



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday 30 April 2013

### MINUTES

*Present:*

Prof Mike Ewing (*Chair*)

Mr David Ashton  
Ms Karen Barnard  
Professor David Bogle  
Dr Brenda Cross  
Dr Caroline Essex  
Dr Julie Evans  
Mr Marco Federighi  
Dr Arne Hofmann  
Dr Christine Hoffman  
Ms Bella Malins  
Ms Giulia Mari  
Mr Dante Micheaux

Dr John Mitchell  
Mr Edwin Clifford-Coupe  
Ms Kathleen Nicholls  
Dr Hilary Richards  
Dr Ruth Siddall  
Ms Donna Swann (*vice: Dr Fiona Strawbridge*)  
Ms Olga Thomas  
Professor Derek Tocher  
Ms Susan Ware  
Dr Paul Walker (*vice: Mr Ken Marsden*)  
Dr Andrew Wills  
Key to abbreviations



- 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.
- 50.5 It remained key to the implementation of the Strategy that the internationalisation of all UCL's processes and practices should continue. Examples given included that UCL should be able to pay staff in foreign currencies and that potential tax liabilities should be better recognised when setting up international activity as other countries had internal revenue services equally observant to those in the UK.
- 50.6 Advice and guidance was available to departments from the OfIA regarding how to set up programmes with international components.
- 50.7 The Chair of EdCom noted that it had set up a working group on study abroad, although this had not met recently. Professor Worton requested that a member of the OfIA, Mr Nigel Percival, be added to the membership of the working group. It was envisaged that the percentage of students studying abroad be increased from 25% to 35% in line with the commitment to which both UCL Council and Academic Board had signed up.
- 50.8 Three priority areas for the future were India, Latin America (a summer school was planned for 2013-14 in Colombia), and, as a matter of priority, China, where it was envisaged that UCL would have established a physical presence by 2017.

**Discussion:**

- 50.9 The main points were as follows:
- As evidence had shown that money was often lost on short term, opportunistic collaborative partnerships EdCom endorsed UCL's intention to move towards longer term, strategic relationships.
  - A high priority in the Faculty of Engineering Sciences was to build a network of engineering schools supported by industry. Erasmus Mundus was very helpful in this respect. The Faculty would appreciate more help with the drafting of Memoranda of Understanding and would benefit from increased collaboration between the OfIA and the office of the Vice-Provost (Enterprise).
  - The Vice-Provost (International) confirmed that UCL was still not prepared to offer joint degrees<sup>2</sup>.
  - A working group of EdCom<sup>3</sup> on regulations concerning non-standard degree programmes and blended learning would be looking at many of the international programmes. The sooner regulations could be brought in which could be used to identify issues with potential partnerships, the better.
  - It would be useful if more information on International Student orientation sessions could be included on the International Students' web-pages, as much work had been done in this area.

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<sup>2</sup> Defined by the QAA as 'an arrangement under which two or more awarding bodies together provide a programme leading to a single award made jointly by both, or all, participants. A single certificate or document (signed by the competent authorities) attests to the successful

- EdCom welcomed the UCL Cultural Consultation Service (see <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ccs>) which would assist with orientation and help students who were experiencing difficulties in assimilating, due to cultural differences.

**RESOLVED:**

50.10 The consultation was an ongoing process. EdCom members were therefore invited to forward any further observations on the International Strategy to Professor Worton and his team in OfIA. **[Action: EdCom members to note]**

**51 MATTERS ARISING FROM REGULATION REVIEW GROUP 18 APRIL 2013**

**51A Academic Regulations 2013-14**

**Reported:**

51A.1 The Chair reported that the Academic Regulations for session 2013-14 would be finalised by the end of May 2013, approved by Chair's Action and circulated to EdCom members. **[Action: Professor Mike Ewing MCID 11 BDC 0 ( ) 0 g/TT1 1 Tf0.00122a 0.000**

tailored to the student. Examples would therefore be potentially misleading. EdCom also felt that to reword the text to further emphasise its supportive intent might unintentionally invite students to take the possibilities of barring and suspension less seriously.

**RESOLVED:**

51B.5 That the text should be revised to (i) contain a link to the separate procedure for research students (ii) make it sufficiently clear from the outset that students under a learning agreement should continue to attend and submit coursework. **[Action: Dr Arne Hofmann]**

51B.6 That EdCom endorse the policy, subject to revisions listed at 51B.5 above.

51B.7 That the revised policy be forwarded by Dr Arne Hofmann for publication in the UCL Academic Manual. **[Action: Ms Sandra Hinton]**

51B.8 That both the revised policy and the cultural change which it represented be fully

**Discussion:**

- 52.2 EdCom wished to register its concern at the School of Pharmacy's lack of engagement with the Faculty of Life Sciences and UCL.

**53 MINUTES FROM STEERING GROUPS ETC.**

**53A UCL Board of Examiners**

**Noted:**

- 53A.1 At EDCOM 4/39 (12-13) – the minutes of the meeting of 6 January 2013.

**54 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**54A Attendance Monitoring**

**Noted:**

- 54A.1 Monitoring took place in many individual departments and faculties but UCL possessed no central mechanism for this purpose. Attendance monitoring had not been put forward as a project for the 2013-13 session.

- 54A.2 The Faculties of Arts and Humanities and Social and Historical Sciences would be submitting a bid for Portico-supported monitoring and canvassed expressions of interest from other faculties. MAPS and Life Sciences expressed an interest. Needs would have to be clearly defined at the outset and sufficient information gathered to make a compelling bid.

**RESOLVED:**

- 54A.3 That the Arts and Humanities and Social and Historical Sciences' Faculty Tutor would take this further. **[Action: Dr Arne Hofmann]**

**55 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS 2012-13**

**Noted:**

- 55.1 The final meeting of EdCom is scheduled as follows: Meeting 5: Tuesday 25 June 2013, 2pm - 4.30pm

SANDRA HINTON

Senior Quality Assurance Manager, Academic Support, Registry and Academic Services  
[telephone: 020 7679 8590; internal extension 28590; fax 020 7679 8595; e-mail s.hinton@ucl.ac.uk  
3 June 2013.