



## ACADEMIC BOARD

3 May 2017

### MINUTES

*PRESENT:*

Provost (*Chair*)

Dr Tracey Allen; Dr Paul Ayris; Dr Simon Banks; Professor Andrew Barry; Professor Helen Birch; Mr Timothy Bodley-Scott; Dame Nicola Brewer; Professor Eric J Brunner; Mr Simon Cane; Dr Ben P Clifford; Professor Susan Collins; Dr Mike Cope; Professor Marc-Olivier Coppens; Dr Melanie Ehren; Professor Robertus De Bruin; Dr Rachele De Felice; Professor Jan Derry; Professor Simon Dixon; Ms Elizabeth Dow; Professor Susan Evans; Professor Becky Francis; Dr Richard Freeman; Dr Martin Fry; Professor Dilly Fung; Dr Andrew Gardner; Professor Derek Gilroy; Ms Jessica Gramp; Dr Paul Groves; Ms Rachel Hall; Professor Peter Hansford; Dr Evangelos Himonides; Dr Andrea Hodgetts; Professor Aroon Hingorani; Ms Lori Houlihan; Dr Ali Judd; Professor Martin Koltzenburg; Dr Efrosyni Konstantinou; Dr Sarabajaya Kumar; Professor David Lomas; Ms Collette Lux; Dr Jenny Marie; Dr Colin Marx; Dr Margaret Mayston; Dr Professor Gudrun Moore; Saladin D Meckled-Garcia; Professor Neil Millar; Professor Sibylle Mittnacht; Professor John Mullan; Dr Charlene Murphy; Professor Norbert Pachler; Professor Enrico Palandri; Professor Brian Pearce; Dr Anne Peasey; Professor Konstantinos Petrides; Professor Alan Penn; Dr Inés Pineda-Torres; Professor David Price; Professor Sue Rogers; Mr William Richardson; Professor Helen Roberts; Ms Fiona Ryland; Dr Benet Salway; Professor Ralf Schoepfer; Professor Andrea Sella; Dr Lion Shahab; Professor David Shanks; Dr Michael Short; Professor Michael A Singer; Professor Lucia Sivilotti; Professor Sarah Spurgeon; Dr Helen Stagg; Professor Sacha Stern; Dr Rhiannon Stevens; Professor Judith Suissa; Dr Kristza Szendroi; Professor Alan Thompson; Mr Simon To; Dr Ahmed Toosy; Professor Andrea Townsend-Nicholson; Mr Martin Walsh; Ms Susan Ware; Dr Jane Warren; Ms Breege Whiten; Dr Andrew Wills; Professor Alison J Wright; Dr Stan Zochowski

*In attendance:* Mr Derfel Owen (Secretary to Academic Board); Ms Siobhan Fitzgerald (Academic Services); Mr Geoff Lang (Director of HR Strategy & Policy)

Apologies for absence were received from: Professor Jonathan Ashmore; Dr Ayshea Craig; Professor James Bainbridge; Dr Rebecca Beeken; Professor Graziella Branduardi-Raymont; Professor Rob Brownstone; Dr Ben Campkin; Professor Susan Collins; Dr Lesley Gourlay; Dr Karen Edge; Professor Mary JA Fulbrook; Dr Sandy Leaton Gray; Professor Helen Hackett; Dr Andrew Harris; Professor Kenneth Harris; Ms Melissa Hazen; Professor Michael Heinrich; Ms Caroline Holden; Professor Robert Kleta; Professor Susanne Kord; Professor Anson W. Mackay; Professor Gesine Manuwald; Professor Charles Marson; Professor Kevin J Middlebrook; Dr Kit Opie; Professor Ivan Parkin; Dr Hynek Pikhart; Professor Stephen R.

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46.1 None.



Academic Board discuss ways to create a sustainable future for UCL, and maintaining staff morale. The Provost proposed the establishment of a Working Group to consider these issues. However, in the interim, a request was made for a Special Meeting of Academic Board to be held to discuss this issue. Therefore, a Special Meeting will be called within 14 days. In the meantime, the Provost invited members at the current meeting to have a general discussion about these issues to help inform the Special Meeting, noting that decision on the proposal contained in paper 4-02 could be deferred to Special Meeting.

- 49.3 A member proposed that all discussion should be deferred to the Special Meeting, expressing concerns that the current proposal for a Working Group did not fully take into account the concerns raised, focussing on issues of sustainability rather than morale and improvements to Academic Board. They stated that there are issues around the representation of views at Academic Board. They also noted that a number of members of Academic Board interested in this issue were not present at the current meeting, but would be in attendance for a Special Meeting.
- 49.4 The Provost and other members raised concerns that those members present at the current meeting be allowed to discuss the matter, noting that the meeting was fully constituted, well-attended and well-advertised. It was stressed that a general discussion about the principle of how Academic Board would bring these issues forward would be welcome and reasonable.
- 49.5 There was some discussion about the proposed Working Group's Terms of Reference, in particular, interpretations of whether the word 'was mainly focussed on' was about finances, or whether it had a broader reference.
- 49.6 There was general agreement that a discussion of the way Academic Board currently works would be worthwhile. A member expressed the view that Academic Board holds useful discussions, but that the frequent use of smaller groups to feed into Academic Board may suggest that a review would be helpful, to make sure that the right kind of governance is explicitly included in the terms of reference. It was suggested that it may be useful to review how other Universities manage their equivalent of Academic Board.
- 49.7 There was a discussion about the attendance levels at Academic Board, and it was noted that participation had increased in recent years, but the percentage of attendees was still low. A member suggested that it may be useful at the Special Meeting to discuss how to engage the academic community in more informal ways, or through the hierarchies of faculties and departments. It was suggested that this would ensure that academics are presented with more in-depth information, to ensure that when an item comes to Academic Board members have been able to explore it in more detail, in order to forestall the need for working groups to be set up.

**50 VICE-PROVOST (ENTERPRISE & LONDON) ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL**  
*[PAPER 4-03, 2016-17]*



