

Academic Committee

Thursday 27 February 2020 at 10:00am

Minutes

European Research Collaboration

- d. No decision had been announced about international research collaboration funding and there was only 6 months left on the Horizon 2020 funding scheme. It was noted that having third country status did not give researchers and institutions access to all funding streams in the EU. The Russell Group would continue to bring this issue to the government's attention.

Coronavirus

- e. There were currently no cases of Covid-19 at UCL and only 9 cases had been recorded in the UK. However, this situation could change rapidly as in Northern Italy. If UCL was to have any staff or students cases, Public Health England could ask UCL to closedown immediately. In light of this, a group had been set up that was co-chaired by the Chief Operating Officer and the Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs) to consider the implications of that situation. The Chair was saddened to report that some Chinese students had faced abuse in light of the virus outbreak but that appeared to have stopped.

Town Hall Meeting

- f. A Town Hall meeting would be held tomorrow evening on the UCL Eugenics Inquiry and it would cover the release of its associated report.

22.2. The following points were made in discussion:

- a. Work was being undertaken at UCL to develop a framework for Teaching Fellows that would be consider32 841.92 65-5(yA(r tC a)-3(u)-3p)-5(a)-5(u[(sta)-5(te)-37

latest date that they could be held, but the timing for getting papers to the printers and returned would need to be factored in.

- c. It was hoped that work led by Professor Eleanor Robson, Head of History, around the workload allocation for Teaching Fellows would complete early next term.
- d. A larger group had been set up to look at a range of scenarios if UCL had to closedown in light of Covid-19. Issues under consideration included: advice for students going home at Easter; how to support teaching and learning activities for the remainder of the academic session; English language tests for overseas students given the testing centres were now closed in China; running UCL's Summer School, and student enrolment. It was noted that Chinese and Australian universities had placed teaching and assessment information online and staff were working remotely.

23.2. The following points were made in discussion:

- a. In relation to the making any changes to UCL's Regulations for Examinations, work was already being undertaken by the Director of Academic Services and the Examinations Manager and any changes could be approved via Chair's action.
- b. In response to a query about whether UCL was keeping a record of any students who might be self-isolating, it was considered that Faculty Tutors would need to take responsibility for that.

- 26.1. The Vice-Provost (Enterprise) introduced the report that set out the proposal to establish an Innovation and Enterprise Committee as a sub-committee of AC. The key points made were:
- a. It was noted that UCL's current governance arrangements did not include formal reporting of Innovation and Enterprise to Council. It was proposed that this be addressed by the formation of a standing Innovation and Enterprise Committee as a sub-committee of AC.
 - b. The drivers for this proposal included the imminent Knowledge Exchange Framework and associated Concordat, the need for clarity as to the status of innovation and enterprise as a core mission of UCL and the importance of ensuring academic oversight of this area.
 - c. The proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) and membership for the committee had been developed based on those for AC's sub-committees of Education Committee and Research Governance Committee. The proposal had been considered by the Provost's Senior Management Team (SMT) and the ToR had been strengthened in light of their suggestions.
- 26.2. The following points were made in discussion:
- a. In relation to the proposed membership at Faculty and School level, it was noted that the structures around knowledge exchange had been set up by the previous Vice-Provost (Enterprise) and might require review.
 - b. In terms of student representation, it was noted that there was both a part-time and full time officer that covered international matters and further discussion would need to take

27. Prevent Update (Paper 2-17)

- 27.1. The Students' Union members of AC left the room for the Prevent Update due to the Students' Union UCL's policy not to engage with the Prevent agenda.
- 27.2. The Director of Access and Admissions

- b. As a longer term solution, UCL had recently undertaken a procurement process to appoint an umbrella body to carry out checks on applicants and students.
- c. An audit of programmes at UCL which required a DBS check for the programme or for an optional module was being undertaken. However, only a small number of programmes were anticipated to require a DBS check such as the MBBS and Teacher Training courses. However, other programmes would require checks for a particular module or project where students came into contact with vulnerable people.
- d. There had been inconsistency in provision in relation to the costs of carrying out DBS checks as it varied to date according to academic discipline and. Costs had either been borne by applicants, students or HR services. For example, UCL Division of Medicine covered the costs for DBS checks for its MBBS students while students enrolled on the Institute of Education (IoE)'s Teacher Training programmes had to cover the cost themselves.
- e. It was proposed that UCL moved to a consistent position of either the applicant paying for all related costs (option 1) or the academic department covering them (option 2), across all its programmes of study.

28.2. The following points were made in discussion:

- a. AC considered that consistency in approach was very important and unanimously supported option 2 whereby academic departments be charged for any checks carried out on their applicants/students going forward, rather than option 1 whereby applicants be required to pay for their own check from 2021 entry onwards.
- b. It was noted that in light of the number of Teacher Training applicants/students at UCL at some 1500-1700 each session that would require a DBS check at a total cost of around £50 each, the proposed approach would impact the IoE's resources by some £100k each session.
- c. In relation to a query about the current method of payment for DBS check3()8(u)-3(m)-6(b)-3(r)13(e)-3(l)4(a)-3(b)-5(o)6(d)-3(y)10(t)-3(o)-3(ca)-5(rr)] TJET

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35.1. The next meeting of Academic Committee would take place on Thursday 18 June 2020 at 10:00am in the Haldane Room, Wilkins Building.

The meeting finished at 11.45am.

Ms Rachel Port, Secretary to Academic Committee
April 2020