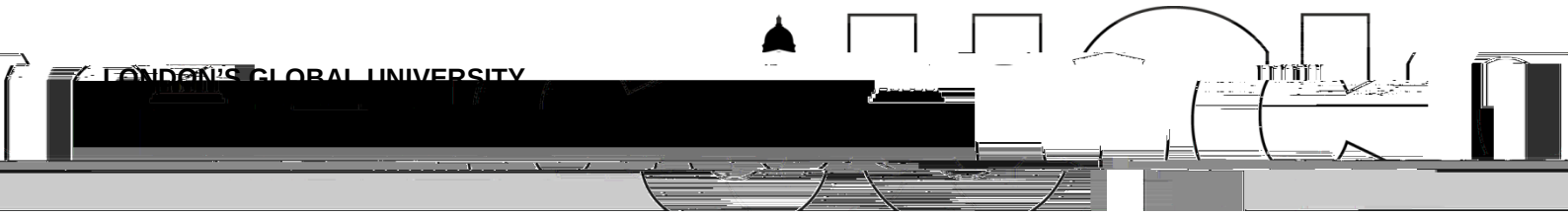

COUNCIL

Thursday 30 March 2017

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Dame DeAnne Julius *(Chair)*

Professor Michael Arthur *(President and Provost)*
Mr Dominic Blakemore
Lord Clement-Jones
Dr Andrew Gould
Mr Simon Melliss
Ms Lindsay Nicholson
Baroness Valentine
Dr Andrew Wills
Mr Ven Balakrishnan
Ms Halima Begum
Professor Lucie Clapp
Dr Martin Fry
Ms Nahid Majid
Mr Zakariya Mohran
Mr Philip Sturrock (*Treasurer*)
Baroness Warwick (*Vice-chair*)

In attendance: Ms Wendy Appleby (Secretary to Council); Dame Nicola Brewer (Vice-Provost (International)); Dr Celia Caulcott (Vice-Provost (Enterprise and London)); Dr Andrew Elder (Albion Ventures LLP) *[for minute 66];* Professor Mary Fulbrook (Dean, Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences) *[for minute 63];* Mr Philip Harding (Director of Finance and Business Affairs); Mr Rex Knight (Vice-Provost (Operations)); Professor David Lomas (Vice-Provost (Health)); Mr Nick McGhee (Assistant Secretary to Council); Professor Ivan Parkin (Dean, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences) *[for minute 67];* Professor Alan Penn (Dean, Faculty of the Built Environment) *[for minute 67];* Professor David Price (Vice-Provost (Research)); Professor Anthony Smith (Vice-Provsor 326.33 Tm[(Fa)4(cul)6(t)-4(1JETDC BT1 0 F5 11.04 TV

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Preliminary Formal Business

59 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

59.1 With respect to Minute 68, Baroness Valentine declared her membership of the HS2 Board.

60 MINUTES

60.1 ***Approved***: the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2017 *[Council Minutes 41-58, 2016-17]* were confirmed by Council and signed by the Chair.

61 MATTERS ARISING

[See Minutes 64 & 76 below]

Matters for discussion

62 PROVOST'S BUSINESS

attention at UCL and across the sector would then turn to the issue of research funding.

62E **Higher Education Bill**

62E.1 The Higher Education Bill continued to make its way through Parliament. The House of Lords had done an excellent job on improving the detail of the bill, particularly around university autonomy and UKRI. It now appeared that the TEF would survive the passage of the bill and would be linked with fees, but the way in which it operated had been amended.

62F **Discretionary accounts**

62F.1 SMT had accepted the recommendations of the Discretionary Accounts Working Group. The policy on Discretionary Accounts was being adjusted accordingly.

62G **Fossil Fuels**

62G.1 The Fossil Free UCL campaign was not satisfied that the decision to move UCL's investments into a segregated fund mirroring the Sarasin Climate Active Endowment Fund *[Council Minute 44D, 2016-17]* adequately addressed their concerns, and continued to press for comprehensive divestment from any stocks having a connection with the extraction of fossil fuels. The Provost had recently met with members of the campaign and had expressed his view that it was important to be mindful of views on the issue across the institution. Against that background a meeting between representatives of the campaign and leaders of the Faculty of Engineering Sciences had been arranged.

62G.2 King's College London had recently announced[2] that they would withdraw from all fossil fuel investments by the end of the year 2022, 'subject to there being no significant impact upon the financial risk and returns used to support academic activities'. The campaign was keen to secure a similar arrangement at UCL, and a programme

RESOLVED

64.3 **That the Regulations for Management be amended as proposed.**

65 **FINANCIAL UPDATE**
[PAPER 4-46, 2016-17]

65.1 UCL was currently on course to hit budget in 2016-17 and achieve its surplus of 4.5%. An under-recruitment of students, mostly in the PGT category, was compensated for by a higher than expected rate of overhead recovery and HS2 compensation, resulting in an approximately balanced picture overall.

65.2 In response to queries the Director of Finance and Business Affairs reported that the doubling in the cost of non-contract and agency staff resulted from the use of contractors as opposed to permanent staff in professional services with the payroll budget for professional services showing a corresponding underspend. It was expected that there would be further HS2 compensation in the future.

66 **INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE UPDATE**
[PAPER 4-47, 2016-17]
Dr Andrew Elder (Albion Ventures LLP) was in attendance for this item.

66.1 Dr Elder outlined a positive performance by the UCL Technology Fund during its first year of operation *[Council Minute 39F, 2015-16].* Council members noted that during the first year of operation the fund managers needed to test the view that there would be sufficient high-quality technology opportunities for investment. As reported by Dr Elder, the early indications were that there was a very encouraging quantity and quality of IP projects to make the fund a success. It w14(n)13(c13(p)13(oi)17(c)11(a)o)13( )1(I)6()2( )6(t)(a)13(n)13(a)1S24(u)13(n)13(d)13( )6(a)

67 **SCHOOL OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT, ENGINEERING SCIENCES, AND MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES – REPORT**

[PAPER 4-50, 2016-17]

Professors Alan Penn and Ivan Parkin, Deans of the Faculties of the Built Environment and Mathematical and Physical Sciences respectively, were in attendance for this item.

67.1 BEAMS was a well-integrated School which in 2015-16 had generated a level of contribution above the UCL average. Particularly notable achievements included the School's leading position nationally on EPSRC funding (up from sixth place a decade ago), and successes in securing EPSRC Centres for Doctoral Training. The success of the Women in Engineering initiatives, and the goal for all BEAMS departments to hold a minimum Athena Swan bronze award, were noted.

67.2 Challenges faced by the School included below-sector average NSS scores in 2016. Feedback to students had been the principal cause. It was also felt that there was scope for improvement on communications with students. It was noted that BEAMS faced challenges in delivering the requirements of the personal tutoring system; this was the result of a significant proportion of teaching being delivered by colleagues from industry, which placed a disproportionate bur