

M16/193-M16/226

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 31 August 2016 at 10.00am in the Windsor Building rooms 1-02/1-03

Present:	Mr Stephen Cox (Chair) Professor Sarah Ansari Ms Natasha Barrett Mr Dave Cobb Mr Gurpreet Dehal Ms Ann Ewing Mrs Margaret Jack	Mr Majid Hawa Ms Denise Keable Mr Jeremy McIlroy Mr Gerry O'Hagan Mr Nick Perryman Mrs Chris Shoukry Mr David Spence
Apologies:	Ms Emilie Ancelin Mr John Brannan Professor David Gilbert Mrs Christine Goodyear Ms Sarah King	Professor Paul Layzell Mr Mark Newlands Mr Iain Ross Professor Liz Schafer Mr David Williams Ms Colette Wilson
In attendance:	Ms Marie Ennis Mrs Jenny Febry Professor Paul Hogg Professor Katie Normington Mrs Julia Roberts	Director of Communications and External Relations Deputy Director of Finance Vice Principal and Dean of Science Vice Principal and Dean of Arts and Social Science Director of Strategic Development
With:	Mr Simon Higman Mrs Pauline Martin Ms Christine Cartwright	Registrar and Secretary Executive Officer for Council, Minutes Secondary Minutes
Observer	Dr David Ashton Mr Doug German	Executive Policy Assistant

FORMAL BUSINESS

INTRODUCTIONS

16/193

Dr David Ashton was introduced to Council and welcomed to the meeting. He would join College as Secretary to Council and Chief Operating Officer on 26 September 2016, taking over responsibility from Simon Higman on 10 October 2016.

Natasha Barrett, President of the Students' Union 2016/17, was also welcomed to her first meeting.

1. MINUTES

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2016 (M16/130-M16/192)

16/194

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

16/195

3. REGISTER OF INTEREST

None

16/196

4. UNSTARRING OF ITEMS

PART A: MAJOR ITEMS OF BUSINESS

5. THE RHBNC ACT 1985

RECEIVED a paper describing the changes underway at University of London and the background to the review of the RHBNC Act 1985 and the draft Bill which presents the potential to seek university title and the opportunity to change the name of the College (CL/16/58). 16/198

NOTED the paper (CL/16/31) discussed at the May meeting (M16/88-89) and July (M16/135) regarding University of London's (UoL) decision to seek a bill in Parliament to formalise the change in the relationship between the Colleges of the University and UoL and to allow HEI's that have been awarded university title to become part of UoL. The UoL Bill would also allow Colleges of the University to become universities in their own right. Legal advice had been taken with Pinsent Mason's and it was confirmed that if the College wished to seek university title it would be necessary to amend the 1985 Act by private Bill. RHUL was the only College of UoL established by Act of Parliament the majority of the other Colleges of UoL were established by Royal Charter which required only Privy Council for the changes to be made. 16/199

NOTED that the initial decision of College management had been not to seek university title. The uncertainty following the outcome of the EU referendum and the amount of change anticipated in regulation, competition and speed of change in the Higher Education environment prompted reconsideration of that decision. The potential to operate completely autonomously was considered important in that, should it be needed, it would guarantee equal status with other recognised universities. Consequently College management now thought it prudent to seek university title and, at this time, this would be possible through the "batch light touch" process currently being offered by the primary regulator HEFCE, to the UoL federal Colleges. 16/200

NOTED that the College did not have any intention of seceding from the UoL. 16/201

NOTED that a review of the Act identified some changes to address issues in the 1985 Act to simplify and repatriate powers to the College that the 1985 Act left with Privy Council or others. Following consultation with Council Executive Chairs Action was taken to authorise the instruction of Pinsent Mason's to prepare the draft Bill due to the tight timeline for the process to be conducted in the Autumn. 16/202

NOTED that Pinsent Masons would carry out the detailed work for the College in the creation and submission of the Bill and this would follow the approximate timeline: 16/203

- By mid-September - the Bill to be ready for consultation;
- Mid-September to end of October – consultation with various parties;
- 21 September – Council Executive meeting;
- 5 October – Council meeting to consider the version out for consultation and to provide delegated authority to approve minor amendments after this date;
- 1 November – 18/21 November – make any changes necessary post-consultation. Submit to Pinsent Mason for any final touches;
- 24 November – provide final version and report to Council on process;
- 26 November – last day to submit Bill to Parliament.

NOTED the need for consultation within the College and externally that was required as part of the process. The timing of the process was determined by the need to achieve the closing date for submission of the Bill which would allow it to be considered in the next session of 16/204

Council

Parliament alongside the UoL Bill and allow College to benefit from the "light touch batch processing" of Colleges seeking university title. 16/205

NOTED that the process for changing the College name would require additional consultation. The Bill would be submitted under our current legal name but would contain the provision that by Order of her Majesty the Queen, the name may be changed and if a decision could not be made by the time the College needed to apply for University title the option would remain to amend the name in the future.

