



UCL

Academic Board

Tuesday 18 June 2024¹

MINUTES

Present: Dr Michael Spence, President and Provost (Chair)

Professor Bas Aarts, Dr Mojtaba Abdi-Jalebi, Dr Ali Abolfathi, Professor Daniel Alexander, Mr Adnan Ali, Professor Afia Ali, Professor Nazif Alic, Dr Jake Anders,

Minute 55); Nick McGhee (secretary); Angharad Milenkovic; Turlogh O'Brien, David Pacey; Mark Rice, Head of Reward (for Minute 53), Olivia Whiteley.

Part I: Preliminary Business

48 ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

48.1 The minutes of the meeting of 8 May 2024 [AB Minutes 26-47, 2023-24] were confirmed.

49 MATTERS ARISING (Paper 4-01)

See also Minutes 50, 58 and 59 below.

49.1 Noted.

Part II: Matters for Discussion

50 PROVOST'S REPORT (Paper 4-02)

50.1 In response to a question about the events alluded to in his message to the UCL community of 4 June², the Provost explained that the communication had been motivated by a troubling shift in the nature of the actions of some protestors. The university's duty to uphold the right to protest must be balanced with the need to protect the safety and wellbeing of the community and to maintain an open, diverse and welcoming campus.

51 AB STANDING ORDERS (FIRST READING) (Paper 4-03)

51.1 The Chair of GCAB presented the paper. This constituted a first reading of new proposals in addition to those considered at the last meeting [AB Minute 30, 08.05.24]. The proposals involved minor clarificatory changes to SO4 and a new Standing Order relating to the elected membership of Education Committee and the use of AB delegated powers, developed in part in response to the questions posed to Academic Board in the Education Committee's annual report [Paper 2-03, 07.02.24]. The proposed changes from this and the last meeting would return for a second reading at the meeting of 3 July.

51.2 It was noted that the draft Standing Order 19 made reference to 15 elected members whereas there were currently 12. It was confirmed that the former was an aspirational number, as the constitution lay with EdCom itself and with Academic Committee.

51.3 Members were invited to submit any further comments in writing to the Chair of GCAB.

² [Provost's update: responding to recent events on campus | UCL News - UCL – University College London](#)

53 **PROFESSORIAL BANDING** (Paper 4-05)

54 **AB STATUTE 18 WORKING GROUP** (Paper 4-06)

- 54.1 In November 2023 Academic Board approved the establishment of a Working Group on Statute 18 [AB Minute 5, 01.11.23]. The membership had been confirmed at the meeting of 7 February [AB Minute 23, 07.02.24]. The Working Group had been meeting weekly since that time with a focus on two priorities: to develop an understanding of the functioning and problems in the Statute 18 processes and procedures, and to identify solutions to emerging issues.
- 54.2 The Group's preliminary conclusion on the first question was that Statute 18 processes were affected by significant delays, primarily in the investigation and tribunal stages, as well as a lack of procedural transparency. Despite such problems, the job security provided by Statute 18 played a vital function as one of the foundations of academic freedom.
- 54.3 The Working Group had considered potential solutions to these issues, particularly in connection with the membership of the tribunal panels, and the absence of any Regulations as required by paragraphs 17 and 29 of the Statute. A first draft of such Regulations was provided in the paper.
- 54.4 The draft Regulations had been shared with HR and with the Task and Finish Group on Disciplinary Procedures [AB Minute 4, 01.11.23] for feedback. The Task and Finish Group was considering disciplinary procedures in the round, with a view to making recommendations in the autumn term. The Provost noted that the matter would need further discussion at Academic Board in due course as well as legal review. It was possible that the Group would need to look again at the draft Regulations having completed their own piece of work.
- 54.5

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61 **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

61.1 Wednesday 3 July 2024 at 2pm.

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