professor Louise Marston; Professor Manolis Mavrikis; Professor Margaret Mayston; Dr Jenny McArthur; Dr Ruth McGinity; Dr Jennifer McGowan; Professor Francesca Medda; Professor Jing Meng; Professor Usha Menon; Professor Susan Michie; Professor Grant Mills; Professor Mehran Moazen; Professor Sara Mole; Professor Richard Mole; Professor Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti; Professor Sharon Morris; Dr Guy Moss; Professor Gemma Moss; Dr Dale Moulding; Professor Vivek Mudera; Professor Julius Mugwagwa; Professor John Mullan; Professor Veronique Munoz-Darde; Professor Steven Murdoch; Professor Mirco Musolesi; Professor Florian Mussgnug; Dr Claudia Naeser; Dr Marga Navarrete; Dr H el ene Neveu Kringelbach; Professor Thanh Nguyen; Dr Mengyan Nie; Professor Lorraine Noble; Dr Alex Norori-McCormac; Dr Abel Nyamapfene; Dr Ademola Odunsi; Professor Moses Oketch; Professor Martin Oliver; Professor Susan O'Neill; Professor Norbert Pachler; Dr Ioannis Papaioannou; Professor Ioannis Papakonstantinou; Professor Amos Paran; Professor Jayne Parker; Dr Aaron Parkhurst; Professor Sandip Patel; Professor Richard Pearson; Dr Anne Peasey; Professor Paola Pedarzani; Professor Alan Penn; Professor Jane Perryman; Professor Tejendra Pherali; Professor Hynes Pikhart; Dr Jeffrey Pittaway; Dr Anna Ponomareva; Professor Mike Porter; Alexandra Potts; Professor Stephen Price; Professor David Pym; Professor Ahad Rahim; Professor Greta Rait; Dr Sangaralingam Ramesh; Dr Padhmaja Ravichandar; Professor Margaret Rawes; Professor Samantha Rayner; Dr Sophie Read; Professor Kieren Reed; Professor Geraint Rees; Professor Rebecca Rees; Dr Jill Reese; Professor Graeme Reid; Professor Jane Rendell; Professor Mary Richardson; Dr Miguel Rivera; Professor Aeli Roberts; Dr Anna Roffey; Professor Sue Rogers; Professor Rachel Rosen; Dr Stefano Rossoni; Professor Dimitrios Rovas; Professor John Sabapathy; Professor Patricia Salinas; Dr Benet Salway; Dr Andrei Samsonov; Professor Prince Saprai; Professor Federica Sarro; Professor Timothy Scanlon; Professor Stephanie Schorge; Professor Eloise Scottford; Professor Toby Seddon; Professor Andrea Sella; Dr Antonio Sennis; Professor Mala Shah; Professor Lion

Sherrill Stroschein; Dorota Studniarczyk; Professor Alastair Sutcliffe; Professor Irving Taylor; Dr Becky Taylor; Bryan Taylor; Professor Olga Thomas; Professor Alan Thompson; Professor Julian Thompson; Dr Amy Thornton; Professor Ulrich Tiedau; Dr Eleanor Tillett; Professor Manish Tiwari; Simon To; Professor Ahmed Toosy; Professor Andrea Townsend-Nicholson; Professor Kimberley Trapp; Dr Helen Tsui; Dr Richard Tunwell; Professor Gert van der Heijden; Dr Renée Vancraenenbroeck; Professor Liz Varga; Professor Laura Vaughan; Dr Michael Veale; Dr Nalini Vittal; Professor Christian Von Wagner; Dr Julia Wagner; Dr Tone Walford; Dr Zachary Walker; Professor Michael Walls; Professor David Waters; Professor Finn Werner; Professor Amanda Williams; Professor Duncan Wilson; Georgina Wilson-Cousins; Dr Nick Witham; Michael Wozniak; Professor Ian Zachary; Dr Anselm Zdebik; Dr Davide Zecchin; Professor Fangzhu Zhang; Rong Zhou; Professor Stan Zochowski; Professor Martijn Zwijnenburg.

