



Preliminary business

1 TERMS OF REFERENCE, CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP 2015-16

[PAPER 1-01, 2015-16]

1.1 **Received** – AC’s terms of reference, constitution and membership for the session 2015-16 for Council’s approval at its November meeting.

1.2 The Provost welcomed the following new members to AC:

Dr Celia Caulcott, Vice-Provost (Enterprise and London);
Professor David Lomas, Vice-Provost (Health);

Matters for discussion

5 PROVOST'S BUSINESS

5A Green Paper / Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

5A.1 A Government Green paper on Higher Education has been published and the Provost reported on two key areas that will have an impact on UCL and the wider sector: i) Restructuring of organisation and regulation of HE that, if implemented, would lead to the abolition of a number of sector bodies in England, most notably HEFCE. This would potentially undermine well-established conventions about the separation of government and HE and funding; ii) The TEF – proposed to be introduced in Summer 2016 with student fees linked to institutional outcomes in the framework.

5A.2 UCL would be preparing a response and engaging actively with the Russell Group's response.

5B Prizes to UCL Staff

5B.1 The Provost congratulated Professor John Hardy for winning the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences for his pioneering research into the genetic effects of Alzheimers and Parkinsons diseases, the first time that the prize has been awarded to a UK researcher.

6 VICE-PROVOST (HEALTH) ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL

[PAPER 1-03, 2015-16]

6.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from Professor David Lomas, Vice-Provost (Health)

6.2 The VP (Health) reported that interdisciplinary interactions such as the Institute of Digital Health were being developed to increase the profile and reach of UCL research strength in health across the university. This would be further enhanced through the Faculty Vice-Deans, developing interactions across the Schools.

6.3 It was reported that new programmes to improve research-based education and to improve student experience scores in the NSS to be in the top quartile and increasing the quality of 4* research for REF from 16% to 30%. Core to achieving these targets will be developing plans to address the long-term financial sustainability of research and education activity.

6.4 The VP (International) commented that the proposed African Centre would meet SLMS and GES objectives. The complicated nature of the partnership would mean reviewing staffing support and governance costings that would be included in the bid.

7 NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY – UPDATE

[PAPER 1-04, 2015-16]

7.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from Ms Clare Goudy, Director of Education Planning

7.2 The Director of Education Planning reported that Assessment and Feedback was clearly the area of biggest concern, which would be the focus of the ASER process.

- 7.3 To tackle issues highlighted in the NSS, 3 immediate actions were highlighted, i) an earlier publication of the examinations timetable, around 4-6 weeks earlier than previous years; ii) abolishing graduation costs to students and iii) extending library opening hours during peak examination periods. The last two points were being included in decisions as part of the planning round due to financial implications for UCL.
- 7.4 The Director of Education Planning reported that a dedicated team was in place to increase engagement and student participation in surveys through a constructive dialogue with students and to raise awareness on the implications of their responses in the surveys. The team would promote and monitor response rates of all surveys and work directly with Faculties and Departments to support their promotion activities.
- 7.5 In response to members' comments, the Provost reported that meetings with each HoD were taking place to identify good practice and common challenges. As part of the ASER process, Academic Services, CALT and the Vice-Provost's office would be working together with HoDs, Departments and Faculties to develop action plans.

8 ANNUAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE REVIEW UPDATE

[PAPER 1-05, 2015-16]

- 8.1 **Received** – an oral introduction to the paper from Ms Clare Goudy, Director of Education Planning
- 8.2 The Director of Education Planning reported that ASER had replaced AM and Departments would evaluate themselves against a range of data. The NSS data would be the focus for 2015-16.
- 8.3 The data sets had been triangulated and issues relating to Assessment and Feedback were common, specifically marking criteria and feedback on assessment. To support departmental action planning good practice resources would be developed and made accessible through the Teaching and Learning portal.
- 8.4 An ASER

17.1 **Received** – the Research Degrees Committee annual report for 2014-15.

18 Annual Report for Session 2014-15 - Student Experience Forum
[PAPER 1-13, 2015-16]

18.1 **Received** – the Student Experience Forum annual report for 2014-15.

19 REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS ETC OF ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

19.1 **Received** – the AC officers have received on behalf of AC the Minutes of the following:

Education Committee – 27 April 2015, 27 May 2015

Research Governance Committee – 16 April 2015

20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20.1 The next Academic Committee meeting would be held on **Wednesday 27 January 2016 at 11.00, room TBC**

DERFEL OWEN

Director of Academic Services and Secretary to Academic Committee

[telephone 020 7679 8594, UCL extension 28594, email: d.owen@ucl.ac.uk]

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