

Research, Innovation and Global Engagement Committee

Thursday 8th February 2024, 10:00am

South Wing Council Room with facilities to join the meeting online via MS Teams

Minutes

Present Members:

Professor Geraint Rees (Chair); Professor Lynn Ang; Dr Paul Ayris; Jeremy Barraud; Michael Brown; Sarah Chaytor; Andrew Cooper; Professor Carsten Gerner-Beuerle; Megan Gerrie; Alex Hall; June Hedges; Professor Jacqui Glass; Claire Glen; Professor Jennifer Hudson; Dr Jane Kinghorn; Sarah Lawson; Dr Nick McNally; Martin Moyle; Ciaran Moynihan; Professor Courtenay Norbury; Professor James Phillips; Issy Smith; Professor Cheryl Thomas KC; Professor Nigel Titchener-Hooker; Emma Todd; Nicholas Tyndale; Kirsty Walker; Dr Kathryn Walsh; Professor Andrew Wills; Professor Peter Zusi

Apologies:

Professor Ibrahim Abubakar; Professor David Bogle; Professor Stella Bruzzi; Sarah Cows; Rebecca Edwards; Fran Hartop; Professor Simon Walker-Samuel

In attendance:

Part I: Preliminary Business

28. Minutes

- 28.1. RIGEC approved the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023
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Committee for an initial period. The Group had not met for some time and its Terms of Reference and membership would be revamped so it could be the centre of academic input to and oversight of clinical governance at UCL.

31. Update on REF2029 and UCL's Future REF Action Plan (3-17)

31.1. Adam Cresswell, Head of Reporting and Evaluation and UCL REF Manager introduced the summary of recent updates to the rules for the next REF exercise and their possible impact on UCL, along with an update on UCL's Future REF Action Plan. The following points were made during the presentation:

- a. The UK Higher Education Funding Bodies published 'Initial Decisions Next Steps' an update on the proposed rules for the next REF exercise in December 2023. The major decision was an extension of the timing of the next REF exercise, to be known as REF2029, with results published in December 2029 with a likely submission deadline of 24 November 2028. However, a number of the funding bodies' decisions required further clarification.
- b. A pilot for the expanded People, Culture and Environment (PCE):Alele

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research culture information that was likely to be required for inclusion in UCL's REF2029 submissions.

- b. Received the update on the REF2029 and the UCL Future REF Action Plan.
32. Annual Report on the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (3-18)
- 32.1. Emma Todd, Director of Research Culture, introduced the Annual Report outlining UCL's activity in the three principles of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers of: research environment, employment and professional development. The following points were made during the presentation:
- a. UCL became a signatory of the Concordat in 2019. The Annual Report was a reporting requirement and preparation of the document had passed from Organisational Development to the Research Culture team internally.
 - b. The reporting for the Concordat aligned with UCL's research culture roadmap.
 - c. RIGEC was asked to act as the governing body to approve the report before its publication.
- 32.2. The following points were raised in discussion:
- a. Members welcomed the report and noted that it was useful to see all the work that had been undertaken in one place. It was noted, however, that there was no scope to cover impact within the annual report template.
 - b. The report would be published on the UCL Organisational Development webpages for now, and would be publicly available. It was suggested the report be shared internally with Faculty Deans and Directors of Operations as well as Council, as RIGEC was acting on their behalf as the governing body to approve the report, to also increase awareness of the work being undertaken.
- 32.3. RIGEC:
- a. Approved the Annual Report on the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.
 - b. Endorsed the proposal that the Annual Report be submitted to the April meeting of Council for its members to note.
 - c. Endorsed the proposal that the Annual Report be shared with Faculty Deans and Directors of Operations for information.
33. UCL Business Ltd Annual Report 2022/23 (3-19)
- 33.1. Dr Anne Lane, CEO, UCL Business Ltd introduced the Annual Report for financial year 2022/23. The following points were made during the presentation:

- a. UCLB had published its first report yesterday (<https://www.uclb.com/impact/>) to mark its 30th anniversary. It was being promoted via UCLB's social media channels as well as being shared with its spinouts, partners, funders and other external stakeholders and throughout UCL.
 - b. UCLB had raised £2.85billion in external investment by spinouts in 5 years. UCL was ranked second in the UK for external investment.
 - c. UCL was also recognised as a sector leader in intellectual property and commercialisation in the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF) 3 exercise. UCLB provided a service provision in this area and had recently recruited a Marketing Director.
 - d. UCLB did not intend to receive a management fee next year given its income received in 2022/23 was almost double the management fee paid.
- 33.2. The following points were raised in discussion:
- a. UCL did not need to subsidise UCLB's activities, but it was queried whether UCL was in fact under-paying for its services.
 - b. It was considered that UCLB's biomedical activities were doing well with some 22 therapeutics in development.
 - c. UCLB was keen to build its portfolio in the non-biomedical areas in the future. It would also like to increase its commercialisation activities although the future shape of UCLB required consideration.
 - d. Next year's report would include benchmarking of activities in the UK and at international levels.
 - e. It was noted that internal communications about UCLB were difficult and the CEO welcome help from RIGEC to increase awareness of its activities.
- 33.3. RIGEC received the UCL Business Ltd Annual Report 2022/23.
34. UCL Consultants Ltd Annual Report 2022/23 (3- 20)
- 34.1. Roger de Montfort, Managing Director, UCL Consultants Ltd, introduced the Annual Report for financial year 2022/23. The following points were made during the presentation:
- a. Turnover had substantially increased from £32m in 2021/22 to £43m in 2022/23, with 875 live projects of which 486 were new. UCLC had paid £23.3m over to UCL.
 - b. In terms of consultancy revenue by UCL's peer institutions, UCLC was way ahead by some £20m.
 - c. It was noted that UCLC put people at the centre of its Values and Mission statement and strived to make it easy for internal and external clients to engage in consultancy and bespoke short courses.
 - d. UCLC had diversified its consultancy activity and increased its bespoke short course activity that had increased overall income to £2.1m.

- e. The key drivers of growth in 2022/23 had been large scale projects for the UK Department of Education and international capacity development projects. This included its fourth major teacher training contract to improve Modern Foreign Language uptake in schools and pass rates.
- f. In terms of maximising the impact of consultancy and capacity development, UCLC had some 300 separate clients with new consultancy engagements signed with clients based in 47 countries. UCLC would work with colleagues across RIGEC to streamline data capture and reporting for the REF2029 exercise.

34.2. The following points were raised in discussion:

- a. It was noted that UCLC's bespoke short course offer was distinct from the traditional executive education offer.
- b. As part of its executive education offer, UCL had two new centres with the School of Management and Global Business School for Health. It was considered that there was demand for executive education courses but the issue of capacity in terms of delivery remained.
- c. In relation to Due Diligence with new clients, it was noted that UCLC considered sector, country, and financial risks. Any potential country risks would be considered with Global Engagement. In addition, UCLC worked closely in this area with UCLB.
- d. In terms of consultancy activities by