**In attendance:** Alex Brace; Aimie Chapple; Sarah Cowls; Donna Dalrymple; Geoff Dunk; Dr Clare Goudy; Natasha Lewis; Nick McGhee; Angharad Milenkovic; Dr Martin Mortensen; David Pacey; Vincent Preece; Lorren Rea; Olivia Whiteley.

## Part I: Preliminary Business

## Part II: Matters for Discussion

### 28 PROVOST'S BUSINESS (Paper 3-01)

- 28.1 The Provost briefed Academic Board on his meeting with students who had occupied the Jeremy Bentham Room. Matters discussed had included working arrangements with refugee academics and the provision of scholarships for students affected by the Israel / Gaz understanding was that UK discrimination law meant that it was difficult for a university itself to establish nationality-specific scholarships. Those nationality-specific scholarships that had been identified appeared to be funded from philanthropic sources. The Provost noted that protests in the JBR and in the quadrangle had been peaceful and protesters had cooperated with the university on a number of occasions.
- 28.2 Academic Board discussed the broader question of relationships with organisations connected with the conflict, noting the complex issues arising from the nature and proximity of those relationships. The Provost hoped to be in a position to write to staff and students on this matter shortly, once it had been possible to review existing arrangements across the university. Members highlighted the importance of academics being well-informed on if they were to engage constructively with students.
- 28.3 Members enquired about the decision-making process in respect of approach to investments, noting that UCL had formerly had an Ethical Investments Review Committee<sup>2</sup>. UCL had a Socially Responsible Investment Policy<sup>3</sup>, and the terms of reference of the Investments Committee<sup>4</sup> included monitoring UCL's approach to responsible investment.
- 28.4 Members queried whether UCL had a view on the outcome of the

29 **SABBATICAL LEAVE POLICY** (Paper 3-02)

- 29.1 Professor Stella Bruzzi, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, introduced the paper and invited the potential reshaping of the sabbatical leave policy. It was intended that, following further consultation with stakeholders, a costings group would be established and proposals brought back to Academic Board with an academic impact statement.
- 29.2 Academic Board welcomed the paper. The following key issues were discussed:
- a) Several members spoke in favour of the extension of the sabbatical leave policy (or a related policy) to staff on teaching contracts. It was also suggested that some r

31.2 The Chair noted the perennial shortfall in the nominations for non-professorial academic members and highlighted the need to continue to encourage colleagues to engage with the work of the Board.

31.3 A number of membership. It was suggested that consideration should be given to professorial research fellows and professors (teaching) being included in the ex officio membership. The Board was advised that a number of professors (teaching) had decided to boycott the upcoming Academic Board cycle.

31.4 The Chair asked that GCAB consider the matter further, with a view to Academic Board discussing at a future meeting whether it wished to request that Council amend the Regulations governing the constitution of the Board.

## 32 **JOINT ADVISORY GROUPS** (Paper 3-05)

32.1 The Provost clarified that the function of the Joint Advisory Groups was to draw on the expertise of UMC and AB members at an early stage, not to usurp the role of those two bodies in advising Council. In order for such advice to be given the matters would necessarily need to go to UMC and Academic Board meetings.

32.2 It was intended that the Space Planning Group would consider the recent discussions about the IoE Masterplan (see Minute 27.1e). The Terms of Reference would be reviewed to ensure that this was appropriately reflected.

32.3 The Provost agreed with a suggestion from GCAB that each of the two groups should have an additional Head of Department member.

## 33 **UKDRIHQ: DISESTABLISHMENT AS AN ACADEMIC UNIT** (Paper 3-06)

33.1 AB was advised of the reasons for the approach taken in establishing the UKDRIHQ as an academic unit in 2020 [AB Minute 39, 12.02.20] and the employment arrangements for the staff concerned



