





Nicola Shelton; Professor Lorraine Sherr; Dr Victoria Showunmi; Dr Ruth Siddall; Justin Siefker; Professor Angus Silver; Professor Michael Singer; Professor Trevor Smart; Dr Holly Smith; Dr Daphne Sobolev; Professor Christophe Soligo; Professor Samuel Solomon; Professor Eva Sorensen; Professor David Spratt; Professor Judy Stephenson; Professor Vincent Sterk; Professor Sacha Stern; Professor Fiona Stevenson; Professor Michael Stewart; Professor Melvyn Stokes; Professor Sabine Storp; Professor Joshua Stott; Professor Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen; Dr Sherrill Stroschein; Dorota Studniarczyk; Professor Alice Sullivan; Dr Mike Sulu; Dr Bugra Susler; Professor Matthew Sydes; Dr Becky Taylor; Bryan Taylor; Professor Irving Taylor; Professor Giles Thomas; Professor Olga Thomas; Professor Alan Thompson; Professor Estelle Thompson; Professor Ulrich Tiedau; Professor Nigel Titchener-Hooker; Professor Andrea Townsend-Nicholson; Dr Helen Tsui; Dr Richard Tunwell; Professor Katherine Twamley; Professor Elaine Unterhalter; Professor Gert van der Heijden; Professor Liz Varga; Professor Laura Vaughan; Dr Nalini Vittal; Dr Julia Wagner; Dr Tone Walford; Dr Zachary Walker; Professor Nicola Walshe; Professor David Waters; Professor Li Wei; Professor Finn Werner; Breege Whiten; Professor Amanda Williams; Professor James Wilson; Dr Nick Witham; Professor Nicholas Wood; Michael Wozniak; Professor Dominic Wyse; Dr Punam Yadav; Dr Christine (Xine) Yao; Dr Victoria Yorke-Edwards; Professor Ian Zachary; Professor Fabio Zanasi; Dr Davide Zecchin; Professor Shi Zhou; Professor Nicole Zimmermann; Professor Stan Zochowski.

**In attendance:** Karen Barnard; Aimie Chapple; Professor Parama Chaudhury; Paul Clark; Donna Dalrymple; Rebecca Edwards; Dr Clare Goudy; Ed Hossack; Samantha Lancet-Pacey; Professor Enrico Palandri; Andy Smith; Kirsty Walker; Olivia Whiteley; Dr Kathryn Woods.

## **Part I: Preliminary Business**

### **1 ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES**

1.1 The minutes of the meeting of 5 July 2023 [AB Minutes 58-63, 2022-23] were confirmed.

### **2 MATTERS ARISING (Paper 1-01)**

2.1 AB noted the update.

## **Part II: Matters for Discussion**

### **3 REPORT (Paper 1-02)**

3.1 AB noted the report.

4 **DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS UPDATE** (Paper 1-03)

- 4.1 In the Strategic Plan 2022-27 UCL had committed to a programme of work to ensure consistency and alignment in commitment reflected widespread unease across the sector about the approach to addressing allegations of sexual misconduct, harassment and bullying, as well as more specific concerns within the UCL community about elements own practices, notably the extended timescales of many formal processes.
- 4.2 As a first step, UMC was establishing a task and finish group for which Academic Board had been invited to provide two nominees. The group was charged with reviewing disciplinary procedures and practices, including a stakeholder engagement s

advantages of early consultation in avoiding misunderstanding and the value of that dialogue as the process moved forward.

- 4.4 Academic Board confirmed that its concerns related not to the principle of the proposals as outlined above. The Provost confirmed that the Terms of Reference of the task and finish group would be revised to exclude any reference specifically to Statute 18, but recognising that the group would consider practices across the institutional disciplinary procedures. The constitution of the group would be reviewed in light of the foregoing discussion. Academic Board would be advised of the outcome of that process.

**5 PROPOSAL FOR STANDING WORKING GROUP OF ACADEMIC BOARD (Paper 1-04)**

- 5.1 AB considered a proposal that a Standing Working Group be created to advise the Board on staff rights, including on redundancies, disciplinary processes, and academic freedom, covered by Statute 18. The establishment of the working group was not contingent on the outcome of the preceding discussion (Minute 4) although it would have a role to play if any proposals on changes to Statute 18 were to emerge from that process. It was noted that the group was also likely to consider the question of whether Statute 18 should be extended to wider staff groups engaged in academic work.
- 5.2 In the context of recent government statements with a bearing on matters of academic freedom, members suggested that there was value in having a group in place as a resource to be called on were any issues to arise at short notice.
- 5.3 Academic Board approved the establishment of a Working Group on Statute 18. GCAB would seek volunteers and arrange for ballots to be held where necessary. AB noted the need for the Working Group to work effectively with the Task and Finish Group (Minute 4).

**6 NSS, APF, TEF, GRADUATE OUTCOMES SURVEY AND EDUCATION EXCELLENCE STATEMENT (Paper 1-05)**

- 6.1 AB received a presentation on the outcome of the TEF



9 **MEMBERSHIP OF GCAB AND EXCOMAB** (Paper 1-08)

9.1 Academic Board approved the proposal to invite Professor Ralf Schoepfer and Dr Martin Fry to act as external experts advising GCAB for the academic year 2023-24, pursuant to Standing Orders 13.v.f, 13.vii.f and 13.vii.i.

10 **NOMINATION FROM GCAB** (Paper 1-09)

10.1 Noted.

11 **ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR** (Paper 1-10)

11.1 Noted.

12 **OFFICE FOR STUDENTS BUSINESS PLAN** (Paper 1-11)

12.1 Noted.

13 **MINUTES OF OTHER COMMITTEES** (Paper 1-12)

13.1 Noted.

14 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

14.1 Wednesday 7 February 2024 at 2-4pm.

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