

Louise Vink, Professor David Voas, Ms Yasmin Walker, Professor Susan Ware, Professor Andrew Wills, Dr James Wilson, Dr Jinghao Xue, Dr Martijn Zwijnenburg.

In attendance: Mr Derfel Owen (Secretary to Academic Board), Ms Francesca Fryer (Estates), Mr Phil Harding (Finance & Business Affairs), Ms Henry Kilworth (Communications & Marketing), Ms Anne Marie O'Mullane (Academic Services), Dr Benjamin Schreiber (Division of Medicine) , Mr Peter Warwick (Human Resources).

Apologies: Dr Paul Ayris, Dr Jane Biddulph, Professor Rob Brownstone, Professor Stella Bruzzi, Dr Declan Chard, Dr Elizabete Cidre, Professor Lucie Clapp, Dr William Coppola, Dr Ruth Dann, Dr Rachele De Felice, Professor Annette Dolphin, Dr Karen Edge, Professor Frances Edwards, Dr Russell Evans, Dr Mark Freeman, Dr Claire Garnett, Ms Emer Girling, Professor Helen Hackett, Dr Eleanore Hargreaves, Dr Evangelos Himonides, Professor Susan Irvine, Dr Helga Hlaðgerður Lúthersdóttir, Dr Sarabajaya Kumar, Ms Elvire Landstra, Dr Dewi Lewis, Professor Ruth Lovering, Professor Gesine Manuwald, Professor Charles Marson, Professor Kevin Middlebrook, Professor Robert Mills, Professor Jenny Mindell, Dr Susan Moore, Professor Ruth Morgan, Dr Teresa Niccoli, Dr Andy Pearce, Dr Joanne Pearce, Dr John Potter, Professor David Price, Dr Anna Roffey, Professor Sasha Roseneil, Professor Mala Shah, Professor Lorraine Sherr, Professor Trevor Smart, Professor Anthony Smith, Professor Sacha Stern, Professor Michael Stewart, Professor Jon Thomson, Dr Nalini Vittal,

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

[Paper 4-01, 18-19]

2A Naming and Renaming of Buildings

- 2A.1 **Received:** An update that Council had approved the establishment of the UCL Policy on Naming or Renaming of University Buildings and Spaces at its meeting on the 16 November 2019. The Building Naming Group was now being set up and AB members were welcome to join the group. A formal invitation to AB members would follow up after the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF 14th NOVEMBER 2018

- 3.1 The minutes of the 14th November 2018 were approved subject to the following inclusion in Minute 1, Professorial Banding Criteria, that a review of the Academic Careers Framework against performance would take place in a year's time.

Matter for Discussion

4. PROVOST'S BUSINESS

4A Applications

- 4A.1 UG Home applications have increased by 6.79% in comparison to a decrease of 1.73% across the sector. UG EU applications have increased 5.09% in comparison to an increase of .08% across the sector. UG overseas applications have increased by 13.94% in comparison to an increase of 7.1% across the sector.

4B Augar Review of HE funding

- 4B.1 It was expected that the report would be submitted to No. 10 Downing Street in late February 2019. There was speculation on what would be contained within the report and it was noted that there was potential for major changes to the funding arrangements for higher education. Council would be updated as information became available.

4C UCL East

- 4C.1 The land at Olympic Park had now been purchased and there was a lease of 299 years for PSW and 15 year lease for MG1, the latter would convert to a 299 year lease once completed. Should Phase 2 be completed the lease would be extended to 999 years. The process for appointing contractors was underway and it was anticipated that ground would be broken in June. An update would be provided to AB in due course if there was space on the agenda.

6. ADOPTION BY UCL OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

[Paper 4-03, 18-19]

6.1

Support for the IHRA definition: Support was expressed by some members of AB for the adoption of the definition as it would help tackle anti-Semitic behaviour at UCL. By choosing not to adopt the definition, UCL would be indicating to the Jewish community that these issues were not being taken seriously.

GCAB had suggested the introduction of an expert committee to advise on the definition of antisemitism and other forms of prejudice, which would guide the Provost and his delegates in the implementation of free speech policies at UCL: Some members felt that it was not simply possible to take a view following one debate and supported the establishment of a working group to explore the suitability of the definition. This was because if UCL took a view on IHRA it would be very significant. Other members of AB rejected the need to establish a working group and felt that pragmatism was required; it was important to recognise that no perfect definition could be developed. The problem existed here and now and the IHRA definition was a practical tool that would help tackle anti-Semitic behaviour. It was argued that the issue of racism and anti-Semitism was one that need to be tackled directly and swiftly, and not just referred to as a matter of academic debate and research.

Queries were raised whether it would be possible to adopt the definition without the examples or to include a caveat: Some of the examples which accompanied the definition were found to be problematic by some AB members. It was queried whether it would be possible to adopt the definition without the accompanying examples. The LSE had adopted the definition with some, but not all, of the examples. In response, it was noted that not to adopt the examples that accompanied the definition would send a signal.

- 6.4 The Chair noted that Council would be discussing the adoption of the definition at its next meeting, the views of AB would be reported in full and the strength of feeling by both sides of the debate. The suggestion by the Governance Committee of Academic Board for a working group to advise on racism and prejudice was agreed. There should therefore be a discussion with GCAB about its composition. The Provost indicated that the proposed working group did not have sufficiently broad membership as currently proposed and would need to be expanded. It was also noted that AB had raised concerns about the preservation of academic freedom in the context of the requirements of the Prevent strategy and that it had been agreed that AB should receive an annual report on the application of the strategy and associated procedures, a similar approach could be adopted here.

