

## Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2016

Present:	Professor P Layzell (Chair), Professor G Agyemang, Professor S Ansari, Professor T Armstrong, Professor D Gilbert, Professor J John, Professor R Kemp, Dr C Kremmydas, Dr D Matthey, Professor K Mayes, Professor R Meek, Dr D Morrith, Professor S Murphy, Professor K Normington, Professor B O'Keefe, Professor G Pieri, Professor B Rankov, Professor K Rastle, Professor E Schafer, Ms S Simon, Professor M Spagat, Professor P Teixeira-Dias, Professor K Willis
Secretary:	Mrs A Sendall
Observers:	Miss C Cartwright, Mrs J Gawthrop, Mr D German, Mr S Higman, Ms J Roberts
Apologies:	Professor J Bennett, Professor J Crampton, Professor R Deem, Professor S Downes, Professor T Evans, Professor J Fiadeiro, Professor M Gold, Professor S Halperin, Professor P Hogg, Mr S Kendrick, Professor E McGirr, Dr A Miskimmon, Professor H Nicholson, Professor J Powell, Dr G Smith, Mr J Tuck, Professor D Tourish, Dr D Watling

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	
	The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted the apologies which had been given.	16/121
<b>2.</b>	<b>Review of the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College Act 1985</b>	
	The Chair informed the Board about the reasons for the undertaking of the work which was presented in this paper.	16/122
	The College Secretary advised the Board that legal advice had been sought on the action which had been taken. Initially it had been hoped that the College could apply for university title under the current RHBNC 1985 Act but this proved to not be possible and as a result, it was decided not to pursue university title. However, following the result of the EU referendum and the introduction of the HE Bill, it was decided that in order to provide future security for the College, the work would proceed by repealing the RHBNC 1985 Act and pursuing one which would become law in 2017.	16/123
	The College Secretary advised the Board that the approval of Privy Council had been removed from the draft Bill as it was understood that the Privy Council wished to step back from its role in Higher Education, and this route was also being pursued by the University of London in their draft Bill. The Board were informed that the College Council had met the day before this meeting and agreed that the removal of the role of the Privy Council was acceptable provided there were appropriate mechanisms to prevent ill-considered changes to the statutes.	16/124
	The Board were informed that the Council had also requested the reinstatement of the relationship between itself and the Board with regards to decision on academic matters which the lawyers had removed from the version of the Bill being considered at this meeting. The Board were also advised that the Council had requested that 'for the public good' be returned to the objectives of the College.	16/125

	<p>The College Secretary advised that the Vice Principal (Staffing) had met with the Chair of the local branch of UCU and it had been agreed that the lawyers would be asked to insert a clause regarding the continuation of provision for the employment of staff under the statutes.</p>	16/126
	<p>The question was asked how the opinions of Academic Board would feed into the consultation if the bill had to be submitted by the end of November and the Board would not meet again until the beginning of December. The College Secretary responded that he hoped to have achieved a final draft of the bill before he leaves the College at the end of October but assured that more meetings of Academic Board could be held to allow for contributions.</p>	16/127
	<p>A request was made for a summary of the legal advice provided which had been mentioned in email correspondence. Discussion followed about whether legal advice should be summarised due to the complex nature of the document and it was agreed that the advice received so far would be available to view on request.</p>	16/128
	<p>Confirmation was sought that the College did not intend to secede from the University of London as a consequence of making this change. It was confirmed that the College recognised the value of being a member of the University and that we would not be seceding under present circumstances.</p>	16/129
	<p>A query was raised how much the process of changing the Act would cost. The Board was advised that the estimates were currently between £100,000 and £150,000.</p>	16/130
	<p>The Board discussed the process for amending the statutes without Privy Council approval and stressed the need for consultation. It was noted that Council had discussed the use of a supermajority vote for amending the statutes and the Board agreed that this combined with a defined time-period for consultation was a sufficiently robust procedure.</p>	16/131
	<p>The Board discussed whether other institutions had removed Privy Council approval from their governing documentation and noted that it would be interesting to consider the role of Academic Board or equivalent in those institutions in statute change.</p>	16/132
	<p>The Board discussed the section of the draft Bill pertaining to Academic Board specifically and noted that there were differences between the statutes which had come into force in August 2016 and the proposed wording here. The Board noted that the responsibilities had changed and requested that the Act simply said that the responsibilities of the Board would be as defined in statute.</p>	16/133
	<p>The Board noted that the accountability of Council seemed to be lessening and asked about mechanisms which exists to prevent decisions being made which harmed or were perceived to cause harm to the College. It was noted that as the College was in receipt of government funding through student loans, the Terms and Conditions attached to that mean that HEFCE requires us to deliver a certain standard of behaviour and educational provision. If we failed to deliver this then repercussions would be enforced.</p>	16/134
	<p>The Board agreed that the work being undertaken was necessary for the future of the College and that subject to the changes requested regarding their position within the College and the relationship with Council, the draft Bill should be approved.</p>	16/135
<b>3.</b>	<b>Date of the Next Meeting</b>	
	<p>The Board noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 7 December 2016, 3pm in a MX001</p>	16/136