

## ACADEMIC BOARD

Wednesday 26 February 2014

### MINUTES

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

President and Provost (*Chair*)

Professor Michelle Baddeley, Mr Malcolm Bailey, Dr Paul Bartlett, Professor Polina Bayvel, Dr Bob Blizard, Professor David Bogle, Professor Stephen Caddick, Dr Elettra Carbone, Ms Sue Chick, Professor Lucie Clapp, Professor Mary Collins, Professor Susan Collins, Dr Caroline Essex, Professor Susan Evans, Professor Michael Ewing, Professor Margot Finn, Professor Jon French, Dr Martin Fry, Professor Mary Fulbrook, Mr Keir Gallagher, Professor Michael Gilbey, Dr Hugh Goodacre, Dr George Grimble, Professor Graham Hart, Dr Arne Hofmann, Dr Katherine Holt, Mr Ed Johnston, Mr Rex Knight, Professor Susanne Kord, Professor Axel Korner, Dr Antonio Lazzarini, Professor Antoinette Poodae9Anto6ssor 9f(eel 6p6otne )6(

*In attendance:* Mr Jason Clarke (*Secretary*), Ms Eleanor Day, Dr Vanessa Diaz, Mr Dominique Fourniol, Mr Nick McGhee, Mr Andy Saffery, Dr Hazel Smith.

*Apologies for absence were received from:* Ms Sarah Alleemudder, Professor Jürg Bähler, Professor Francois Balloux, Professor Franco Cacialli, Professor Matteo Carandini, Professor Marc-Olivier Coppens, Professor Giulio Cossu, Professor Simon

*Key to abbreviations*

AB	Academic Board
AC	Academic Committee
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
IoE	Institute of Education
JISC	Joint Information Systems Committee
NSS	National Student Survey
STEM	science, technology, engineering and mathematics [subjects]
UCU	University and College Union





meeting with union representatives to discuss how to take this forward had been arranged. The UCU had also suggested that one or two members of the AB Working Group could be invited to be observers in that negotiation process which, in the Provost's view, seemed to be a very constructive and helpful suggestion. A more general review was also required in respect of academic career pathways and titles, and contractual arrangements for different groups of staff. Proposals would be brought back to AB in due course following negotiations with the UCU and other campus trades unions, and prior to their submission to Council.

***Discussion:***

15E.2 It was suggested that the AB Working Group observers be designated to represent

- 16.6 The Dean of the Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences noted that UCL does not currently offer a degree programme in social science, and staff within the Faculty were therefore enthusiastic at the prospect of collaborating with IoE colleagues on a new undergraduate degree in this area. Similar opportunities arose in the field of psychology; while both institutions had departments of psychology, UCL's strengths in cognitive psychology and the IoE's in developmental psychology were essentially complementary. The Dean of the Faculty of Population Health Sciences observed that a merged institution would have unparalleled cohort study resources, with UCL's strengths focussed in population health and those of the IoE in social science, whose staff also have access to hard empirical data and strong quantitative and methodological expertise.
- 16.7 AB members noted the possibility for collaboration beyond the social sciences and the potential benefits for the development of innovative teaching practice. The opportunity for developing a more clearly defined career pathway for Teaching Fellows was also raised.
- 16.8 The differences in the definition of 'academic staff' between the statutes of the two institutions were noted. Issues relating to terms and conditions would need be considered as part of the due diligence process and could also be looked at as part of the work to be undertaken by UCL management and the trades unions on statute reform referred to earlier. Although any merger would result in the IoE dissolving its charter and transferring its assets to the merged institution, UCL would be keen to benefit from good practice at the IoE and it was clearly possible that UCL might wish to adopt the IoE's approach in certain areas. It was intended that if the merger were to

**RECOMMENDED (to Council)**

- 17.3 That the new UCL Student Complaints Procedure at AB 2-13 (13-14) be approved.

**18 GRADUATE SCHOOL – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012-13**

**Noted:**

- 18.1 Highlights of the Graduate School's Annual Report 2012-13 were at AB 2-15 (13-14). A copy of the full report would be filed with these Minutes as \*<sup>3</sup> AB 2-16 (13-14) with seven annexes. AB was invited to endorse the report before it was submitted to the Council meeting on 25 March 2014 for formal approval.

**RECOMMENDED (to Council)**

- 18.2 That the Graduate School's Annual Report for 2012-13 at \*AB 2-16 (13-14) with seven annexes, be approved.

**19 ELECTION OF NON-PROFESSORIAL ACADEMIC STAFF, TEACHING FELLOW STAFF AND NON-ACADEMIC STAFF TO SERVE ON ACADEMIC BOARD IN SESSIONS 2014-15 AND 2015-16**

[AB Min.10, 23.10.13]

**Noted:**

- 19.1 At its last meeting AB noted that, in accordance with arrangements previously agreed by the Board, elections would be held in the Spring Term 2014 for non-professorial academic staff, Teaching Fellow staff and non-academic staff to serve on AB for sessions 2014-15 and 2015-16.
- 19.2 A note on the outcome of the above elections was at AB 2-17 (13-14).

**Discussion:**

- 19.3 The convenor of the non-professorial members of AB noted that he had approached the Human Resources Division to ask for contact details for Teaching Fellow staff from across UCL in order to contact them regarding the elections to AB, but had been advised that it would not be possible for that information to be provided and that a freedom of information request should be submitted. AB noted that there might be data protection issues involved, but that officers would look into this matter further to see if an alternative solution could be identified.