7. USS PENSIONS

[Paper 4-04, 18-19]

- 7.1 **Received:** a paper which set out the Trustee's actuarial assessment of the USS scheme funding position as at 31 March 2018 and the Trustee's consultation with Universities UK on the proposed assumptions for the scheme's Technical Provisions and Statement of Funding Principles for the 2018 actuarial valuation.
- 7.2 The Director of Finance & Business Affairs, provided an update on developments. The 2017 valuation, as at 31 March 2017, was completed on 31 January 2019. USS Trustees concluded the 2017 valuation by means of the application of the cost-sharing arrangements. Contributions were due to increase in three steps, and in the ratio 65%/35% employer/member, in April 2019, October 2019 and April 2020.

- 7.3 An out-of-cycle 2018 valuation, as at 31 March 2018, would now take place in order to take account of the JEP recommendations. AB's attention was drawn to the fact that USS had partially accepted the JEP proposals as long as employers accepted more risk and provided tangible support in the form of contingent contributions. These proposals had been supported in full by UCL, UUK and UCU. The second phase of JEP panel had started and the JEP panel had been constituted in the same form. A special meeting of Council was due to take place on Monday 11th February 2019 but due to the fact the additional information had not been received it presented Council with a difficulty. It was expected that the consultation would be extended.
- 7.4 It was noted that GCAB had circulated a memo. AB members encouraged UCL to continue to support the JEP's recommendations in the consultation with UUK on the position USS had taken not to accept all the JEP recommendations and its continued plan to take a de-risking approach as part of the March 2018 valuation. It was confirmed that the plan was to push back on the partial acceptance by USS of the JEP recommendations and the lack of clarity on what the triggers would be for triggering contingent contributions. Without this information, Council would not be able to take a position on the acceptance of risk and it would not be possible to engage in proper feedback.

8. STRATEGIC INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

[Paper 4-05, 18-19]

- 8.1 **Received:** a proposal to establish a new concept 'Strategic International Projects and Programmes' (SIPPs), which would be major overseas research projects and programmes with an overseas presence that were of strategic value and importance to UCL. The paper also provided an update on progress for the African Health & Research Institute and recommended that it became UCL's first SIPP as it aligned with the criteria.
- 8.2 The VP (International) spoke to the paper and thanked GCAB for their helpful feedback contained in their memo. Dame Nicola Brewer invited comment from AB members. Feedback was received that the paper could provide greater clarity on the resources involved and who was going to support it. It was confirmed that the intention was that those programmes that were designated SIPPs would receive support from the GEO for specific activities, which Faculty did not think it would be appropriate to fund, for example, training on UK anti-bribery law. Sums involved would be small. AB was reminded by the Chair that it was not the role of AB to oversee the VP budget which goes through an appropriate planning and budget allocation process. However, AB was nevertheless entitled to make a comment on the value for money of a proposal and its academic aims and to refer any issues to Council.

10. APPOINTED MEMBERS OF ACADEMIC BOARD

[Paper 4-07, 18-19]

- 10.1 **Approved:** The proposals that Dr Sherrill Stroschein be appointed a member of Academic Board in the category “Member of the Academic Board Commission of Inquiry not otherwise a member to the Academic Board” and that that Fiona Ryland be appointed to Academic Board in her role as Chief Operating Officer.

11. ACADEMIC COMMITTEE REPORT

[Paper 4-08, 18-19]

- 11.1 **Received:** *The Academic Committee Annual Report for 2017/18.*

12. .

12. LEAD OFFICER REPORT 17/18: CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY:CID 14 >>Bo2 [(0)11.8 (8,)10

17. TRANSFORMING KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS INTO ACTION: 2017/18 ANNUAL REPORT FROM UCL INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE

[Paper 4-16, 18-19]

- 17.1 **Received:** Transforming Knowledge and Ideas into Action: 2017/18 Annual Report and noted progress against the UCL Strategy for Innovation and Enterprise.

18. CHAIRS ACTION

[Paper 4-18, 18-19]

- 18.1 **Received:** A report on action taken by the Chair since the last meeting of AB:

The Provost had approved by Chair's Action the appointment of Professor Audrey Prost as Chair of Global Health at UCL, with effect from 1 June 2019, under UCL Regulations for Professors and Readers (paragraphs 4.6 – 4.7). Professor Prost was currently Chair of Global Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The Provost had approved by Chair's Action the transfer of Professor Max Telford from the Chair of Zoology to the Jodrell Chair of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, with effect from 1 January 2019, under UCL Regulations for Professors and Readers (paragraph 4.4).

The Provost had approved the nomination of Professor Jennifer Hudson for appointment to a Tribunal in accordance with Statute 18, paragraph 16 (c).

19. ACADEMIC BOARD CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

[Paper 4-19, 18-19]

- 19.1 **Received:** An update on those who have joined AB since the October meeting of Academic Board

20. MINUTES OF COUNCIL

[Paper 4-20, 18-19]

- 20.1 **Received:** Minutes of the Council meeting that took place on the 10th October 2018.

21. APPOINTMENTS

[Paper 4-21, 18-19]

- 21.1 **Received:** Details of senior appointments made since the last report to Academic Board.

22. ACTION TAKEN BY THE PROVOST AS CHAIR OF ACADEMIC BOARD –

- 22.1 **Received:** A report on Academic Board Working Groups established under the UCL regulations for appointment to established Chairs and Readerships

