



COUNCIL

Thursday 19 May 2011

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Sir Stephen Wall (*Chair*)

Professor David Attwell	Dr Bob Barber
Ms Anne Bulford (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Mr Michael Chessum
Professor Malcolm Grant	Mr Mark Knight
(<i>President and Provost</i>)	Ms Catherine Newman
Ms Vivienne Parry (<i>Vice-Chair</i>)	Ms Katharine Roseveare
Dr Benet Salway	Dr Gill Samuels
Professor Chris Thompson	Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe
Professor Maria Wyke	

In attendance: Mr Rex Knight (Vice-Provost (Operations)); Mr Nick McGhee (Academic Services); Mr Tim Perry (Secretary to Council); Ms Mandy Smith (*vice* Matthew Burgess); Mrs Alison Woodhams (Director of Finance); Professor Michael Worton (Vice-Provost (Academic and International)).

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Matthew Burgess, Ms Philippa Foster Back, Mr Rob Holden, Dr Stephanie Schorge and Professor Nick Tyler.

Any member of Council who had (or who knew of a family member who had) a material, personal, financial or other beneficial interest in any item on the Agenda was requested to declare that interest at the beginning of the meeting in order that such declaration could be recorded in these Minutes.

Key to abbreviations used in these Minutes:

BASc	Bachelor of Arts and Sciences
CBI	Confederation of British Industry
GPA	Grade Point Average
HEFCE	Higher Education Funding Council for England
KPI	Key Performance Indicator

Strategic and Management Business

- 89 **PROVOST'S GREEN PAPER**
[Council Minute 83D, 2010-11]

Received

- 89.6 Although the Green Paper assumed that UCL would continue to be bound by the Government's student number quotas, the Provost noted that there was now some expectation that the Government would lift these restrictions, provided that doing so could avoid (i) an adverse impact on the student loan book and (ii) cross-flows of students across the sector which would weaken more vulnerable institutions. It was thought that universities might be permitted to admit as many students as they wished with A-level grades of at least AAB. This would represent a freeing up of the quota for over 70% of the UCL student body, permitting the enrolment of additional students without financial penalty. There had been recent newspaper reports that this proposal would find its way into the Government's forthcoming White Paper on Higher Education, publication of which was now expected in late June or July 2011. If confirmed, this would provide UCL with opportunities for growth wherever academic departments offering high-demand programmes of study had the appetite and resources for increasing their student numbers. Such a development would also mean that new programmes, such as the BAsc to be launched in 2012, could be developed without reducing the number of places available on existing programmes.
- 89.7 Seen in this context, the Green Paper's view of the potential for growth in student numbers was downbeat, although it was stressed that it was not yet certain that Government policy would move in this direction. The Provost further noted that the introduction of the £9,000 undergraduate fee in 2012-13 would reduce the financial differentiation between home/EU and overseas students fees. The potential opportunity to increase home/EU numbers at fees without penalty would give institutions a greater range of options for growing and maintaining financial viability than had been the case in recent years, when growth in international student numbers had been the only realistic option.
- 89.8 The lifting of the compulsory retirement age for staff was expected to present real challenges to all HEIs, as had proved the case in the US. One model currently under consideration involved an enhancement of the package in the final years before retirement on the acceptance of a contractual agreement to retire on a given date. There was no intention, however, to amend UCL's academic promotions process.
- 89.9 The Provost intended to prepare an executive summary of his Green Paper ahead of the consultation process with the UCL community.

Discussion

- 89.10 Council members warmly congratulated the Provost on an excellent document, which was felt to balance an inspiring vision with well-grounded detail. The following issues were raised in the course of an extensive discussion of the Green Paper:
- A number of members were concerned that the document gave the impression of UCL seeking to 'Americanize' itself.

