



COUNCIL

Thursday 13 July 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Dame DeAnne Julius (*Chair*)

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| Preliminary Formal Business |
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85 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

85.1 The Vice-Provost (International), Dame Nicola Brewer, had been appointed a non-executive Director of Scottish Power with effect from July 2017.

86 **MINUTES**

86.1 **Approved:** the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2017 [*Council Minutes 77-84, 2016-17*] were confirmed by Council and signed by the Chair.

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| Matters for discussion |
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87A **Teaching Excellence Framework**

87A.1 UCL had achieved a silver award in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2017. This represented as positive a result as could be expected in view of UCL's NSS metrics. The Provost paid tribute to the work of UCL colleagues and particularly Professor Anthony Smith and Dr Clare Goudy, for their contribution to this result.

87A.2 The TEF narrative submission would be circulated to Council members for information.

87B **Global Teaching Excellence award**

87B.1 UCL had been shortlisted for a Higher Education Academy Global Teaching Excellence Award.

- 89.3 A new visual identity had been adopted, and was in evidence in the Impact Report. The slogan *Where More Happens* reflected the 19,000 memberships of 250 student-led societies. 2016-17 had seen a notably successful varsity season, and also over 600 students who had never previously participated in sport undertaking sporting activities through Project Active.
- 89.4 Council discussed the matter of the mental wellbeing of the student population. The Registrar reported on the range of actions being taken to enable easier access to services, improved response rates for students and introduce different forms of support available.

RESOLVED

- 89.5 **That the UCLU budget 2017-18 be approved.**

90 **TRANSFORMING OUR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (TOPS)**
[PAPER 6-68 (16-17)]

- 90.1 The Vice-Provost (Operations) and Vice-Provost (Education & Student Affairs), who co-sponsored the TOPS initiative, reported on progress with the programme. The context for TOPS was a relatively low level of satisfaction with professional services across the institution, as reflected in the red/amber ratings for many of the 2034 Enablers, irrespective of the hard work and commitment of staff. Furthermore, benchmarking showed that UCL had a relatively high level of spend on transactional activities compared to other universities; TOPS would see this effort redirected to value-added activities. More generally, there was a sense of frustration across UCL that some of the basic processes did not work effectively. The TOPS programme sought to address these shortcomings and also provide improved career structures for professional services staff (both centrally and in academic departments), supported by improved systems and processes. The TOPS programme was designed not only to fix the current problems but to ensure structures were in place that would serve UCL for the next 10-20 years.
- 90.2 Some external members reported on their experiences of similar changes in their own organisations. They highlighted the significant gains in speed of processes, financial controls and customer satisfaction that can be achieved, albeit with some disruption during transition. In response to a question about the next stages, Council learnt that there would be a process of engagement with the wider UCL community over the coming months, and particularly with academic staff, with a view to finalising the TOPS proposals in the late autumn. A further report would be made to Council in the new academic year.

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| Matters for approval or information |
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91 **ACADEMIC UNITS OF UCL**

[PAPER 6-69 (16-17)]

RESOLVED – *on the recommendation of Academic Board*

91.1 **That UCL Australia be disestablished as an academic unit with effect from**

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[PAPER 6-75 (16-17)]

96.1 **Received** – a note the appointment of Dr Toni Griffiths as a Trustee of the UCL Friends' Trust.

97 **REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

[PAPER 6-76 (16-17)]

97.1 **Received** – a note of minutes received from other committees since the previous report.

98 **COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND DATES 2017-18**

[PAPER 6-77 (16-17)]

98.1 **Received** – a note of the Council membership and meeting dates in 2017-18.

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[PAPER 6-78 (16-17)]

99.1 **Received** – a note of action taken by the Chair to approve the appointment of Deans and Heads of Department.

100 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

100.1 The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 25th October 2017 at 3pm.

Wendy Appleby
Secretary to Council
July 2017