Academic Committee

Thursday 14th March 2024, 10:00am

Minutes

Present Members:

President and Provost (Chair); ; Professor Geraint Rees [for Minutes 1-3]; Dr Suzanne Ruddy; Professor David Shanks; Professor Stephanie Schorge; Dr Michael Short; Professor Eloise Scotford; Dr Francesca Scott; Professor Alice Smalley; Professor Anthony Smith; Professor Olga Thomas; Professor Nigel Titchener-Hooker; Dr Zachary Walker; Dr Kathryn Walsh; Professor Nicola Walshe; Professor Li Wei

Apologies:

Dr Paul Ayris; Shaban Chaudhary; Professor Mark Emberton; Dr Julie Evans; Professor Jacqui Glass; Ahmad Ismail; Professor Christoph Lindner; Professor Allison Littlejohn; Angharad Milenkovic; Professor Aeli Roberts; Mike Rowson; Issy Smith; Professor Rosalind Smyth; Kirsty Walker

In attendance:

For Minutes 1-15: Professor Lynn Ang, Vice-Dean Research, IOE – UCL's Faculty of Education and Society

For Minutes 1-15: Professor Iain Borden, Vice-Dean Education, Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment

For Minutes 1-15: Professor Parama Chaudhury, Pro-Vice-Provost (Education – Student Academic Experience)

For Minutes 1-15: Professor Cathy Elliott, Vice-Dean Education, Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences

For Minutes 1-15: Professor Bronwen Evans, Vice-Dean Research, Faculty of Brain Sciences

For Minutes 1-15: Dr Clare Goudy, Chief of Staff, Provost's Office

For Minutes 1-15 Professor Sue Hamilton, Vice-Dean Research and Global Engagement, Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences

For Minutes 1-15: Professor Katherine Holt, Vice-Dean Education, Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

For Minutes 1-15: Professor Liz Jones, Vice-Dean Education, Faculty of Engineering Sciences

d. Over the past year the remit of RIGE had expanded to include Research and Innovation Services (RIS) and the UCLH/UCL Joint Research Office (JRO).

e. Research and Innovation Culture: The upcoming REF2029 exercise would include the assessment of People, Culture and Environment (PCE) and research culture would be a key part of this exercise. UCL Research Culture had developed a 10-year Roadmap that defined five themes. UCL had also launched UCL Profiles which showcased the UCL community and their research.

Infrastructure: Researchers, mainly in the STEM areas, were encouraged to consider UCL's Research Technology Platforms that underpinned its research activities. UCL also had a very large number of facilities within a very small space. Work had been undertaken with the academic community about the best way to distribute and consolidate UCL's biological services. Consideration would need to be given to making investment in the Royal Free's Biological Services Unit that could potentially free up space on the UCL campus.

g. Research contracts: Since 2019/20 there had been a 55% increase in new contracts across UCL. There had been concern about the number of open contracts and the time it took to complete. Contracting involved many

col -30.464-30.464-30.464-30.464-30.464-30.464-30.464-30.464-30.464-30 ... contrder0 T1 n:nd t3.005 uw (0 nTw (0 ou)-1 (t)-3(a)5 (nd t).0en. (l. (pl)1 (eg)Tj-1)1 7-1

experience due to issues around the timeliness and quality of its feedback and assessment of student work.

c. Personal Tutor Review: The TEF Panel also noted some gaps in personal tutoring at UCL. The workload for Personal Tutors was noted and that the role had changed since its inception. The Review Group had recommended that such roles focus on student academic support rather than also covering wellbeing concerns and any other non-academic issues. New role descriptors and the provision of more training would be implemented with effect from next session.

d. Programme Excellence: The aim of the project was to achieve consistent quality across the entire portfolio of programmes and the student experience. There were two workstreams looking at portfolio review and

5.   Overview of Research Degrees Committee

5.1.   Professor David Bogle, Pro-Vice-Provost (Doctoral School and ECR Staff) and Chair of Research Degrees Committee (RDC) gave an oral report on the work of the committee. The following points were made during the presentation:

      a.   RDC's membership included a range of UCL officers including Faculty Graduate Tutors as well as elected members from AB that met once each term. It also had two working groups, one on Research Degree Regulations and the other on Double and Joint Degrees.

      b.   RDC's regular business included looking at admissions, exam statistics, student complaints and the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) results. Changes to relevant student regulations, new programmes of study, admissions updates and suspension of regulations were considered at each meeting.

      c.   RDC discussion topics in 2022-2024 included diversity; PGTA contracts; posthumous degrees; additional fee element; and the Admissions Transformation Programme, that would now include research student admissions.

      d.   RDC had also contributed to the development of the revised UCL Student Academic Misconduct Procedure that was considered to work well for research students as well as taught students.

      e.   RDC had also considered PhD student attendance rates and felt that they were losing research excitement due to working from home more following the Covid pandemic.

6.   Overview of Library Committee (1-02)

6.1.   Martin Moyle, Director of Services, LCCOS (Library, Culture, Collections and Open Science) gave an oral report on the work of Library Committee (LC). The following points were made during the presentation:

      a.   LC's work over the past session had focussed on the three key areas of: developing the LCCOS Strategy 2024-27; UCL Press; and UCL East Library.

      b.   LC had been very helpful in developing the LCCOS Strategy that had six key themes that included supporting student success; accessible collections and sorts a (not duly rega 0 to 0.01-25.10.17501 tategy LCe

15. Date of next meeting

15.1. The next meeting of Academic Committee would be held on Thursday 4 July 2024 at 10:00am – 12 noon on MS Teams.

Rachel Port
Secretary to Academic Committee
July 2024