



Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2016

Present: Professor P Layzell (Chair), Miss E Ancelin, Professor S Ansari, Miss N Barrett, Professor J Bennett, Professor J Champion, Professor J Crampton, Professor R Deem, Miss Z Edwards, Professor J Fiadeiro, Professor D Gilbert, Professor J John, Professor R Kemp, Mr S Kendrick, Dr C Kremmydas, Professor K Mayes, Professor E McGirr, Professor R Meek, Dr D Morrill, Professor K Normington, Professor B Rankov, Professor K Rastle, Professor E Schafer, Dr G Smith, Ms S Simon, Professor M Spagat, Professor P Teixeira-Dias, Mr J Tuck, Dr D Watling, Professor K Willis, Dr S Wright

In Attendance: Dr D Ashton

Secretary: Dr M Beck

Observers: Miss C Cartwright, Mr D German, Mr S Higman

Apologies: Professor G Agyemang, Professor T Armstrong, Professor S Downes, Professor T Evans, Professor M Gold, Professor S Halperin, Professor P Hogg, Dr D Matthey, Professor S Murphy, Professor H Nicholson, Professor B O'Keefe, Professor G Pieri, Professor J Powell, Professor D Tourish

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted the apologies which had been given. 16/137

2. Suspension of the Standing Orders

The Chair noted that elections had not yet taken place to replace those members whose terms of office had recently come to an end and given that this was an extraordinary meeting, a request for a suspension of the Standing Orders was put to the Board to enable those members to participate. 16/138

The Chair noted that in future elections would be held in advance of the end of the terms of office in order to ensure continuity of membership. 16/139

The Board agreed to suspend Standing Order 45 in order to allow the elected members whose terms of office had expired to attend the meeting. 16/140

3. Review of the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College Act 1985

The Board received the updated draft Bill, presented by the College Secretary (outgoing). The College Secretary reiterated the College's commitment to remaining part of the University of London but noted that it was prudent to consider that the University of London may not exist in its current format in perpetuity and the College should be equipped to react accordingly. 16/141

The batch process being drafted to enable multiple federal colleges to apply for university title in a foreshortened timescale would only be available on this occasion and if the College did not take advantage of this situation it could take years to obtain the title. 16/142

The concerns about the timescale for consultation on the draft Bill were acknowledged but this was necessary as a result of the Parliamentary timetable which allows the submission of Private Members' Bills to take place only once per year.	16/144
The Board queried what would happen to the consultation submissions and it was confirmed they would all be put to Council for their information and consideration.	16/145
The Board noted that 'for the public benefit' was missing from the objects of the College. It was recognised that this was an oversight in drafting and would remain part of the text.	16/146
The Board discussed the inclusion of the concept of academic freedom in the Bill and questioned why it was not appropriate for inclusion as a charitable objective. It was agreed that clarity on the matter would be sought from the lawyers to seek clarity on the matter and Council would be advised of the wish of the Board to enshrine academic freedom in the Bill.	16/147
The Board discussed the framing of the relationship between Council and Academic Board regarding the responsibility for the academic work of the College and the right of Academic Board to advise Council on the general management of the College as written in the RHBNC 1985 Act.	16/148
The Board requested that 'and regulations' should be removed from 6(2) of the draft Bill, and queried whether 6(1) meant that the Academic Board as defined in the RHBNC 1985 Act continued to exist except where contradicted by the draft Bill. It was agreed that these matters would be brought to the attention of the lawyers and their advice sought.	16/149
The Board discussed whether the provision to rename Academic Board as 'Senate' should be included in the draft Bill. It was agreed that this question should be raised with the lawyers.	16/150
The Board noted that with the acquisition of university title it appeared easier to leave the University of London federal body than it would be to change the statutes. It was noted that a statute could be introduced to confirm that the College is part of the University of London.	16/151
The Board discussed whether the ability to establish subsidiary companies was compatible with charitable objectives and it was noted that this was the case.	16/152
The Board concluded that they broadly supported the draft Bill subject to the changes requested as outlined above.	

4. Academic Promotions

The Vice Principal (Staffing) presented a proposal to ask the Board to approve in principle the promotion route for teaching staff to Chair and noted that part of the TEF assessment would consider promotion routes in teaching.	16/153
The Board discussed the criteria for promotion, whether the staff would already have to be on a teaching-focused contract to be promoted and the need for consideration of the impact of staff switching from teaching focussed to non-teaching focussed roles and vice versa on departmental workload.	16/154
The Board discussed whether the title for the promotion should be 'Professor' or 'Professor (Teaching-Focused)'. The Board agreed that the title should be 'Professor' and that the quantifier of (Teaching-Focused) removed from existing job titles.	16/155
The Board agreed to the principle of a promotion route to Chair with a teaching focus.	16/156

5. Update On Strategic Plan

The Chair advised the Board that a mid-term review of the Strategic Plan was underway and circulated a presentation which would be delivered to Heads of Department, Heads of Professional Services and Council members.	16/157
The Board were asked to consider the themes presented in the presentation and invited to share the document with colleagues. Feedback on the document could be provided to Heads of Department for appropriate escalation.	16/158
6. Quality Assurance	
The Board received and discussed the report and associated appendices which had been developed in conjunction with a working group of Council. The purpose of the report was to equip Council to provide relevant assurances about the standards and quality of academic provision and its enhancement to HEFCE as part of their new responsibilities.	16/159
The Board noted that it would be useful at a future meeting to discuss the College's quality assurance and enhancement processes and how the College would in future respond to the new responsibilities which HEFCE had placed on the College's governing body. It was suggested that, in this regard, it may be productive to have joint strategy meetings of the Board and Council in the future. The Board approved the report which will be presented at the Council meeting on 24 November.	16/160
The Board also received the annual report of the business of Academic Board for the 2015-16 academic year, which had been received by Council at their meeting on 5 October.	16/161
7. Priorities Requirements For Brexit	
The Board received a report on the College's priorities following the outcome of the EU referendum. The Board agreed that freedom of movement for staff and students in future was paramount and fully endorsed priorities set out in the report.	16/162
8. Proposed Changes To College Executive	
The Board received a report detailing the proposed changes to the structure of the College Executive team. This will involve the creation of a new post of Senior Vice-Principal (Academic), with oversight of teaching and research activities, and the uncoupling of the Dean/ Vice-Principal roles. The new Executive Deans will have more time to support their Heads of Department with, amongst others the strategic management of teaching and research, while the new flexible arrangement of creating Vice-Principal roles to address specific challenges as they arise, will provide career opportunities for heads of academic departments and Associate Deans. The latter will work more closely with the (faculty) Executive Deans in future. It was noted that the current valuable cross-department and cross-faculty experience should not be lost from the roles of the Associate Deans in this new structure.	16/163
The Board commented that it would be useful to understand how the changes would work in practice, particularly with the reassignment of workload. The Board also noted that the current proposals increased the size of the membership of Academic Board which was already a large committee. It was not clear that there was an appetite to increase the size of the membership.	16/164
The Board noted the loss of a specific role dedicated to Research and Enterprise and that an inter/multi-disciplinary approach to research would be more difficult to achieve without permanent oversight. The Board also noted the work completed so far with regards to Enterprise enables the research of the College to have measurable impact.	16/165
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The Board noted that the role of the Senior Vice-Principal appeared to be too broad and the tension between teaching and research would be lost which raised concern that neither area would achieve its full potential.

16/167

It was noted that the Board would receive an update on the proposed changes at the next meeting once these had been endorsed by Council

9. Date of the Next Meeting

The Board noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 7 December 2016, 3pm in a MX001

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