# Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21/93 and 21/94</td>
<td>Circulate the reports from the Academic Societies Review and Joint Honours Insight with the October 2021 meeting papers</td>
<td>JHE/CM</td>
<td>October 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/112</td>
<td>Ensure Extensions Policy is approved by Chair’s action over the summer and circulate the agreed policy with the October 2021 meeting papers</td>
<td>JHE/CM</td>
<td>October 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/121</td>
<td>Circulate meeting invitations for additional Academic Board meeting on 29 June</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>June 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/130</td>
<td>Add agenda item on progress with implementation plan from Process Fix review of non-academic misconduct and complaints</td>
<td>JHE/CM</td>
<td>October 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/05</td>
<td>Add item on Personal Tutoring to June Academic Board meeting agenda</td>
<td>JHE/CM</td>
<td>June 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/57</td>
<td>Notify Assistant Secretary to Council that the Academic Board have approved a proposal to create a new Department of Health Studies</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>April 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 21/63 | Reflect on the following questions, as part of the development of the Education Strategy, and contact the Senior Vice Principal (Education) will any comments—  
  What has been the most innovative or exciting or effective use of technology in teaching and learning this year that we’d like to develop further?  
  What would we do to enhance our on campus education next year to encourage students to make the best use of face to face teaching opportunities? | All   |             |
<p>| 23/67 | Add item on Response to OfS compliance exercise to June Academic Board meeting agenda                                                                                                                  | JHE/CM | June 2021   |
| 20/166 | Add agenda item for the March 2021 Academic Board meeting for an update on Personal Tutor system and Wellbeing                                                                                         | JHE   | March 2021  |
| 20/187 | Submit Paper 20/86, adoption of the IHRA anti-semitism definition with the additional select committee caveats to Council for final approval                                                             | JHE/JK | February 2021 |
| 20/188 | Ensure the Intellectual Property Policy is updated with clarification that discretion can be used in applying the thresholds for IP revenue share and amend any incorrect references the upper threshold, which should be set at £75,000. | KN    | January 2021 |
| 20/190 | Sign up to the QAA Academic Integrity Charter                                                                                                                                                    | DG    | January 2021 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20/193</td>
<td>Submit any comments on the AB Annual Report 2019-20 to the Secretary by the end of the first week in January 2021. Ask the Chair to confirm the Annual Report and submit to Council</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>January 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/73</td>
<td>Update Membership List to reflect (i) the change in the Head of Department of Human Resource Management and Organisational Studies; (ii) the academic member of staff elected to Council, who will also sit on the Academic Board</td>
<td>JHE</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/147, 19/183 and 20/76</td>
<td>To add update on the College’s Access and Participation Plan as an agenda item for the December AB meeting</td>
<td>JHE</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/78</td>
<td>Set up a Call for election in January to fill the remaining two vacancies for elected members</td>
<td>JHE</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/117</td>
<td>Review Intellectual Property Policy and bring back to December meeting for discussion</td>
<td>KN</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/10</td>
<td>Deputy-Principal (Academic) to respond to queries raised in email requesting to unstar paper AB/20/51</td>
<td>KN</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/14</td>
<td>Secretary to add the following to the agenda for the October meeting—SU Digital Survey Outcomes, Update on delivery of College’s Enhancement Plan</td>
<td>JHE</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20/16</td>
<td>Circulate summer-term Council Minutes to Academic Board</td>
<td>JHE</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/167</td>
<td>Correct the minutes of the meeting of the Board on 23 October 2019 as noted.</td>
<td>RH</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/170</td>
<td>Refer this matter (the length of papers for Academic Board and the timing of the circulation of these) to the Academic Board Executive meeting in February for further discussion.</td>
<td>RH</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/175</td>
<td>The Secretary and VP Education to review the election of academic representatives and present a report to Academic Board in March 2020.</td>
<td>RH/KR</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/179</td>
<td>Circulate the PowerPoint presentation on KEF to Schools.</td>
<td>RH/KN</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/182</td>
<td>Reword Section 2 (a) (iii) on page 7 of the Access and Participation Plan to clarify what is being measured: Brilliant Club: support 590 pupils to improve their written communication, subject knowledge and critical thinking skills by 5% or more.</td>
<td>DA</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/183</td>
<td>Academic Board to receive a regular update on progress in meeting the Access and Participation Plan targets. Update will be included as a standing item under starred items</td>
<td>PJL/RH</td>
<td>Ongoing. Last update received Dec 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/185</td>
<td>Present a draft Degree Outcomes statement to the March meeting of Academic Board.</td>
<td>DG</td>
<td>Complete (Considered in June)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Responsible</td>
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<tr>
<td>19/195</td>
<td>DDS to review the guidance and report to the Executive Committee for Assessment in the Spring term.</td>
<td>RH</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/196</td>
<td>Review the wording of Proposal 3 on regulatory changes with colleagues.</td>
<td>RH/MB</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/119</td>
<td>Put a note on the Academic Board website about the decision made to amend the terms of office of elected members to one year.</td>
<td>RH</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/111</td>
<td>Correct the minutes of the meeting of Academic Board on 5 June.</td>
<td>RH</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/129</td>
<td>Take forward the provision of support for students studying in London in the Academic Development and Resources Committee.</td>
<td>KB</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/31</td>
<td>Check with the interim Director of Human Resources whether recommendations from UCU were considered as part of the review of the Gender Pay Gap.</td>
<td>RH</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/37</td>
<td>Present a ‘lessons learned’ paper on lecture recording to Academic Board in December.</td>
<td>KB</td>
<td>Complete (moved to March meeting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/43</td>
<td>Provide an update to Academic Board later in the year on work undertaken to close the attainment gap.</td>
<td>JK</td>
<td>March/June 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/47</td>
<td>Link the Committees Handbook page to the Terms of Reference for new School and College committees, currently published on the academic restructuring pages.</td>
<td>RH</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/48</td>
<td>Add the casualization of staff to topics to be considered as part of the redevelopment of the College strategy given the number of staff in the College on casual contracts.</td>
<td>KB</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Academic Board
2 June 2021
Min. 21/79 - 21/140

