

Education Committee Extraordinary Meeting

8 January 2021

Confirmed Minutes

Present:

Professor Anthony Smith (Chair)

Ms Wendy Appleby; Dr Simon Banks; Mr Ayman Benmati; Professor Clare Brooks; Professor Nora Colton; Ms Yasmeen Daoud; Mr Ian David; Mr Ashley Doolan; Dr Julie Evans; Dr Jo Fraser-Pearce; Professor Deborah Gill; Professor Alistair Greig; Professor Arne Hofmann; Professor Jane Holder; Ms Gunay Karimova; Mr Zak Liddell; Ms Viktoria Makai; Ms Blathnaid Mahony; Dr Helen Matthews; Mr Jim Onyemenam; Mr Derfel Owen; Professor Norbert Pachler; Professor Aeli Roberts; Mr Mike Rowson; Dr Bill Sillar; Professor Sam Smidt; Dr Hazel Smith; Dr Fiona Strawbridge; Professor Olga Thomas and Ms Lizzie Vinton.

In attendance: Ms Katie Price and Mr Rob Traynor (Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from: Ms Megan Gerrie and Ms June Hedges.

Part I: Preliminary Business

1. Welcome, Apologies and Announcements

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed the EdCom members to the extraordinary meeting, convened to discuss the response to the

- ~~2.2~~ Unfortunately the Covid-19 pandemic had worsened again, with a new variant leading to much stricter lockdown measures than anyone had hoped. This further disruption was causing students real concern and they were worried that they would not be able to do their best work. UCL was faced with a complex set of challenges: we want students to have every opportunity to demonstrate their full academic potential despite the circumstances of the pandemic and to ensure that a UCL degree continues to be regarded as amongst the best in the world. It had therefore been agreed that the no detriment policy for 2020-21 should be revisited.
- 2.3. EdCom acknowledged the significant disruption faced by students and the effects this was having on their mental health and well-being. It also noted that the situation differed from 2019-20, where UCL had faced an unforeseen crisis. A great deal of planning had since been undertaken to take account of the new circumstances and adapt teaching and assessments to online learning. Changes had also been made to Extenuating Circumstances and online examinations to mitigate the disruption that students were experiencing.

The paper proposed an evidence-based approach for 2020-21 assessments, where

