



EDIC in due course, once it had been possible to digest the implications of the new Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023.

- 24.2. Minute 17.2m: Discussions had been held with the office of the Vice-President (External Engagement) on the complementarities between the suggestion of an externally-facilitated neutral platform and the ongoing e matter with an external academic and EDI practitioner. At present the work could be progressed with the funding available from the Equality

across UCL, particularly in view of the breadth of the legal understanding of what constituted belief.

- b. EDI Committee discussed the complex task of prioritising strands of work and welcomed a suggestion to share updates of the action plan

data was a key question to be addressed, including the question of the practical value of that data. It was suggested that Vice-Deans (EDI) would wish to be included in that conversation.

27. **LGBTQ+ Equality Steering Group update and Action Plan** (Paper 3-03)

27.1. EDI Committee received an outline of the ongoing programme of work of the LGBTQ+ Equality Implementation Group (LEIG), in the context of the institutional decision to cut ties with Stonewall and the heightened need to demonstrate commitment to and support for the LGBTQ+ community.

27.2. In the course of discussion the following points were made:

- a. Members welcomed the resource provided by UCL for this work, as the work on Stonewall had been carried out on a voluntary basis by members of the LGBTQ+ Equality Steering Group (LESG). The Provost noted that this was a priority for the institution.
- b. Further consideration would need to be given to sharing the work the would be available to assist with that process.
- c. Some elements of the action plan would require additional funding. EDI Committee did not allocate funding itself, so a separate piece of work would be required to take this through the appropriate funding approval routes.
- d. The Gender Expression Fund had been well received and it was understood that provision had been made for this to be resourced

events was being developed for next year. EDI Committee was invited to contribute any suggestions or challenges for this work.

- 28.3. During the course of discussion the following points were made:
- a. Considerable work was going into working out how the learning could be shared across the sector and mechanisms such as Nedia, the network for EDI leads in Higher Education, had been identified for this.
 - b. It was noted that there was significant academic expertise in this area in the UCL community. A seminar series was being planned for next year.
- 28.4. EDI Committee endorsed the work being done by the Project and thanked Professor Knowler for her report.

Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information