

RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE

8 June 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Professor David Bogle (Chair)

Dr Simon Banks; Dr Steven Bloch; Mr Ben Colvill; Professor Alison Diduck; Dr Caroline Essex; Dr Julie Evans; Dr Sally Leever (vice Dr Donna Brown); Dr Virginia Mantouvalou; Dr Stephen Marshall; Ms Suguna Nair; Ms Helen Notter; Dr Martin Oliver; Mr Abdul Rashidi; Dr Benet Salway; Dr Joy Sleeman; Dr Dave Spratt; Professor Kaila Srail; Dr Andrew Stoker.

In attendance: Mr Derfel Owen for items 4, 9 and 10; Mr Andy Saffery for item 7;
Ms Lizzie Vinton (Secretary)

Apologies were received from: Ms Wendy Appleby; Dr Donna Brown; Dr Dilly Fung; Professor Nikos Konstantinidis; Dr Ruth Siddall; Professor Anthony Smith and Professor Ijeoma Uchegbu.

Key to abbreviations

BAME	Black Asian and Minority Ethnic
CALT	Centre for Advancing Learning and Teaching
DGT	Departmental Graduate Tutor
DTC	Doctoral Training Centre
FGTs	Faculty Graduate Tutors
IOE	UCL Institute of Education
OIA	Office of the Independent Adjudicator
OVPR	Office of the Vice-Provost: Research
PGR	Postgraduate Research
PGT	Taught Postgraduate
PRES	Postgraduate Research Experience Survey
QAA	Quality Assurance Agency
RDC	Research Degrees Committee
SDS	Student Disability Services
StAR	Student Academic Representative
UCLU	UCL Union

PART I: PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

36 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

36.1 RDC welcomed the new student rep, Abdul Rashidi, to the meeting.

officers which had included a number of specific questions relating to PGR provision. Interviews were also held with FGTs and some PGR students. The Director of Academic Services had observed all of the meetings and noted that those with Faculty and Departmental staff had been excellent, showcasing UCL at its best.

40 FACULTY DOCTORAL STRATEGIES

40.1 **Received** – the paper at RDC 3-01 (15-16).

40.2 The 2016 Doctoral Planning meetings had now taken place with all the faculties. The Chair thanked RDC members for their contributions and noted that RDC should be proud of the process which was helping UCL to improve its PGR provision. It was noted that the process worked best when the broader Faculty was fully involved – for example in Brain

- 41.3 Each faculty had been asked to identify three key actions in response to the PRES and to report back to RDC. The committee discussed the reports in detail, noting the following points:
- a) Work was needed to improve coverage of and communications with PGR student reps – those in place were very proactive but not all programmes had received nominations and attendance at meetings was not always good, particularly at Faculty level. It was agreed that RDC should obtain a list of StARs, Changemaker

might consider a minimum service agreement on space. UCLU had also been investigating this issue, noting that students did not necessarily want a personal desk but they did want a common space to create a sense of identity and belonging. Without this, students tended not to come into UCL and therefore missed information about training and events. UCLU hoped to bring a report to a future meeting of RDC.

42 RESEARCH STUDENT COMPLAINTS REPORT 2015

42.1 **Received** – the paper at RDC 3-03 (15-16).

