

Confirmed

Education Committee

8 June 2020

Minutes

Present:

Professor Anthony Smith (Chair)

Ms Wendy Appleby; Dr Simon Banks; Professor Nora Colton; Mr Ashley Doolan; Dr Julie Evans; Ms Megan Gerrie; Professor Deborah Gill; Ms June Hedges; Dr Arne Hofmann; Dr Sandra Leaton-Gray; Mr Zak Liddell; Ms Blathnaid Mahony; Ms Aatikah Malik; Dr Helen Matthews; Mr Jim Onyemenam; Ms Emer O'Driscoll; Mr Derfel Owen; Professor Norbert Pachler; Dr Jo Pearce; Professor Mike Porter; Professor Aeli Roberts; Mr Mike Rowson; Ms Ashley Slanina-Davies; Dr Sam Smidt; Dr Hazel Smith; Professor Eva Sorensen; Dr Fiona Strawbridge and Professor Olg Tm3osqE21.928

UCL Teaching and Learning pages, under its re-branded name the [Connected Learning Baseline](#).

69.2. All other matters were covered in this meeting's agenda items.

Part II: Matters for Discussion

Draft Student Attendance Policy

70.1. Received - the paper at EDCOM 5-02 (19-20) introduced by Ms Karen Roberts and Mr Rosul Gazi, the Here to Succeed Policy Managers.

70.2. Here to Succeed was aiming to implement a UCL-wide digital attendance monitoring solution. Implementation had been pushed back to January 2021 due to the impact of Covid-19. It was noted that the team were still working on section 7 of the policy to incorporate the need for blended and/ or remote learning in Autumn 2020.

70.3. The policy aimed to provide detailed information and guidance for taught programmes on the new student attendance recording system, 'RegisterUCL'. The project was focussed on supporting student wellbeing and success by providing up-to-date, accurate data about students' attendance at scheduled classes, and supporting students to achieve their full potential by checking in with them if they missed classes. Students would have tools to enable them to check and take responsibility for their own attendance, and the system would give departments more time to focus on the individual student, rather than data entry. Staff in SRS Student Immigration and Compliance would be able to run reports to ensure UCL was meeting its obligations as a sponsor of student visas, and anonymised 66.66 42140 g(/P AMCI TJETQ E

approval. EdCom noted that the planned timeline would necessitate in-session changes to the Academic Manual, and arrangements were being made to flag this up for students and staff both on the website and in the Core Programme Information.

- 70.9. Agreed – EdCom agreed that the 70% attendance requirement would continue to be suspended for the start of the 2020-21 session due to Covid-19. The situation would remain under review until the new Here to Succeed policy could be implemented.

Study Abroad 2020-21

- 71.1. Received - the paper at EDCOM 5-03 (19-20) introduced by the Director of Academic Services.
- 71.2. The paper outlined the issues affecting study abroad in 2020/21 as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic which would have an impact on around 600 UCL students. A number of options were presented for EdCom to consider, informed by the QAA guidance 'Contingency Planning for International Placements (mobilities)', advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UCL Legal Services, and discussions with a range of study abroad institutions.
- 71.3. The changing situation resulting from the pandemic meant that there would be considerable disruption to mobility in 2020/21. UCL's priority was student safety and, at the present time, UCL was unable to guarantee a safe, enriching and uninterrupted year abroad for all students, given the current global context. The paper set out four options, including:
- Option 1: Cancel all forms of exchange in Term 1 and review Term 2 in due course
 - Option 2: Cancel physical travel for all students in Term 1. Where possible, encourage students to engage with virtual exchange only in Term 1 and review Term 2 in due course
 - Option 3: Cancel study abroad in 2020-21 entirely
 - Option 4: Ensure a 'faculty-based' approach to 2020-21 mobility
- 71.4. Arrangements would need to ensure that threshold academic standards were maintained. It was noted that there were a number of different study abroad programme structures across faculties which would require different approaches e.g. extra-mural versus integrated study abroad (whether the study abroad is part of the baseline qualification credits), and mandatory versus optional study abroad (whether immersion in a foreign language and culture is fundamental to the award of a degree in a particular subject).
- 71.5. EdCom discussed the four options put forward, noting the following points:
- Some partner institutions had cancelled Term 1 mobility altogether and some had agreed to offer Term 1 online. Others had yet to decide.
 - Withdrawal of study abroad options would require consultation with students to comply with the Competitions and Markets Authority. However the options open to UCL were very limited in the current circumstances.

Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information

