





**31C MPhil/PhD Upgrade data**  
*[RDC Min.20.8, 5.3.14]*

**Noted:**

specific objectives and measures to support each of the principal themes and key

assigned as consultants for PGR students and research staff. In addition, UCL Careers Consultant colleagues were not always best placed or informed to respond to the very research-specific enquiries that were sometimes referred to them by PGR students, eg requests for advice on grant applications.

- 33.7 While it was noted that DGTs and Careers Liaison Officers were also on hand to offer careers advice to PGR students at departmental level, RDC considered whether school and faculty research facilitators might play a more active role in offering more independent localised research-specific careers advice and guidance for PGR students and serving as contact points for referrals from UCL Careers colleagues. The Chair of RDC noted that he would be willing to raise this suggestion with the Vice-Provost (Research). In the meantime, the Chair of RDC asked FGTs to consult with colleagues within their faculties and with FGTCs or their equivalents with a view to determining the level of demand/appetite for the provision of more localised faculty career advice and events with a view to reporting back to RDC's next meeting.

- 33.8 Other points noted during discussion included the following:

Careers advice and guidance was integral to the PGR student experience. In light of this, it would be helpful to consider critical stages of the PGR student journey when interventions around careers advice would be most effective for students.

Student engagement could sometimes be an issue: some UCL faculties and departments had made efforts to organise specific careers events for PGR students but these had not always been very well attended.

While PGR student supervisors and PIs would be well placed to offer advice and guidance on postdoctoral careers within academia, they would not necessarily be best placed or informed to offer independent and impartial advice to PGR students on non-academic careers.

SLMS had established an Academic Careers Office to promote, support and develop all aspects of academic and clinical academic careers giving advice to postdoctoral researchers and PGR students about academic careers.

It would be helpful if there could be a central forum for UCL Careers to engage with the community of Careers Liaison Officers and other departmental/faculty/school-based careers staff across UCL.

- 33.9 With reference to the report at [RDC 3-4 \(13-14\)](#), RDC noted that while there was some variability across UCL faculties in terms of the numbers of PhD students that were currently involved in teaching, the pattern of responses to the questions asked

appropriate training around pastoral support was provided by the relevant departments in these instances.

33.12 While it was generally regarded as a good thing for undergraduate students to have



**RESOLVED:**

- 35.5 That FGTs who had not yet submitted a response to the RDC officers be asked to do so.

**ACTION: Gary Hawes**

**36 PGR STUDENT SUPERVISION BY PROBATIONARY MEMBERS OF STAFF**

**Received:**

- 36.1 The note at RDC 3-7 (13-14), introduced by the Graduate School Administrator.

**Reported:**

- 36.2 RDC was invited to consider whether i) the Academic Regulations for Research Degree Programmes that governed the right of probationary staff to act as Principal Supervisors were satisfactory and clear and ii) one model should be applied to all UCL staff regarding the implementation of these regulations in light of the fact that this currently differed across faculties.

**Discussion:**

- 36.3 RDC was of the view that provided that probationary members of staff had received the necessary training, they should not be prohibited from being appointed as a Principal Supervisor. RDC further agreed that it would not be necessary or desirable to impose a common model for the implementation of these regulations across UCL.
- 36.4 It was agreed that in cases where probationary members of staff were considered for appointment as Principal Supervisors, much would depend on their prior experience and that appointment of probationary staff to this role should ultimately be at the discretion of the DGT.

**RESOLVED:**

- 36.5 That no changes be made to the current UCL regulations governing the right of probationary staff to act as Principal Supervisors.

**37 SUPPORT TO STUDY POLICY AND FITNESS TO STUDY PROCEDURE**

**Received:**

- 37.1 The report at RDC 3-8 (13-14), introduced by the Director of Student Administration.

**Reported:**

- 37.2 RDC was invited to consider and approve the proposed Support to Study Policy and Fitness to Study Procedure at RDC 3-8 (13-14). Both had been discussed with key UCL colleagues who were directly involved with student support and wellbeing, as well as with the UCLU sabbatical officers. They had also been received at the last two meetings of EdCom, where they had been broadly welcomed. Subject to final



**Discussion:**

### **39 PGR STUDENT SUPERVISION BY RETIRED STAFF**

[RDC Min.22, 5.3.14]

#### **Received:**

- 39.1 The proposal at RDC 3-9 (13-14), introduced by the Graduate School Administrator.

#### **Reported:**

- 39.2 At its previous meeting on 5 March 2014, RDC received a note inviting it to consider current arrangements for PGR student supervision by retired members of staff and whether these should be tightened or amended. In agreeing details of arrangements and additional guidance that should ideally apply in these instances, RDC agreed that a formal proposal for amendment of the UCL Academic Regulations and Guidance for Research Degrees to include these arrangements and guidance should be submitted for formal approval to RDC's next scheduled meeting.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 39.3 That the proposal at RDC 3-9 (13-14) for amendment of the UCL Academic Regulations and Guidance for Research Degrees be approved.

### **40 CHARGING OF RESIT FEES**

#### **Noted:**

- 40.1 At its meeting on 26 February 2014, UCLBE agreed that the practice of charging resit fees for students who were not in attendance should be discontinued with effect from 2014-15 and should be recommended to EdCom for consideration subject to the continuation of the policy of requesting students to confirm in writing their re-entry intentions.

### **41 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

#### **41A Proposed Doctorate of Public Administration**

#### **Received:**

- 41A.1 A tabled note outlining the case for establishing a DPA as a new UCL qualification linked to STEaPP's proposed EngD track of the Department's doctoral training programme (filed with these Minutes as RDC 3-11 (13-14)).

#### **Reported:**

- 41A.2 The proposed DPA would:

follow the same structure as the modular EngD programme;  
be similar to other professional research doctorates such as the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) and Doctor of Education (EdD);  
fill a gap in the market by offering the first truly interdisciplinary link between public policy and science, technology and engineering;  
confront very limited international competition, and none at the levels of UCL both in terms of ranking or location.

41A.3 RDC's comments on the new proposed qualification were invited prior to this being submitted to EdCom and AC. All three relevant Deans of Faculty were fully supportive of the proposal. The UCL School of Public Policy had been consulted on the proposed new DPA qualification. While the School would not have any issues with UCL making this award, it would not be choosing to award it in connection with its own research degree programmes.

***Discussion:***

41A.4 While the note made a strong case for distinguishing the DPA from the few existing DPA programmes in the UK and other relevant and alternative programmes run by possible international competitors and no major issues were raised by members of RDC, some concerns were expressed by members around i) recognition of the award of DPA by possible employers and recruiters and ii) potential for the proliferation of research degree titles within UCL and the possible impact of this in terms of the undermining of the PhD brand nationally.

41A.5 In terms of the structure of the programme, it was noted that further consideration would need to be given to defining i) clear annual progression points within the DPA programme and ii) arrangements for students who wished to transfer between the DPA and the PhD programmes.

41A.6 It was further noted that it would be necessary to check whether the DPA was among the list of acceptable Doctorate awards recognised by the UKBA for students coming to the UK under Tier 4 of the Points Based System, since this would have implications for exemption of Tier 4 students from the five-year maximum study cap and for Tier 4

