



## ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Thursday 21 March 2013

### MINUTES

*PRESENT:*

Professor Anthony Smith (*Chair*)

Mr David Ashton	Professor Robert Brown
Mr Edwin Clifford-Coupe	Dr Brenda Cross
Dr Caroline Essex	Professor Mike Ewing
Mr Marco Federighi	Professor David Green
Dr Leonie Hannan	Dr Arne Hofmann
Dr Christine Hoffmann	Ms Helen Matthews
Professor Alan Penn	Dr Peter Raven
Dr Hilary Richards	Ms Mary Rimington
Dr Eva Sorensen	Dr Ruth Siddall
Ms Olga Thomas	Ms Susan Ware
Professor Michael Worton	

In attendance: Mr Jason Clarke (Secretary); Ms Judith Hillmore; Ms Harriet Lilley; Ms Bella Malins; dfern;ce: An

Key to abbreviations

AC	Academic Committee
EdCom	Education Committee
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GPA	Grade Point Average
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
OfIA	Office for International Affairs
SSFC	Scholarships and Student Funding Committee
WP	widening participation

## 26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13 DECEMBER 2012

**Confirmed:**

26.1 The Minutes of the meeting of AC held on 13 December 2012 [*AC Mins. 13-25, 13.12.12*].

**27 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

- 28.6 That AC approve the draft UCL Access Agreement for 2014-15, at AC 3-15 (12-13), and that it be submitted to the Office for Fair Access.

***[ACTION: Ms Bella Malins, Ms Katy Redfern – to note]***

**RESOLVED**

29.6 That AC approve the draft UCL Widening Participation Strategy 2013-18, at AC 3-16 (12-

## 31 UCL INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION CONSULTATION

### **Noted:**

- 31.1 In order to better support faculties and staff in their internationally-related work, the Vice-Provost (International), Professor Michael Worton, and his team in the Office for International Affairs asked for feedback from members of AC about which areas of activity should be seen as priorities, any particular issues relating to UCL's off-shore presences, views on implementing the UCL International Strategy 2012-2017 (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/global/international-strategy>) and suggestions as to how OfIA can best work with faculties and departments in support of UCL's international agenda. A note with a series of questions which members of AC were asked to consider was at AC 3-18 (12-13) and introduced by Professor Worton.

### **Reported:**

- 31.2 Professor Worton noted that the six main aims of the UCL International Strategy 2012-2017<sup>1</sup> could be grouped under the following thematic headings:
- Students – UCL should look to (i) increase the quality of its international students, (ii) develop a more international mindset amongst its students, (iii) increase the number of students undertaking study abroad by at least 10%.
  - Partnerships – UCL should encourage its staff to focus on long-term strategic partnerships.
  - Positioning – UCL should improve its global position and be seen as an internationally recognised area of teaching excellence with innovative programmes of study.

### **Discussion:**

- 31.3 Members of AC provided feedback on the UCL International Strategy 2012-2017 as follows:

#### 31.3.1 *Study Abroad*

- Study abroad places were limited and those students who did not have an opportunity to study in another country should be given the opportunity to experience internationalism whilst at UCL, *via* links with overseas institutions such as module and staff exchanges.
- Students might be more receptive to shorter study abroad opportunities.
- There would be financial issues to consider around funding for year abroad placements from 2014-15, since HEIs would only be allowed to charge students 15% of fees (a 35% reduction from 2012-13). AC members also noted that UCL should avoid any perception that fees paid by International students were being used to underwrite study abroad opportunities for Home/EU students.

#### 31.3.2 *Staff and Student Opportunities*

- More staff sabbatical leave could involve spending time at an overseas university. Although staff exchanges were now easier to organise, not enough staff took up the opportunity to take part in exchanges.
- UCL could increase its provision of Summer Schools and venture into more dual degrees and module exchanges with overseas HEIs.
- UCL should reassess its current strategic partnerships with overseas HEIs, including those in the US.

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<sup>1</sup> **Global Vision** UCL International Strategy 2012-2017 – A Summary can be found at [http://www.ucl.ac.uk/global/international-strategy/International\\_Strategy\\_2012-2017\\_summary](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/global/international-strategy/International_Strategy_2012-2017_summary)



