

# ACADEMIC BOARD

13 October 2015

## MINUTES

*PRESENT<sup>1</sup>:*

President and Provost (*Chair*)

Ms Wendy Appleby; Dr Sunny Bains; Mr Francis Brako; Professor David Bogle; Dame Nicola Brewer; Professor Andrew Brown; Ms Annabel Brown; Ms Jane Burns; Dr Ben Campkin; Dr Celia Caulcott; Professor Lucie Clapp; Dr Ben Clifford; Ms Charlotte Croffie; Professor Izzat Darwazeh; Professor Julio D. Davila; Ms Eleanor Day; Dr Sally Day; Dr Rachele De Felice; Dr Melanie Ehren; Dr Caroline Essex; Professor Susan Evans, Ms Ava Fatah gen. Schieck; Dr

Greany; Professor Lucie Green; Dr George Grimble; Professor Helen Hackett; Professor Robert Harvey; Dr Evangelosdes; Dr Arne Hofmann; Professor Stephen Hunt; Dr Katherine Ibbett; Dr Kersti Karu; Dr Avril Keating; Professor Susanne Kord; Dr Sarabajaya Kumar; Professor Cécile Laborde; Dr Ruth Langley; Professor Bob Lowe; Dr Helga Luthersdottir; Dr Thomas McGee; Dr Saladin Meckled-Garcia; Professor Alejandro Madrigal; Dr Helen Matthews; Professor Charles Marson; Professor Timothy Mathews; Dr Margaret Mayston; Professor Kevin Middlebrook; Dr Richard Mole; Professor Jonathan Montgomery; Professor Henrietta Moore; Professor Stephen Neidle; Dr Kit Opie; Dr Julie Olszewski; Professor David Osrin; Professor Jeom-Kee Paik; Professor Alison Park; Professor David Price; Professor Saul Purton; Professor Jonathan Roiser; Mr Mike Rowson; Professor Gary Rubin; Dr Kerstin Sailer; Professor Alan Salama; Professor Tom Salt; Professor Mala Shah; Professor Stephen Shennan; Dr Jolene Skordis-Worrall; Professor Andrew Stahl; Professor Sacha Stern; Dr Martin Stocker; Professor Sarah Tabrizi; Mrs Emanuela Tilley; Professor Alan Thompson; Professor Jayant Vaidya; Professor Rosemary Varley; Professor Phiroze Vasunia; Dr Matt Wakelin; Professor Henning Walczak; Professor Sarah Walker; Professor David Waters; Mr Nigel Waugh; Professor Anne White; Professor Kwee Yong.

*Key to abbreviations*

AB	Academic Board
AM	Annual Monitoring
ASER	Annual Student Experience Review
CALT	Centre for Advancing Learning and Teaching
GES	Global Education Strategy
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
HER	Higher Education Review
NSS	National Student Survey
PGR	Postgraduate Research
PGT	Postgraduate Taught
PTES	Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency
RC	Research Council
SED	Self-Evaluation Document
TEF	Teaching Excellence Framework
UG	Undergraduate
VP	Vice Provost
WP	Widening Participation

**Preliminary business**

**1 TERMS OF REFERENCE, CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP 2015-16**  
*[PAPERS 1-01 – 1-03, 2015-16]*

- 1.1 **Received** – AB’s terms of reference, constitution and membership for the session 2015-16 and a note by the Secretary on AB Standing Orders.

**2 MINUTES OF 13 MAY 2015 MEETING**

- 2.1 **Approved** – the Minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 13 May 2015  
*[AB Minutes 36-46, 2014-15].*

### **3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **3A Global Education Strategy**

*[AB Minute 37A, [13 May 2015]]*

- 3A.1 The VP (International) reported that Council had approved the final draft of the GES at its meeting on 30 March 2015 and the Strategy was communicated to colleagues in May. As a result of the GES, restructuring and reappointment activities were completed over the Summer period. The VP Office would close and reopen as a fully staffed GES Office in November.
- 3A.2 Seven Pro Vice-Provosts have been appointed and will chair regional networks to oversee UCL's engagement and partnership activity.

<b>Matters for discussion</b>
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### **4 PROVOST'S BUSINESS**

#### **4A Government's Spending Review**

- 4A.1 The Provost reported on the significant cuts proposed across all government departments including HEFCE, RCs and QAA, TEF and WP. The consequence on HEFCE funding remained a concern.

#### **4B Teaching Excellence Framework**

- 4B.1 A Government Green paper on TEF would be published soon outlining plans for a sector wide approach to recognising and rewarding excellent teaching. The focus would be on output measures including retention; graduate destinations and the NSS. These measures would provide a system to decide whether universities can increase fees for UG students and may extend to PGT student fees in future.

#### **4C NSS**

- 4C.1 The NSS scores for UCL were disappointing and reinforced the need for UCL to focus more effort on improving the student experience. Some subject areas perform extremely well, initial exploration suggests that this is down to a strong relationship between staff and students. Many subject areas would need to intensify their focus on the student experience in order to improve scores, a concerted effort over a number of years would be required to place UCL in a stronger position.

**4D Equality and Diversity**

4D.1 UCL achieved the Silver Athena Swan Award, a significant accomplishment making UCL one of only eight Universities in UK to achieve this standard. UCL also participated in a pilot in the Race Equality Charter marker and achieved a Bronze award. Eight out of sixteen universities that participated in the pilot achieved the Bronze award. Currently UCL is the only University in the UK

**7 EDUCATION STRATEGY**

*[PAPER 1-05, 2015-16]*

- 7.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from Professor Anthony Smith, Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs)
- 7.2 The VP reported that the first phase of consultation had included consultation with students and staff across UCL and a number of excellent suggestions had come forward to shape the draft proposed at the meeting. A particular theme that emerged from the consultation was the importance of working with students as partners in education, involved in all areas of the development and implementation stages of the Strategy.
- 7.3 In response to some members' comments, the VP identified different enablers in the Strategy that would measure success, recognition for teaching and leadership and rebuilding of systems. The stronger points of UCL such as developing and enhancing intellectual curiosity would be strengthened. Through the Connected Curriculum initiative, a development of assessment and programme components that would be meaningful to students would occur.

**8 DOCTORAL EDUCATION AT UCL**

*[PAPER 1-06, 2015-16]*

- 8.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from Professor David Bogle, Pro-Vice-Provost (Doctoral School)
- 8.2 The Pro Vice-Provost (Doctoral School) reported that the strategy had been developed to align with UCL 2034, the Research Strategy and to build on the



**15 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR (including Academic Board Working Groups on Established Chairs and Readerships)**

*[PAPER 1-12, 2015-16]*

15.1 **Received** – a note of action taken by the Chair on behalf of Academic Board since the last report.

**16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

16.1 The next Academic Board meeting would be held on Wednesday 10 February