

Academic Committee

Thursday 17th November 2022 at 10:00am

Video-conferencing meeting via MS Teams

Minutes

Present Members:

President and Provost (Chair); Professor Ibrahim Abubakar; Hamza Ahmed; Professor Kathy Armour; Dr Paul Ayris; Professor Simon Banks; Ashley Doolan; Dr Julie Evans; Dr Hugh Goodacre; Dr Apologies:

> Professor David Bogle; Professor Stella Bruzzi; Sarah Cowls; Pro Graig; Professor Mark Emberton; Professor Ame Hofmann; Profes Hudson; Angharad Milenkovic; Professor Ivan Parkin; Professor G Suzanne Ruddy; Dr Michael Short; Professor Olga Thomas; Dr Za Kathryn Walsh , Chief of Staff, President and Prov For Minutes 1-16: Professor Parama Chaudhury, Pro-Vice-Provost (E Student Academic Experience) For Minute 5: Paul Clark, Vice-President (Strategy) For Minute 5: Laura Mackenzie, Project Manager (Academic Develop For Minute 6: John Dubber, Chief Executive, Students' Union UCL

> For Minute 8: Claire Hartill, Acting Head of Regulations and Casework For Minute 8: Zoe Harrison, Casework Manger

Officer

Rachel Port, Governance Manager: Research Integrity

Part I: Preliminary Business

- 1. Academic Committee Terms of Reference, Constitution and Membership 2022-23 (1-01)
- 1.1. Academic Committee (AC) approved its Terms of

years. It was also a key component of the future focused approach to education envisaged in UCL's Strategic Plan 2022-27.

- b. It was underpinned by a commitment to work in partnership to: build on the Students' Union's model of student engagement and leadership; recognise the diversity of UCL's student body and work towards equity; provide opportunities for all levels of commitment and skill; support the creation of a student life hub at departmental level; develop a coherent approach to supporting experiential learning; and create more opportunities for alumni to engage meaningfully with student life at UCL.
- c. The strategy included a focus on six key areas as follows: sport and physical activity; performing and creative arts; community volunteering; intercultural engagement; departmental societies; and the vibrant student life in London.
- d. In relation to the key areas it was intended that: by 2028, 50% of all students would engage with sports and physical activity at UCL; over 12,500 students would be involved in arts UCL by 2028; that over 5k students would take part in community volunteering by 2028; that 15 major campus cultural event celebrations would be embedded in the aninumaccitelenbyo2027452h(arth)2r(e))Volul@ Ete: 101kw@dise@inefbl@che/htBpplyre.

smaller departments, and there was a suggestion to work with faculties to look at different ways to operationalise the vision of belonging.

- h. Some work around the strategy involved the rethinking of the meaning of student life as well as consideration of the meaning of being a student at UCL.
- i. Equity was considered to be important given some UCL students came from schools where student life was not considered holistically.
- j. In relation to students with disabilities, the UCL Library was praised for the work it had undertaken in this area under UCL's Grand Challenges scheme.
- 6.3. AC endorsed the UCL Student Life Strategy.
- 7. UCL Student Complaints Annual Report 2021 (1-05)
- 7.1. Claire Hartill, Acting Head, Regulations and Casework Team, and Zoe Harrison, Casework Manager, introduced the UCL Student Complaints Annual Report 2021. The key points made were:
 - a. The number of formal complaints submitted had decreased by 33% compared to 2020 where the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic had led to an unprecedented number of complaints being submitted.
 - b. In 2021, UCL experienced a higher number of non-academic student complaints relating to the industrial action and the "tail-end" of Covid-19 pandemic complaints.
 - c. The report now included statistics on complaint numbers by student headcount.
 - d. In 2021, a high number of complaints submitted were from those departments that offered professional accreditation on their programmes of study.
 - e. UCL's compensation payments increased in 2021 and amounted to some £75k which was its highest level to date.
- 7.2. During discussion, the following points were made:
 - In relation to the complaint numbers by student headcount, the Chair considered that the correlation between departments and their National Student Survey (NSS) scores against the number of complaints made required closer examination.
 - b. It was noted that those areas would be covered in the Education Plans to be produced by departments next session.
- 7.3. AC received the UCL Student Complaints Annual Report 2021.

Part III: Other Busin ess for Approval or Information

- 8. Review of UCL Education Governance Structure s (1-06)
- 8.1. AC noted the review of UCL's Education Governance Structures that had been approved by Education Committee.
- 9. Academic Committee Annual Report to Academic Board and Council 2021-22 (1-07)
- 9.1. AC approved the Academic Committee Annual Report 2021-22.
- 10. Annual Report for Session 202 1-22 Education Committee (1 -08)
- 10.1. AC approved the Education Committee Annual Report 2021-22.
- 11. Annual Report for session 202 1-22 Library Committee (1 -09)
- 11.1. AC approved the Library Committee Annual Report 2021-22.
- 12. Annual Report for session 202 1-22 Research Degrees Committee (1-10)
- 12.1. AC approved the Research Degrees Committee Annual Report 2021-22.
- 13. Office for Students (OfS) Business Plan 2022- 23 Student and R egistry Services (SRS) Compliance Summary (1-11)
- 13.1. AC received the OfS Business Plan 2022-23 SRS @@(in)plian(te)7S(7[11f2a))2r(0360/0())Fl2 < //