



FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thursday 12 November 2015

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Mr Simon Melliss (*Chair*)

Professor Michael Arthur
(*President and Provost*)
Dr Ben Booth
Professor Sue Hamilton

Dr Gill Samuels
Professor Alan Smith
Ms Sarah Whitney

In attendance: Ms Nicola Arnold (Deputy Director, Finance and Business Affairs); Mr Andrew Grainger (Director of UCL Estates); Mr Phil Harding (Director of Finance and Business Affairs); Mr Rex Knight (Vice-Provost (Operations)); Mr Mohammad Ali Mumtaz (Student Observer); and Dr Marguerite Nolan (Secretary to Finance Committee).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Stephanie Bird, Dame DeAnne Julius and Mr Richard Smothers.

Key to abbreviations used in these Minutes:

FC	Finance Committee
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HESES	Higher Education Students Early Statistics Survey
I&E	Income and Expenditure
IoE	Institute of Education
QR	Quality Related Research Funding
TRAC	Transparent Approach to Costing
UCLU	University College London Union

1a2. It was noted that this was the last meeting of the Finance Committee that Ms Nicola Arnold would be attending as she would be leaving UCL at the end of this term to take on a new role. The Chair thanked Ms Arnold on behalf of the Finance Committee for her very helpful contribution to the work of the Committee.

1b. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

1b.1 It was noted that Dr Ben Booth daughter was currently registered as an undergraduate student at UCL.

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

2.1 **Approved:** The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Finance Committee held on 29 September 2015 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** **FC 2-1 (15-16)**

3.1 **Received:** The Committee received and noted the report on Matters Arising from the last meeting at FC 2-1 (15-16).

Matters for Discussion

4. **FIXED AND VARIABLE INCOME AND COSTS –** **FC 2-13 (15-16)**
RESPONSE TO QUERIES RAISED

4.1 **Considered:** The Committee considered the report on Fixed and Variable Income Costs at FC 2-13 (15-16). This provided responses to queries raised on Document 1- at the last meeting of the Finance Committee on 29 September 2015. This item had been moved to item no. 4 on the agenda as the first item for discussion. The following key issues had been identified in the report:

- a) UCL research activity overall yielded a loss;
- b) Teaching activity had produced a growing surplus, but much of this had been driven by the increase in student numbers;
- c) Teaching home/EU students was broadly break-even and the increasing pressure in the UK/EU PGT market risked diminishing the return in real terms from these students;
- d) The surplus increased over time but at a modest rate.

4.2 It was noted that the report highlighted important sustainability issues for UCL and in particular the significant negative change in the total research contribution in the last five years. Feedback was sought on the measures that were being taken to address the issues which the report highlighted.

4.3 It was noted that

a long-term borrowing facility for up to 30 years.

9.2 **Resolved:** The Committee noted the update on Financing Strategy at FC 2-7 (15-16) and reaffirmed its decision to recommend to Council that UCL officers progress negotiations with the EIB to achieve a final set of contract documents for signing at the earliest opportunity and by the end of December 2015 if possible.

10. **UCL INSTITUTE OF IMMUNITY AND TRANSPLANTATION, PHASE II** **FC 2-8 (15-16)**

10.1 **Received:** The Business Case for the UCL Institute of Immunity and Transplantation, Phase II at FC 2-8 (15-16).

10.2

10.3

15. **BANKING MATTERS**

FC 2-14 (15-16)

15.1 **Received:** The report on Banking Matters at FC 2-14 (15-16).

15.2