



COUNCIL

Monday 1 October 2012

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Sir Stephen Wall (*Chair*)

Professor David Attwell

Dr Bob Barber

Mr Edwin Clifford-Coupe

Ms Natasha Gorodnitski

Mr Mark Knight

Mr Simon Melliss (*Treasurer*)

Ms Katharine Roseveare

Dr Stephanie Schorge

Professor Chris Thompson

Baroness Warwick

Mr Ven Balakrishnan

Lord Clement-Jones

Ms Philippa Foster Back

Professor Malcolm Grant

(President and Provost)

Ms Vivienne Parry (*Vice-Chair*)

Dr Gill Samuels

Dr Sarah Snyder

Professor Nick Tyler

Professor Maria Wyke

In attendance: Mr Andrew Grainger (Director of UCL Estates) [for Minute 8]; Mr Phil Harding (Director of Finance and Business Affairs); Mr Rex Knight (Vice-Provost (Operations)); Mr Nick McGhee (Assistant Secretary to Council); Mr Tim Perry (Secretary to Council); Mr Mark Sudbury (Director of Communications) [for Minute 8].

Preliminary Formal Business

1 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Received

- 1.1 APPENDIX C 1/01 (12-13) – a note by the Secretary on changes to the procedure for declaration of interests by members of Council.

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Matters for discussion

6 VICE-PROVOST (RESEARCH) REPORT

[Council Minute 20, 2011-12]

Received

- 6.1 APPENDIX C 1/05 (12-13) – a report by Professor David Price, Vice-Provost (Research).

Reported

- 6.2 UCL's research grant income continued to rise despite the challenging economic environment, with both application rates and new awards reaching an all-time high in recent months. The continued growth in the numbers of UCL's contract research staff and research students, while gratifying, was also increasing the pressure on space.
- 6.3 Professor Price drew attention to UCL's relative dependence on four major funding bodies (MRC, Wellcome Trust, EPSRC and, increasingly, the European Commission). Research income from charitable sources had increased significantly in 2011, however, following a period of stagnation resulting largely from concerns about the recovery of overheads on charitable research. Industrial income had also risen steadily in recent years, in contrast to that of a number of UCL's major competitors. Further growth in this area was anticipated, driven by the industrial funding strategy put in place by the Vice-Provost (Enterprise).

Discussion

- 6.4 Work had started on the development of impact case studies for REF 2014, assisted by internal funding for editorial and evidence-gathering support. UCL had already taken part in a HEFCE pilot scheme in this area.
- 6.5 The staff selection process for the REF, including the consideration of cases of special circumstances submitted by individual staff, was underway but not yet complete. It was therefore not possible at this stage to provide equality and diversity data.
- 6.6 It was suggested that the structure of the data on SLMS faculty income in section 3.2 of the report was affected by staff transfers resulting from the recent restructuring of SLMS.
- 6.7 While UCL supported the principle of open access to research publications, Professor Price drew attention to problems with the 'gold' open access approach favoured by the Coalition Government. UCL's concerns in this area were shared by other Russell Group members. A unilateral adoption of this approach by the UK would involve an estimated annual cost of £250m to the UK HE sector in order to satisfy

the requirement to make research freely available, without yielding any reciprocal benefits in the cost of journal subscriptions if the rest of the world were not to follow suit. The level of compensation envisaged was far from sufficient to offset this expense. 'Green' open access therefore remained UCL's preferred model.

8 NEW CAMPUS UPDATE

Received

- 8.1 APPENDIX C 1/07 (12-13) – a note by Andrew Grainger, Director of UCL Estates.
- 8.2 A number of letters from residents of the Carpenters Estate had been received by the Council Secretary and circulated to members of Council in advance of the meeting.

Reported

- 8.3 Work over the summer had focussed on sharing UCL's vision for the site with Newham Council and progressing commercial negotiations. A series of meetings had been held with residents, most recently a public meeting on 24 September. Work would now commence on the development of partnership principles. Following a Newham cabinet meeting on 25 October it was hoped that discussions could proceed towards agreement of Heads of Terms at a subsequent cabinet meeting in December. On the basis of this timetable, a draft of the proposed Heads of Terms was expected to be submitted to the Finance Committee and Council meetings on 26 and 28 November 2012 respectively.

Discussion

- 8.4 The decision to redevelop the site had been taken by Newham Council in 2010. Although the redevelopment would doubtless have proceeded with an alternative partner if UCL had not become involved, Council nevertheless acknowledged a moral obligation to satisfy itself that the relocation arrangements offered to residents were satisfactory.
- 8.5 It was suggested that UCL should make a clear statement of how its vision for the site was expected to benefit the local community, for example in respect of long-term skilled employment, health, volunteering and outreach. It was also recognised, however, that residents were understandably concerned with fair value and the maintenance of community links rather than with the nuances of UCL's vision.
- 8.6 Council members were keen to see a more detailed vision for the site. A project plan was now being put together and consultation with faculties would then begin. It was suggested that there was a need to encourage the academic community to view the project as an opportunity to think at a fundamental level about what a university is and does, rather than seeing it primarily as an opportunity for academic expansion. It was anticipated that a master planner would not be appointed until the end of January 2013, and that the project was at least a year away from any legal commitment.
- 8.7 After further discussion Council approved an amendment to the press statement which had been agreed in July 2012.

- 8.8 The Provost was minded to arrange a meeting for Council members with the Mayor of Newham.
- 8.9 It was agreed that, in liaison with the Director of Estates, the Chair would respond to the letters from residents on behalf of Council

12 **REGISTER OF INTERESTS 2012-13**

Received

12.1 APPENDIX C 1/12 (12-13) – a note by the Secretary.

Noted

12.2 The Register of Interests had been endorsed by the Provost and approved by the Chair, on behalf of Council.

12.3 The report on UCL's risk management, control and governance arrangements, issued by the HEFCE Audit Service following a visit to UCL in February 2005, recommended that 'To ensure completeness members [of Council] should sign off their own annual declaration [in the Register of Interests] at the first meeting they attend each session'. Members of Council were therefore asked to sign off their entry in the Register during the course of the meeting.

13 **USE OF THE UCL SEAL: ANNUAL REPORT**