



## COUNCIL

Monday 20 October 2014

## MINUTES

### *PRESENT:*

Dame DeAnne Julius

Mr Lukmaan Kolia  
Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia  
Ms Lindsay Nicholson  
Dr Gill Samuels

Ms Nahid Majid  
Mr Simon Melliss (*Treasurer*)  
Ms Vivienne Parry

*In attendance:* Dame Nicola Brewer (Vice-Provost (International)); Professor Stephen Caddick (Vice-Provost (Enterprise and London)); Mr Andrew Grainger (Director of UCL Estates) [*for Minute 18*]; Mr Phil Harding (Director of Finance and Business Affairs); Mr Rex Knight (Vice-Provost (Operations));

, Baroness Valentine and Baroness Warwick.

*Key to abbreviations used in these Minutes:*

BBSRC      Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

GPA      grade point average

HE      higher education





**6D League tables**

6D.1 The Provost summarised UCL's performance in a number of recent league tables, noting in particular the advent of new methodologies, including one ranking based on the number of Google searches for each institution<sup>1</sup>.

**6E UCL Academy**

*[Council Minute 112B, 2013-14]*

6E.1 Following an OFSTED inspection of the UCL Academy earlier in the year and the subsequent development of an action plan, a monitoring visit had now taken place. OFSTED had commended the action taken in response to the recommendations. The Provost congratulated the Principal, Geraldine Davies, and the Board of Governors chaired by Professor David Price, for the expeditious measures taken in this matter.

**6F Funding of Higher Education**

6F.1 The Provost updated Council on the national HE funding picture, noting in particular Labour's decision not to announce a £6,000 fees policy in the leader's recent conference speech, as well as the support in some quarters for the 'big institutes' model. The appointments of George Freeman as Minister for Life Sciences and Greg Clarke as Minister for Universities, Science and Cities, were noted.

**7 INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION MERGER**

*[Council Minute 112C, 2013-14]*

***Received***

7.1 APPENDIX C 1/03 (14)

undesirability of any delay between formal confirmation and implementation.

***Discussion***

7.5 Council discussed the implications of the

8 **VICE PROVOST (RESEARCH) REPORT**

*Received*

8.1 APPENDIX C

**Reported**

- 9.3 The Provost summarised the history of UCL's budgetary strategy in recent years, noting that prior to the phased reduction of the capital funding stream it has been customary to budget for a zero surplus. Only in recent years had the need to generate a surplus in order to fund reinvestment come to be generally accepted.
- 9.4 Noting that work was ongoing in making improvements to the format of the paper, Mr Harding tabled a paper summarising the headline figures of the update. It was intended that a summary of this sort would be included in future updates.
- 9.5 The overall surplus was £34.5m (3.4%), including £20.3m from exceptional capital items. The operating surplus showed a £4.7m negative variance against budget. The outcome was an improvement on the third quarter forecast, principally as a result of a lower than anticipated level of expenditure on equipment at the end of the year.

exceeded their budget targets overall, although SLMS had fallen short, principally due to a shortfall in generating the targeted savings in pay costs. The overspend in Professional Services s due principally to: additional costs on early retirement / voluntary severance (which were picked up as a central cost);

**Reported**

- 10A.2 The executive w termine a response. The funding to which the letters referred was a donation and not a research contract, and as such was subject to approval by the Gift

<b>Matters for approval or information</b>
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