

ACADEMIC BOARD

Wednesday 23 May 2012

MINUTES

*PRESENT*¹:

President and Provost (*Chair*)

Professor Bas Aarts, Mr James Agar, Dr Bob Barber, Mr Ben Beach, Professor Michael Berkowitz, Ms Julie Black, Professor David Bogle, Mr Matthew Bowles, Mr Tony Brown, Dr Eric Brunner, Mr Peter Cadley, Professor Matteo Carandini, Ms Maheema Chanrai, Dr Beverley Clark, Mr Edwin Clifford-Coupe, Professor Shamsad Cockroft, Professor Susan Collins, Mr Ben Colvill, Dr Francesco D'Aiuto, Ms Fiona Duffy, Mr Luke Durigan, Professor Susan Evans, Professor Mike Ewing, Dr Andrew Faulkner, Dr Susan Ferguson, Professor Anthony Finkelstein, Professor Fred Fitzke, Mr Dominique Fourniol, Dr Martin Fry, Professor Mary Fulbrook, Mr Sam Gaus, Professor Marcus Giaquinto, Professor Michael Gilbey, Professor Xavier Golay, Dr Hugh Goodacre, Professor Mairead Hanrahan, Professor Robert Harvey, Ms Sandra Hinton, Dr Katherine Holt, Mr Rex Knight, Dr Dilwyn Knox, Professor Susanne Kord, Professor Cecile Laborde,

24 **MINUTES**

Approved

- 24.1 The Minutes of the AB meeting held on 29 February 2012 [*AB Minutes 12-23, 2011-12*] were confirmed by the Board and signed by the Chair.

25 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

25A **Council approval of Academic Board recommendations**
[*AB Minute 17, 2011-12*]

Noted

- 25A.1 At its meeting on 1 March 2012 Council approved, on the recommendation of AB:
- the disestablishment of the Wolfson Institute for Biomedical Research as an academic unit of UCL, with effect from 1 April 2012, and its incorporation as a research department in the Division of Medicine with effect from the same date;
 - the establishment of the Institute of the Americas as an academic unit of UCL, within the Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences, with effect from 1 April 2012.

25B **UCL International Strategy**
[*AB Minute 15, 2011-12*]

Noted

- 25B.1 At its meeting on 29 February 2012, AB received a presentation from the Vice-Provost (International) on the revised UCL International Strategy. The revised Strategy, which was posted on the AB web pages on 20 March 2012, was considered by Academic Committee at its meeting on 22 March 2012 and then approved by the Provost as Chair of AB acting on behalf of the Board and submitted to Council for endorsement at its meeting on 4 April 2012. The final version of the Strategy, which reflected issues which had been raised by Council at its April meeting, was approved by Council at its meeting on 15 May 2012.

25C **Information Services Division**
[*AB Minute 16B, 2011-12*]

Noted

- 25C.1 At the meeting of AB on 29 February 2012, the Provost had drawn attention to the open letter from the UCU that had been circulated to members of the Board regarding the restructuring of the Information Services Division, and noted that he would report back to AB once he had had an opportunity to review the operation of the Lead Officer arrangements in this area.

Reported

difficulty, but the situation in the Eurozone had to date had no discernible impact on the level of need. It was noted that student hardship funding would double next year.

- 28.5 UCL, in partnership with other HEIs, was communicating with the Government through the medium of Universities UK on the negative impact of the AAB+ dispensation on widening participation targets. UCL was investing heavily in outreach activities. The nature of the impact of this change would not become clear until December.
- 28.6 On behalf of AB, the Provost thanked Bella Malins and her colleagues for their work in this area.

29 REFORM OF STATUTE 18

Noted

- 29.1 Chapter 10 of the UCL White Paper 2011-21² included, at page 50, a commitment to review Statute 18. Discussions about the possible reform of Statute 18 had been taking place with the recognised trades unions. AB was invited to consider this matter as part of the consultation process.

Received

- 29.2 APPENDIX AB 3/24 (11-12) – a briefing note on the reform of Statute 18, including a staff discussion paper (Annexe 1), a proposed amended Statute 18 (Annexe 2) and a note comparing the current Statute with the proposed amendment (Annexe 3).
- 29.3 An oral report by Professor Anthony Finkelstein, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences, who had been leading on the discussions concerning the reform of Statute 18.

Reported

- 29.4 Professor Finkelstein suggested that the issue could be divided into two distinct questions: whether UCL's Statutes were a suitable location for detailed procedures rather than broad principles; and whether the procedures themselves were in need of reform. On the latter question, he noted that Statute 18 was currently out of date with reference to employment law and agreed processes within UCL, and also that in its current form the Statute treated the management of performance as a misconduct issue.

[Professor Henry Woudhuysen deputised as Chair of AB from this point]

² Available at <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/white-paper/provost-white-paper.pdf>

Discussion

- 29.5 AB members raised concerns regarding specific elements of the proposed revision, including the impact of similar processes of revision to Statute 18 at other institutions, and the provision for legal representation of individuals undergoing the appeals process. It was suggested that there was a need for an open meeting, to include non-

introduced for academic Vice-Provosts, under which they each submit a report annually to Council on matters falling within their remit. Consequently, the Vice-Provost (Research) would now be submitting a report to Council at its November meeting on issues relating to UCL's Research Strategy and related activities and initiatives. Following discussion between the AC, AB and Council officers and the

RESOLVED

32.2 That Academic Board meetings be held on the following dates in the academic year 2012-13:

- **Wednesday 24 October 2012**
- **Wednesday 6 March 2013**
- **Wednesday 22 May 2013**

33 APPOINTMENTS

Received

33.1 At APPENDIX AB 3/30 (11-12) – a list of recent appointments (i) of Heads of Academic Departments and (ii) to established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL.

34 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR ON BEHALF OF ACADEMIC BOARD

Noted

34.1 The Chair had taken action on behalf of AB to endorse the revised UCL International Strategy [*see also Minute 25B above*].

34A Academic Board Working Groups on Established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL

Noted

34A.1 The Chair had taken action on behalf of AB to approve the membership of the AB Working Groups on established Chairs and Readerships tenable at UCL listed at APPENDIX * AB 3/31 (11-12)⁶

Discussion

- 35.2 Student members of AB expressed dissatisfaction with the process for appointment a student member of the JSC. It was suggested that this was not a matter for AB and should be raised with the Council officers.

36 ELECTION OF PROFESSORIAL AND NON-PROFESSORIAL MEMBERS OF ACADEMIC BOARD TO SERVE ON OTHER UCL COMMITTEES FOR 2012-14

Noted

- 36.1 At its meeting on 29 February 2012 AB had noted and ratified the results of the election of non-professorial academic staff, Teaching Fellow staff and non-academic staff to serve on AB in sessions 2012-13 and 2013-14 [AB Minute 13B, 2011-12.]
- 36.2 Details of the results of subsequent elections of professorial and non-professorial members of AB to serve on AC, EdCom, RDC and other UCL committees for 2012-14 would be circulated with the Minutes of this meeting.
- 36.3 Details of the result of the election currently taking place to fill the vacancy on UCL Council with effect from 1 October 2012 for an elected non-professorial academic staff member of AB from the School of Laws, Arts and Social and Historical Sciences (SLASH) would also be circulated with the Minutes of this meeting.

37 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted

- 37.1 The next ordinary meeting of AB would be held on **Wednesday 24 October 2012 at 4.00pm** [but see also Minute 29.5, with footnote 3, above.]

JASON CLARKE
Director of Academic Support

[telephone 020 7679 8594; internal extension 28594; e-mail – jason.clarke@ucl.ac.uk]