



RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE

5 June 2017

MINUTES

Present: Professor David Bogle (Chair),

Dr Simon Banks, Dr Elvira Bramon, Mr Ben Colvill, Mr Mark Crawford, Dr Sally Leever, Professor Tania Monteiro, Dr Jill Norman, Ms Helen Notter, Professor Martin Oliver, Mr Derfel Owen, Dr Hynek Pikhart, Dr Benet Salway, Dr Andrew Stoker, Dr Ruth Siddall,

Key to abbreviations:

A&H	Arts and Humanities (Faculty of)
AC	Academic Committee
DGT	Departmental Graduate Tutor
FGT	Faculty Graduate Tutor
HR	Human Resources
HRPC	Human Resources Policy Committee
IOE	Institute of Education
NUS	National Union of Students
PGR	Postgraduate Research
RDC	Research Degrees Committee
SHS	Social and Historical Sciences (Faculty of)
SMT	Senior Management Team
UCLU	UCL Union
UCU	University and College Union

PART I: PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

PART II: MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

when students take the training, with some taken sometime before the upgrade,

not their supervisors.

- c) There teaching and in assessing work was important, although this could be difficult to gauge in practice due to individuals approach and efficiency in undertaking work.
- d) It was further noted that monitoring the new arrangements would be difficult and may depend on feedback from the PGTAs and possibly evaluation of complaints arising. It was suggested that Internal Quality Reviews might check on this, though as they were only run every six years, this would limit action to address problems. Another suggestion was for the SMT to receive PGTA figures annually and to consider the numbers on casual contracts as an indicator (i.e. on the basis that the PGTAs on employment contracts were in a stronger position).

40.4 **Approved:** RDC 03-04 (16-17), the draft HR PGTA Employment Charter Working report. The report will be submitted to the next meeting of HRPC for final discussion and formal approval.

Action: the Director of Human Resources Strategy and Planning

41 **UPDATES TO THE ACADEMIC MANUAL 2017-18: CHAPTER 7 ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS FRAMEWORK**

41.1 **Received:** RDC 03-05 (16-17): the draft Academic Manual Chapter 7: Academic Partnerships Framework presented by the Senior Policy Advisor (Academic Partnerships).

41.2 The Senior Policy Advisor (Academic Partnerships) reported the following:

- a) The main amendment to the regulations relating to PGR is the addition of Section (2.3) on the Split-site PhD, providing a definition for it, the process for establishing such an arrangement and a draft proposal form.
- b) It was noted that a split-another institution and the student was expected to also spend time at that institution working on their research.
- c) RDC was asked to approve amendments to the Academic Manual Chapter 7 relating to research degrees and specifically the Split-site PhD section. It was noted that amendments not relating to research degrees would be submitted to EdCom on 13 June for approval.

41.3 The following points were noted in the discussion:

- a) Queries were raised on the status of the subsidiary supervisor for a Split-site PhD. It was noted that subsidiary supervisors need to sign honorary contracts at UCL, which ensures that they are subject to UCL regulations for supervision. It was suggested that this might be added to the Split-site PhD Proposal form. However, it was noted that the form was intended to be an internal UCL document, to get approval for the Split-site PhD proposal from the principal supervisor, the department and the faculty. Supervisory arrangements and study leave are covered elsewhere in the regulations (although referenced in the form) and in terms of the other institution, are covered by the wider partnership agreement negotiated and signed with it. The agreement is thus at an institutional level (i.e. not by the individual supervisors) and if any problems arose, it is the institution which is liable, not the individual supervisor.
- b) It was also noted that the Split-Site PhD section did not cover students on industrial placements, which were a third level of supervision often referred to as industry advisors. This is also covered elsewhere in the Academic Manual. However, this did prompt some discussion on training for these supervisors/industry advisors, possibly on-line.
- c) It was intended to review the Split-Site PhD registration process after its first year of operation in 2017-18 to amend and update as necessary in light of this. The Senior Policy Advisor (Academic Partnerships) welcomed any comments or feedback from RDC members on the policy.

41.4 **Approved:** RDC 03-04 (16-17), the draft Academic Manual Chapter 7: Academic Partnerships Framework.

42

42.1 **Received:** An oral report from the Director of Academic Services.

42.2 The Director of AS reported that the institutions making up the University of London had traditionally paid internal examiners from the different colleges for their work. This practice had largely disappeared as the colleges became autonomous institutions with their own degree awarding powers, with examiners from different colleges now regarded and paid as external examiners. Internal examiners duties should be covered by the staff contracts. However, a small minority of examiners internally in UCL was still claiming these payments now, in addition to their salary and it was proposed to discontinue payments for internal examiners (it added to the substantial costs for examining within UCL). RDC was asked to approve this proposal.

42.3 **Approved:** the proposal to discontinue payment for internal examiners. RDC noted no concerns.

Action: the Director of Academic Services to amend regulations accordingly

<p>PART III: OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR INFORMATION</p>

43 EROS Application Form

43.1 **Received:** RDC 03-06 (16-17) the EROS Application Form introduced by the Engineering Faculty

