

Part I: Preliminary Business

2. Academic Committee Terms of Reference, Constitution and Membership (Paper 2-02)

- 2.1. The Chair welcomed all the new members to the first scheduled meeting of Academic Committee (AC) this session and thanked them for their willingness to serve. AC was considered to be an important committee in UCL's governance structure and it handled a high amount of business. At its first meeting each session, AC noted its terms of reference, constitution and membership, and those of its sub-committees'. In light of the recommendations arising from Academic Board's (AB) Commission of Inquiry (COI) report, AB had approved a request that its powers relating to educational policy, currently delegated to AC be delegated to Education Committee (EdCom) instead. AB had also made some recommendations with respect to the constitution of EdCom. Therefore, some revisions were proposed to both AC's and EdCom's terms of reference and the EdCom constitution in order to effect these changes.
- 2.2. Ms Wendy Appleby, Registrar and Head of Student Registry Services introduced the paper setting out ref-3(e)]

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- d. AC considered that the proposed revisions were a sensible route to follow to respond to the COI recommendations.
- e. It was proposed that the Chair of the new Innovation and Enterprise Committee (IEC) be added to the AC constitution in the same way as the Chairs of EdCom and Research Degrees Committee were ex-officio members.

2.4.

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- b. The Chair noted that direct reporting from EdCom to AB did not close the regulatory reporting line. Issues could occur from EdCom that could not clearly be dealt with by AB and as accountable officer, the Chair would be unable to close them off. EdCom operated in a wider framework rather than in a vacuum and covered a very important area of UCL's activity as well as all aspects of the taught student experience. One of the proposed amendments was for EdCom to provide regular reporting to AB, which AC supported.
- c. AB would need to consider how to increase the proportion of agenda time it devoted to consideration of educational standards including the student experience, to make the most of the new emphasis on interaction between

9. Principal Theme 2 Annual Report (Paper 2-06)

- 9.1. Professor Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs) introduced the Principal Theme 2, Education Strategy Annual Report. The key points made were:
- a. The report had been discussed and received by EdCom and would be considered by Council.
 - b. The 2019-2020 academic year had been a year like no other and 2020 was also looking to be equally remarkable. However, UCL was continuing to ensure that it offered students a great education and enriching experience.
 - c. Special thanks were given to the student body for their support and excellent partnership working and to UCL staff who moved to remote teaching and online assessment in a very short space of time. However, it was recognised that this had had a significant impact on the workload for staff.
 - d. In relation to assessment, in order to mitigate the impact of the disruption a 'no detriment' approach to progressions and degree classifications was put in place. This resulted in an 8.1% increase in good degrees (first and 2.1 degrees combined)

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- e. The Education Strategy was due to expire in 2021 and it was intended that preparation of a new version be delayed by a year.
- f. At its meeting yesterday, Library Committee commended the work of Library Services during the pandemic.

9.3. AC received the Principal Theme 2, Education Strategy Annual Report.

10. Annual Accountability Return 2019-20: Quality Assurance (Paper 2-07)

10.1. Dr Helen Matthews, Director of

14. Annual Report for session 2019-20 – Research Degrees Committee (Paper 2-11)

14.1. AC received the Research Degrees Committee Annual Report 2019-20.

15. Reports of sub-committees, working groups etc of AC

15.1. AC received the following sets of minutes:

- a. The minutes of Education Committee, 8 June 2020; 30 July 2020; 6 October 2020 (unconfirmed);
- b. The minutes of Library Committee, 25 June 2020 (unconfirmed);
- c. The minutes of Research Degrees Committee, 3 June 2020;
- d. The minutes of Student Recruitment, Admissions and Funding Committee, 9 June 2020 (unconfirmed).

16. Expression of Thanks - Vice-Provost (Enterprise)

16.1. The Chair noted that this was the last AC meeting to be attended by Dr Celia Caulcott who would retire from UCL at end January 2021. AC noted her contribution to the development of innovation and enterprise at UCL as well as her role as Vice-Provost (Enterprise). AC expressed their thanks for all her work and wished her well for the future.

17. Expression of thanks - President and Provost

17.1. This was the last meeting of AC to be chaired by Professor Michael Arthur ahead of his retirement from UCL in early January 2021. The Provost noted that 2020 had been an extraordinary year and that he had agreed to stay on in the role for a few further months until his successor was able to start at UCL, before the current pandemic had started in the UK. The Provost noted that it had been a great honour to lead such an amazing institution as UCL and expressed enormous support for AC and to all members for their input.

17.2. As Vice-Chair, the Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs) gave reflections on the legacy of Professor Arthur and noted that he had developed a great working relationship with UCL's student community. AC members expressed their sincere thanks to Professor Arthur and wished him all the best for the future.

18. Dates of next meetings

18.1. The next meetings of Academic Committee would be held as follows:
Thursday 4 March 2021 at 10.00am
Thursday 24 June 2021 at 10.00am

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Thursday 18 November 2021 at 10.00am.

Ms Rachel Port
Secretary to Academic Committee
January 2021