



SPECIAL MEETING OF ACADEMIC BOARD

Key to abbreviations

AB	Academic Board
Col	Commission of Inquiry

Special Meeting of Academic Board

The Chair had not previously been aware of 1 and 3 and it was agreed that these would be clarified and, if possible, resolved offline. In respect of 4, the Provost was supportive but felt that existing promotions criteria already covered this. It was also a matter for the individuals concerned and the discretion of their line managers.

The Chair expressed his hope that the early cooperation with Part Di of the Motion, providing an explanation for the requests from UCL to remove some sections of the draft report, would encourage AB and the Commission of Inquiry to take a reasonable approach to motion Dii - to supply the original version of the draft to the Col. It was noted that the draft document developed by the Visitor had been shared by the Visitor with a select number of UCL staff. It was not within UCL's gift to share a draft which was owned by another person. If the Col wanted to see an earlier draft it would need to apply to the Visitor. If the Visitor was happy for UCL to share the report in a limited way, the GDPR issues would still be UCL's responsibility and so would have to be shared in a way which meant that no leaks were possible – for example, allowing the Chair of the Col to read the hard copy draft report in seclusion.

One member requested an internal enquiry about the decisions taken in respect of the purchase of Clare Hall. In response, the Chair proposed that the Col become the major route through which the Provost and SMT worked to find the best way forward, concentrating on constructive solutions and ensuring that issues of governance were addressed without attempting to unpick decisions that had been taken.

The Chair gave his assurance that the Col would be given access to all relevant documentation in respect of the purchase of Clare Hall, provided it was not marked commercially sensitive. Despite requests for full access it was considered that little beyond the apportioning of blame would be achieved by reopening the discussion. It would be more constructive to learn the lessons of that episode and advise Council accordingly.

A member endorsed this view, noting that UCL had an SMT and a Council who were tasked with making decisions. In the member's view, they did not always make the right decisions but they did not always make the wrong ones either. The Col would consider methods of governance and whether there had been faults in the process of decision making and how these could be avoided in the future. The creation of GCAB had proved a successful way to promote trust and transparency. Similarly the Col had created positive and forward looking ways of dealing with issues of governance in an open and transparent way. The Motion was recommended to AB to promote a spirit of trust going forward.

- 1.8 The Chair thanked members for the constructive discussion and moved to a show of hands to vote on each part of the Motion.

Vote on the motion.

A) This Board directs the Commission of Inquiry of the Academic Board to include in its inquiry the evidence, findings, and recommendations of the 2019 Visitor's report;

B) It directs the Governance Committee to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry in sharing information and analysis on this matter;

C) It advises that Council awaits the findings of the Commission before arriving at any decision or course of action relating to the Visitor's report;

D) It requests from the officers of UCL, such as the Registrar/Secretary to Council, who have had access to the recommendations of the Visitor on managing governance at UCL in the original version of the report shown to UCL, and who requested the ACADEMIC BOARD - 20 May 2019 Paper 6-01 Visitor to remove some recommendations from that original version before a version was finalised, to:

i. supply Academic Board with a written explanation as to why they thought it appropriate to ask for the removal of such recommendations, and

ii. for the sake of transparency and to facilitate a full investigation into these matters, to supply the original version with all original recommendations to the Commission of Inquiry to assist it with its work.

RESOLVED:

1.9 That all parts of the Motion, A, B, C, Di and Dii, be carried: The Chair would work with the Chair of the Col concerning how best to proceed with Dii.

2 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2.1 The next meeting of AB would take place on 23 October 2019: 14.05 – 16.00pm

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