

participating in a video conference, using tools that enabled all members to see and hear each other simultaneously. Decisions would be ratified by Chair's Action after the meeting.

- 1.2. The Secretary to Council advised that legal advice had found a reliance could not be placed on Charity Commission guidance around video-conferencing for committees open to external scrutiny. As a result, a Special Resolution would be required in order to make changes to the Charter and Statutes to enable decision-making at meetings undertaken via video-conferencing. A Special Resolution would need to be considered at a physical meeting and it was discussed by Council how this could be achieved in the short to medium term.

2. **Welcome**

- 2.1. Dr Martin Fry and Professor Ralf Schoepfer were welcomed to their first Council meeting as elected non-professorial member and elected professorial member respectively. Dr Fry was welcomed back to Council having previously served 6 years on Council from October 2013 to September 2019.

3. **Declaration of Interests**

- 3.1. The Chair of Council invited Council members to declare any new interests they may have or any interests they had in the items being considered at the meeting.
- 3.2. Council members declared interests in items appearing on the agenda as follows:
 - a. Professor Helen Roberts declared her interest in Item 7 as she was a member of USS. It was agreed that other Council members who were USS members should be invited to declare this on their Register of Interests. Professor Roberts also declared her interest in Item 12 as she was proposed for appointment to Nominations Committee.
 - b. Mr Ayman Benmati declared an interest in Item 12 as he was proposed for appointment to Nominations Committee.
 - c. Ms Carol Paige declared an interest in Item 13 as she was proposed for co-option to Finance Committee.
 - d. Dr Alun Coker declared his interest in Item 13 as he was proposed for appointment to Finance Committee.

4. **Minutes (1-01)**

- 4.1. Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2020 subject to the following changes being made:
 - a. Minute 141.2 a: The minute should refer to the reasons for not introducing mass testing, which were the costs involved as well as the public health advice on the matter.

- b. Minute 144.2 a: Wording of the minute should change from stating that the Governance Working Group (GWG) reports should be placed in the first section of the paper to stating that GWG reports should be placed higher up on the agenda.
- c. Minute 144.2 b: An explanation should be provided on what recommendation seven covered.
- d. Minute 140.1 e: Reference should be made to concerns about failure in postgraduate admissions this year as this reflected the discussion at the meeting.

Part II: Strategic Items for Discussion

5.

5.1. The Provost reported the following successes:

- a. UCL's Bronze Race Equality Charter had been renewed. Only 15

1 0 0 1 00012207 595.4 841.8 reW*n9.3 0 0 7.3 107.6 518.9 cm/Image40 Do Q EMC s

5.4. The Provost provided an update on the interventions taken to improve the recent failures in postgraduate admissions. There had been a number of process and systems improvement introduced as well as increases in staffing.

5.5. Council members had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the Provost's update. During discussion the following points were raised:

a. There was a request for further details about UCL's approach to testing as some Council members were aware that certain institutions were taking an approach of mass testing or pooled testing. The Provost advised that Public Health England and the London Borough of Camden did not recommend mass testing. UCL's Public Health Advisory Panel was of the same opinion for a number of reasons including the high false positive rate resulting in individuals self-isolating when they did not need to do so.

b. A number of Council members suggested there were benefits in routine asymptomatic testing as many individuals who contracted Covid were asymptomatic. There could be a reduction in false positive rates if a pooled testing approach was taken.

c. The Provost advised that mass testing of approximately 60,000 individuals on a regular basis would be difficult to achieve due to the large amount of person hours required to run such a process. The approach of advising close contacts of index cases to isolate was the optimum approach. There were issues of confidentiality in revealing who had contracted Covid as well as in ensuring that those infected came forward and identified their contacts so track and trace could operate effectively.

d. It was agreed that a briefing would be provided to interested Council members by the Dean of the Faculty of Population Health Sciences, Professor Graham Hart, TQq0.000008872 0 595.4 841.8 reW*nBT/F1 12 Tf1 0 0 1 252.6

Council Minutes – 19 October 2020

7.2.

- a. A range of views was expressed on the Chair of Council leading the workstrand. It was agreed that the Chair of Council would contact members of the GWG in order to ascertain the optimum approach to this matter and it would be discussed again at the next meeting of Council.
- b. It was requested that the discussion paper be brought to AB in line with Article 22 of the Charter. The Vice-Chair of Council advised that this matter would be taken away and considered.
- c. It was requested that the recommendations of the Academic Board Commission of Inquiry Report should be formally responded to by Council. The Vice-Chair of Council advised that the GWG was due to consider the recommendations contained in the report and would formulate a response for Council's consideration in due course. As part of this exercise, Council would also receive the Commission of Inquiry Implementation Group's critique of the Halpin Review of Council Effectiveness Report as well as the response produced by Halpin Partnership.

9.3. Council:

- a. Approved the proposed workstrand on how Council received advice from the academic community on university policy as it affected the academic mission.
- b. Agreed that the matter of who would lead the workstrand would be discussed at the next meeting of Council.

Part 4 Policy as it a