NOTED that Clause 7 in the draft Bill gave Council the power to amend the College Statutes by special resolution and would remove the requirement for consultation with Privy Council. 16/206

DISCUSSED the implications of the proposed change included in Clause 7 and the role of Privy Council. It was considered that Privy Council was seeking to distance itself from the approval process due to its own workload but it was recognised that Privy Council also held an oversight of the governance in Higher Education which was important. If Council was to take final responsibility for approving the College Statutes it was felt that there needed to be consideration of risk and the checks and balances that it would be prudent to put in place to safeguard against any impulsive changes. This would include the need for appropriate consultation to consider the views of key stakeholders, Academic Board, Staff Unions, the Students' Union and members of the College generally, prior to Council approval of any changes. It was also important to consider whether it was appropriate to review the requirement, and the appropriate quorum, for the resolution procedure. 16/207

AGREED with one abstention and one vote against to proceed with a draft Bill based on no Privy Council involvement in the consultation and approval process. 16/208

REQUIRED to detail the internal checks and balances that would be put in place and evaluation of risk for the proposed approval process. 16/209

DISCUSSED and NOTED further issues with the proposed changes to the 1985 Act included in the draft Bill: 16/210

- Clause 6 regarding the Academic Board membership to be reviewed and redrafted in line with the 1985 Act to ensure that the composition of Academic Board continued to be encoded into Statutes (Clause 9 1985 Act). The relationship with Council to be redrafted to retain the feeling of Clause 6(2) in the 1985 Act regarding the requirement for Council to consult and consider the opinion of Academic Board on questions of educational policy or matters with academic implications prior to making a decision. Academic Board's views would be considered further at the October meeting of Council.
- The concerns of the Unions regarding the removal of Clause 4(3) in the 1985 Act which described the College powers to employ and remunerate staff with links to Statute and Regulations. Legal advice would be sought.
- Clause 4 Objects and Powers of the College there was a need to include the research conducted by the College for the public benefit.
- Clause 5 would allow Council to decide its own officer structure.

REQUIRED to present a revised draft Bill at the next meeting of Council. 16/211

6. COLLEGE STRATEGY

RECEIVED an oral report of the development of the College Strategy and the engagement with Council at the Strategy workshop on 5 October and the Strategy meeting in November. 16/212

NOTED that the focus for development was on three elements of the strategy: 16/213

- Sharpening the vision, by refocusing and refining the strategy to make it tangible.

- Assessing the risks and challenges to the vision and identifying the programmes of work and actions necessary to delivering the vision and ensuring success feeds through to the key performance indicators of NSS (student satisfaction), TEF (teaching excellence), REF (research excellence) and DLHE (employability).
- Reviewing and improving the brand and reputation of the College and how we express ourselves. Increasing our visibility and impact, ensuring that our College and external engagement strategies are aligned and effective together and with a greater focus on outcomes for students.

DISCUSSED that in the competitive, pressured environment of higher education the strategy needed to consider what the College would be and what it would stand for in 5-10 years' time, where it wanted to be and how it would get there. There was a need to embed risks into our processes and decide what we would do differently and consider the nature of the current and future environment and the market. 16/214

7. ADMISSIONS

RECEIVED an oral update of current admissions for 2016/17 and that the report was given with strong caveats that the picture was very fluid as the admissions process was by no means near its end. As experienced in previous years students' use of the system was changing. Students were now waiting for results before applying, "trading up" when results were known and becoming more professional in using the system. Nationally one in eight students were now placed through clearing. Final admissions numbers would also be affected by drop-outs and no-shows. Last year these were at 7% for home/EU undergraduates and significantly higher for overseas undergraduates (10-20%) 16/215

NOTED the significant caveats that these were very early predictions, however it seemed likely that College would meet its targets with a slight under recruitment of overseas undergraduates being more than offset by an over recruitment of home/EU undergraduates. Post graduate taught recruitment was currently stronger than in the previous year and numbers were likely to be at or slightly above targets. 16/216

PART B: ITEMS FOR REPORT AND FORMAL APPROVAL

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None 16/217

9. REPORT OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CHAIRMAN

NOTED that following consultation by email with Council Executive Committee the Chair Chairs approved legal work to draft the private bill. 16/218

10. REPORT OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY CIRCULATION

None 16/219

11. HONORARY DEGREES

NOTED the conferral of honorary degrees to Professor Dame Sandra Dawson, Akiri Matsui and Professor Martin Wirsing during graduation week. 16/220

12. RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING MINUTES

Audit and Compliance Committee 4 July 2016 (CL/16/59) 16/221
Remuneration Committee 6 July 2016 (Minutes not yet available)

13. NOTED THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES HAVE NOT MET SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF COUNCIL

No Committees have met 16/222

14. SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

12 July 2016: Honorary degree certificates for presentation 13/14 July 2016 to Professor Dame Sandra Dawson, Akiri Matsui and Professor Martin Wirsing. 16/223

15. OTHER BUSINESS

APPROVED the nomination (CL/16/60) for an Honorary Fellowship in 2017 for Mr Richard Williams. 16/224

16. RESERVED AREA OF BUSINESS

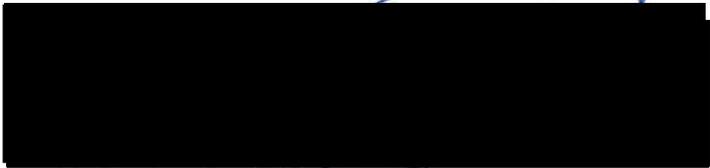
None 16/225

17. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5 October 2016 at 4.15pm in the Windsor building rooms 1-02/1-03 followed at 7pm by a reception and dinner in the SCR to mark the College Secretary's last meeting of Council. 16/226

Council members are invited to attend a programme of events on Wednesday 5 October 2016. The programme is currently as below:

- 10.15am Tour of Library and Student Services Building
- 12.15pm Buffet Lunch in the Large Board Room
- 1pm Workshop on the College Strategy
- 3pm Opening Boiler House and tea
- 4.15pm Council meeting
- 7pm Reception and dinner

	
Mr Stephen Cox CVO Chair of Council	Date 5-OCT-2016.