

**Academic Committee
Extraordinary Meeting**
Friday 29 May 2020 at 1:30pm

Minutes

Present Members:

President and Provost (Chair); Ms Wendy Appleby; Dr Paul Ayris; Dr Simon Banks; Professor David Bogle; Dame Nicola Brewer; Professor Stella Bruzzi; Dr Simon Cane; Mr Ashley Doolan; Professor Piet Eeckhout; Professor Mark Emberton; Dr Julie Evans; Dr Hugh Goodacre; Dr Christine Hoffmann; Dr Arne Hofmann; Dr Sandra Leaton-Gray; Professor Christoph Lindner; Ms Blathnaid Mahony;; Dr Helen Matthews; Mr Jim Onyemenam; Professor Norbert Pachler; Professor Ivan Parkin; Professor Hynek Pikhart; Professor David Price; Professor Geraint Rees; Professor Sue Rogers; Professor Sasha Roseneil; Mr Mike Rowson; Professor David Shanks; Dr Ruth Siddall; Ms Ashley Slanina-Davies; Dr Sam Smidt; Professor Anthony Smith; Dr Hazel Smith; Ms Olga Thomas; Professor Alan Thompson; Professor Nigel Titchener-Hooker; Professor Andrea Townsend-Nicholson; Professor Li Wei; Professor Andrew Wills; Dr Stan Zochowski

Attendees:

Professor Nora Colton, Pro-Vice-Provost (Postgraduate Education)
Dr Clare Goudy, Provost's Office
Mr Derfel Owen, Director of Education Services and Transformation
Ms Anne Marie O'Mullane, Academic Services

Apologies:

Dr Celia Caulcott; Professor Graham Hart; Professor David Lomas; Ms Aatikah Malik

Officer:

Ms Rachel Port

Part I: Matter for Discussion

38. The Temporary Operating Model for Academic Year 2020-21 (Paper 4-26)

- 38.1. At the start of the meeting, the Chair thanked members for attending the meeting at short notice. It had been arranged in light of the urgent need to approve the proposed Temporary Operating Model (TOM) at UCL for next session. Announcements had already been made by a number of other institutions including Cambridge, Oxford, Reading and Manchester universities about their teaching arrangements for next session. Both the Office for Students (OfS) and the Department for Education expected institutions to be clear to prospective students about their plans for teaching ahead of the UCAS deadline of 18 June 2020 for offer holders to confirm their decision. It was noted that the Silver Sapphire Groups, convened under UCL's Gold/Silver/Bronze crisis management structure, had undertaken a huge amount of work at speed to plan UCL's activities in 2020-21 in light of the Covid-19 outbreak.
- 38.2. Professor Geraint Rees, Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences and Silver Sapphire Lead, introduced the paper setting out high-level proposals for teaching arrangements for UCL students in academic year 2020-21. The key points made were:
- a. The first term next session would start in only 122 days and while the government had eased some aspects of the Covid-19 lockdown due to the decrease in the incidence of cases, the ongoing restrictions on social distancing and international travel would prevent the normal operation of teaching and learning at UCL next session.
 - b. Therefore, UCL's teaching operations would need to be modified to allow for adherence to current social distancing rules of 2 metres and this would reduce the capacity of space on campus by 85%. Consequently, the opportunities for face-to-face activities on campus would be significantly limited in Term 1 and were envisaged to extend beyond that.
 - c. In light of this, the core operating principles

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- f. The proposed model was meant to be temporary

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an online all staff consultation that was announced in the UCL Staff News on 26 May 2020. The Provost acknowledged that this situation was challenging but UCL was working at a rapid pace and the OfS had instructed institutions to make clear their plans by 18 June 2020 which reduced the time available to consult with the UCL community. The Provost would alert GCAB of the concern raised about AB not being able

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(The Provost left the meeting at this point and the Vice-Chair took over as Chair.)

- b. It was noted that communicating with students about arrangements for 2020-21 would be the next step now that the TOM had been approved. Communications had been developed with CAM and were ready to be sent to offer holders and returning students.
- c. It was considered that important to have targeted communications for PGT students, who would only be at UCL for a one year programme, and especially for PGR students. The Bronze Aquamarine Group on Research