



Dr Richard Bucknall; Dr Josephine Barnes; Dr Yasminah Beebeejaun
Noora Almarri; Viktoria Makai; Professor Jane Perryman; Dr Benet Salway; Professor Tania
Monteiro; Professor Dave Spratt; Dr Andrew Flinn.

Apologies for absence: Professor Jill Norman

Attendees: Dr Alex Standen (for Professor Sam Smidt); Professor Tim Jordan (for item 4);
Mike Rowson (for item 5); Professor Julie Davies (for item 5); Andie Bennett (for item 6);
Jeremy Barraud (for item 8); Dominic Allington-Smith (for item 9); Matthew Redmond; Alison
Edridge (Acting Secretary).

Part I: Preliminary Business

35 Minutes of the Last Meetings

35.1 **Approved** - the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2022 subject to a
correction to Jane Perryman's title to Professor.

36 Matters arising from the minutes

36.1 None.

37 Chair's Business

37.1 The Chair welcomed Matt Redmond, who had joined UCL as Senior Policy Advisor
(Academic Policy) on 6 June 2022 and would become the new Secretary to RDC
after this meeting.

37.2 The Chair reported that the new Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation and Global
Engagement), Professor Geraint Rees, was now in post and the Doctoral School fell
within his remit.

- 37.3 RDC would be considering two new research degree programme proposals at this meeting. The Chair reported that he would normally take Chair's action on behalf of RDC to approve new programme proposals but had requested that these proposals be considered at a meeting as they were non-standard.

Part II: Matters for Discussion

38 Recruitment of research students to the Department of Arts and Sciences and a New Programme Proposal – MPhil/PhD Interdisciplinary Societies, Arts and Sciences

- 38.1 Received – the papers at RDC 4-01 (21-22) presented by Professor Tim Jordan. The Department for Arts and Sciences would formally be established as an academic unit from September 2022. The established BAsc would be owned by this new department, a second undergraduate degree was under development at UCL East and a new MASc had also been launched. The development of this MPhil/PhD programme was a natural progression and would enable research expertise to be brought together within the department focusing on interdisciplinarity in the arts and the sciences. It was anticipated that co-supervision with other departments would be required in some cases as there would be a limit to the areas that also

38.4 **Approved** – the application for recruitment of research students to the Department of Arts and Sciences and the proposal for a new MPhil/PhD programme in Interdisciplinary Societies, Arts and Sciences.

39. New Programme Proposal and New Title – DBA Health

39.1 Received – the papers at RDC 4-02 (21-22) presented by Mike Rowson and Professor Julie Davies. The Chair noted that RDC was being asked to make a recommendation to Academic Committee to approve a new qualification of Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) as well as to approve a new DBA Health programme to be offered by the Global Business School for Health (GBSH). The approval of the DBA qualification would enable other departments and faculties to develop DBA programmes. Chair's action had already been taken to approve an application for recruitment of research students in the GBSH.

39.2 RDC was informed that the programme had been designed to mirror UCL's existing professional doctorates and would comprise a taught postgraduate element, which had separately already received approval through the Programme and Module Approval Panel (PMAP), a professional practice portfolio and a substantial thesis. Market research had indicated that there was a strong market for a DBA Health. The proposal had the support of the School of Management, which was likely to develop DBAs in other fields of study.

39.3 Subject to approval of the DBA qualification by Academic Committee, it was agreed that regulations would need to be developed for the DBA prior to DBA Health students starting in 2023/24. This should include a statement outlining the characteristics of a DBA qualification at UCL. A working group, which could include members from faculties interested in developing DBA qualifications, would be established to oversee the development of the regulations. In the medium term, a

Research Degrees Committee – 7 June

- 41.2 Members reported on work that was taking place in their departments and faculties on induction. It was noted that where the quality of induction departments was already good, students often still had limited awareness of key information that had been covered during induction. Consideration therefore needed to be given to how to better engage students and deliver induction in a way that improved retention of information. It was agreed that whilst there may be difference in induction needs locally, greater consistency within each Faculty would be desirable.

Action – Faculty Graduate Tutors to discuss induction arrangements at Faculty Research Degrees Committees using paper RDC 4-04 (21-22) to inform the discussion, with the aim of achieving great consistency within their Faculties.

- 41.3 It was noted that a lot of information was held on the Doctoral School website but that it would be useful to consider how this could be better organised.

Action – RDC members to send suggestions to the Director of the Doctoral School on how the Doctoral School website welcome page can be improved along with links to Faculty webpages that should be included.

42 Fieldwork Governance and Guidance

- 42.1 Received – the paper at RDC 4-05 (21-22) presented by Jeremy Barraud. RDC was informed that a Fieldwork Framework Group had been established during the pandemic to develop and communicate guidance for fieldwork. Although pandemic restrictions had now been eased, an institutional framework was still required from which discipline-specific approaches could be developed and to enable a coordinated approach, for example to equality issues and requirements of funders. Following consultation with the Governance team, it was proposed that RDC have oversight for the framework within the governance structure. Research Integrity would maintain a watching brief on matters that needed to be brought to the attention of RDC.

- 42.2 It was proposed that a sub-group of RDC should be established to take responsibility for the fieldwork framework replacing the current group. RDC agreed that this should ideally be chaired by a Faculty Graduate Tutor and that the membership should include colleagues for whom fieldwork was critical and who would have an understanding of the issues and needs.

43 Open Access, Copyright and Related Responsibilities for Doctoral Students and Supervisors

43.1 Received – the paper at RDC 4-06 (21-22) presented by Dominic Allington-

Manual for the next academic session. Some minor amendments would be made to the Academic Manual for 2022/23 to reflect decisions that RDC had made during the year. It was planned to seek additional resource within Student and Registry Services to enable progress with reviewing the regulations to be made during 2022/23 and this would be discussed further with the Chair of the RDC Regulations Working Group.

45 Student Protection Plan

- 45.1 **Received and approved** – the paper at RDC 4-07 (21-22) presented by Hannah Swallow setting out a revised Student Protection Plan to align with the Office for Students (OfS) template and legal advice. The document would also be considered by Education Committee, Academic Committee, Council and the Students' Union prior to submission to the OfS. It was noted that further changes were planned for 2023-24 to make the document more student friendly.

Part III: Other Business for Approval or Information

46 Student Appeals Procedure and Amendments to Student Complaints and Student Disciplinary Procedures

- 46.1 Received - the papers at RDC 4-08 (21-22) which had recently been considered by RDC by circulation in order that they could be submitted to Council for approval in time for implementation in 2022/23. RDC members had provided feedback on the proposed appeal panel membership, and this had been addressed by the Head of

49 New and Amended Programmes and Qualifications Approved by RDC Chair's Action

49.1 Received - the paper at RDC 4-11 (21-22)

50 MRes-MPhil-PhD Application and Admissions Update

50.1 Received – the paper at RDC 4-12 (21-22).

51 Any other business

51.1 None.

Alison Edridge

Acting Secretary to RDC

Interim Head of Academic Policy and Quality Assurance

Academic Services

28 June 2022