90 **UCL AND THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**

[Council Minute 83B, 2010-11]

Noted

- 90.1 A meeting of Council members and senior officers of the School of Pharmacy and UCL had taken place on 4 May 2011 to discuss the possible merger of the two institutions. UCL Council members attending had been provided in advance of the meeting with a copy of the School of Pharmacy's 'Our Future' document (APPENDIX *¹ C 4/88 (10-11)) and a briefing note by the Vice-Provost (Operations) (APPENDIX * C 4/89 (10-11)).

Received

- 90.2 Oral reports by the Chair of Council and the Provost.

Reported

- 90.3 At a meeting on 12 May 2011 the School of Pharmacy's Council had voted, in a secret ballot, for merger with UCL by 12 votes to 8. A due diligence process would now commence to enable UCL to satisfy itself that merger would not entail its taking on any unanticipated liabilities or difficulties. Depending on the timing of this exercise and any necessary follow-up, it was possible that a formal merger proposal would be put to the UCL Council meeting on 6 July 2011. The process would then be taken forward by a transfer of assets from the School to UCL followed by a petition to the Privy Council from the School's Council to surrender the School's Charter and wind up the corporation. The precise timing of this was still subject to discussion but the intention was that the transfer and *de facto* merger should take place early in the calendar year 2012.
- 90.4 The Provost thanked all Council members who had been able to attend the meeting with their School of Pharmacy counterparts on 4 May 2011.
- 90.5 Council was now asked to confirm that, subject to due diligence being undertaken satisfactorily and in the event that a formal merger proposal was not available to put before the next Council meeting, the Chair be authorised to approve the merger on Council's behalf.

Discussion

- 90.6 Council discussed what it understood to be the principal concerns of those who had voted against the merger. The Provost commended what he saw as a visionary decision on the part of the School of Pharmacy Council.

¹ An appendix or annexe reference preceded by an asterisk indicates that, for the sake of economy, the document was not issued with the Agenda but is available on request to the Council Secretary's office (e-mail – n.mcghee@ucl.ac.uk, telephone 020 7679 8878).

RESOLVED

- 90.7 **That, subject to due diligence being undertaken satisfactorily and in the event that a formal merger proposal is not available to put before the Council meeting of 6 July 2011, the Chair be authorised to approve the merger with the School of Pharmacy on Council's behalf.**

91 **UCL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Professor Michael Worton, Vice-Provost (Academic and International), was in attendance for this item.

Received

- 91.1 APPENDIX C 4/90 (10-11), a contextual statement introducing APPENDIX C 4/91 (10-11), the proposed UCL Public Engagement Strategy, endorsed by the Provost's Senior Management Team.
- 91.2 An oral report by the Vice-Provost (Academic and International).

Reported

- 91.3 UCL was a Beacon for Public Engagement, having established a vision for Public Engagement that had been embraced by HEFCE and the research councils and which had proved influential in the development of other institutions' strategies. For example, 'Bright Clubs' had been established by 12 other universities, and Public Engagement now formed an essential element of many research grant applications. The Strategy was work in progress; a detailed action plan would be developed in due course.

Discussion

- 91.4 Co-production of research was thought likely to become an increasingly important theme over the next decade. Some 12,500 members of the public had already been involved with projects funded by UCL's Public Engagement Unit.
- 91.5 Council commended the Strategy and the work of Professor Worton and his colleagues in developing this important initiative.

RESOLVED

- 91.6 **That the UCL Public Engagement Strategy be approved.**

92 **REGULATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT – AMENDMENT**

Noted

- 92.1 A note by the Secretary to Council, introducing proposed amendments to UCL Regulation for Management 10, had been issued with the Agenda as APPENDIX C 4/92 (10-11).
- 92.2 The Chair advised that, in the light of queries raised about the proposed amendments by two academic staff members of Council, consideration of the matter would be deferred to a subsequent meeting of Council, pending further consideration by the UCL officers concerned of the wording of the proposed amendments.

Tim Perry
Secretary to Council
1 June 2011