

Education Committee

23 February 2021

Confirmed Minutes

Present:

Professor Anthony Smith (Chair)

Ms Wendy Appleby; Dr Simon Banks; Mr Ayman Benmati; Professor Clare Brooks; Ms Yasmeen Daoud; Mr Ian Davis; Mr Ashley Doolan; Dr Julie Evans; Dr Jo Fraser-Pearce; Ms Megan Gerrie; Professor Deborah Gill; Professor Alistair Greig; Professor Arne Hofmann; Professor Jane Holder; Ms Gunay Karimova; Mr Zak Liddell; Ms Blathnaid Mahony; Ms Viktoria Makai; Dr Helen Matthews; Mr Jim Onyemenam; Mr Derfel Owen; Professor Norbert Pachler; Professor Aeli Roberts; Mr Mike Rowson; Dr Bill Sillar; Professor Sam Smidt; Dr Hazel Smith; Dr Fiona Strawbridge; Professor Olga Thomas and Ms Lizzie Vinton.

In attendance: Ms Katie Price; Ms Joanne Moles and Professor Simon Walker (Item 42); Professor John Mitchell (Item 43), Dr Anne Preston (Item 44), Ms Karen Roberts and Mr Rosul Gazi (Item 45), Professor Sasha Roseneil (Item 46) and Mr Rob Traynor (Secretary).

Apologies for absence were received from: Professor Nora Colton and Ms June Hedges.

Part I: Preliminary Business

40. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 40.1. Approved – the Minutes of the previous EdCom meetings held on:
- 3 December 2020 [EdCom Minutes 22-39, 2020-21] at EDCOM 3-01 (20-21)
 - 5 February 2021
- 21).

41. Matters Arising from the Minutes

41A Amendment to Terms of Reference, Constitution and Membership 2020-21 [EdCom Minute 22, 03.12.20]

41A.1 Amendments to EdCom

educational policy, as stated in the new Term of Reference 1. The delegated powers did not refer to formal processes such as the approval of new types of award. Council further considered the delegated powers at its February meeting and EdCom would be informed of any further changes to the terms of reference.

- Reporting arrangements: EdCom now submitted its minutes to AB and would submit an annual report on the use of the delegated powers each session.
- New academic members staggered terms of service: AB officers were discussing this suggestion with the Governance Sub-Committee of AB (GCAB) and would clarify soon. AB to run elections for the new members.

41A.3 **Noted** - Further clarification on the AB delegated powers and the new academic members to be reported to EdCom once received.

41B Entry Tariff Anomalies

(EdCom Minute 24A, 3 December 2020)

41B.1 EdCom had discussed problems with the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

44.3.

- f) Decisions were required soon to enable departments to plan teaching, set modules and timetables and book rooms. It was queried whether deadlines might be delayed, e.g. for module confirmation, to allow for further discussion. However, EdCom noted that the deadline for module confirmation was already delayed and any refinement would be conducted iteratively to ensure that programme diets were built in time for the start of session.
- g) A light touch information collection would be conducted with Estates to gather department views on teaching delivery and likely needs. This included identification of key parts of modules that required face-to-face teaching.

47.5. **Agreed** - that a blended education approach would be necessary for the next session for students returning to UCL. However, further thought was required for the support to be provided to students unable to come. UCL should endeavour to provide this where possible, but honesty was required where it was not, despite best endeavours. The Pro-Vice-Provost: Student Experience and Pro-Vice-Provost: Digital Education would inform AB of the EdCom discussion.

Action: Professor Deborah Gill and Professor Norbert Pachler to note

48. **Postgraduate Taught Classification Outcomes**

Received - the paper at EDCOM 3-08 (20-21) presented by the Director of AS.

48.2. The paper outlined analysis of PGT degree classifications data in 2020 to assess the impact of the 'No Detriment' policy used to determine classifications, with a summary of relevant External Examiner (EE) comments. Further details relating to the awarding gaps was available in the [ASER dataset](#) in Tableau.

48.3. EdCom was informed that the overall proportion of distinctions increased significantly compared to previous years, with a decrease in the numbers of awards in the other classes. Analysis of the mark profile attributed the change in classification profile to the application of the No Detriment classification algorithm rather than to changes in student performance. More detailed analysis of the EE comments in relation to Covid-19 mitigation was underway, though the report highlighted some comments questioning whether it was over generous.

~~48.4~~ EdCom was informed of some student dissatisfaction with this year's "No Detriment" mitigation, in particular that the 2019-20 classification mitigation would not be used. However, it was noted that the current policy offered much support for students.

Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information

49. **Approval of New Programmes of Study**

49.1. Approved - programmes of study recommended by PMAP at EDCOM 3-09 (20-21).

50. Minutes of Sub-Committees and Working Groups

50.1.