Minutes

Present: Prof P Layzell (Chair); Prof J Knowles, Prof K Badcock, Prof T Bhamra, Prof M Humphreys, Prof G Agyemang, Prof J Parker-Starbuck, Prof G Pieri, Prof S Boogert, Prof S Wright, Prof R Livesey, Dr A Whitelock, Dr M Berry, Prof B Langford, Dr M Naef, Mr R Jago, Prof O Heath, Prof A Jashapara, Prof A Bradshaw, Dr S Wagner, Prof J Adam, Prof P Dalton, Prof D Howard, Prof R Schack, Dr C Matos, Prof P Komisarczuk, Prof S Ansari, Prof R Fitzgerald, Dr T Berry, Prof V Boisvert, Dr D Brown, Dr V Desai, Dr S Kuenzel, Prof S Murphy, Dr E Xhetani, Prof D Gilbert, Miss K Roberts, Ms A Chohan, Ms L Brown.

Secretary: Dr J Howden-Evans

In attendance: Dr D Ashton, Ms M Ennis, Mrs N Jones (for Mrs A Wallis), Dr W Shuler (for item 12.4), Ms S Smart (for item 12.4), Ms H Ellis-Jones for item 13

Observers: Mr A Alway

Apologies: Prof T Pincus, Prof R Alston, Prof V Jansen, Prof G Symon, Dr S West, Prof H Zagefka, Mr L Kaounides, Ms H Warwick

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Prof T Pincus, Prof R Alston, Prof V Jansen, Prof G Symon, Dr S West, Prof H Zagefka, Mr L Kaounides and Ms H Warwick. Mrs N Jones, Deputy Director of Strategic Policy, was in attendance on behalf of Mrs A Wallis.

The Chair noted that this was the last meeting for the Students' Union President and Vice President Education and thanked them for their contribution to the Board.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2021 (Min. 21/01 - Min. 21/78) were APPROVED.

3. Matters arising

The Chair REPORTED that the actions in min. 21/05, 21/51, 21/63 and 21/67 had been completed. There were no outstanding actions.

4. Action taken by the Chair

No actions had been taken by the Chair since the last meeting.

5. Unstarring of items

No items were unstarred for discussion during the meeting.
Formal Reports

6. Principal’s Report

Paper AB/21/14a, Principal’s Report to Academic Board was RECEIVED.

The Chair highlighted the following aspects of his report –

- thanks to the Director of Student and Academic Services for developing a timetable of graduation ceremonies to take place in December 2021 for postgraduate students and Easter 2022 for undergraduates.
- that substantial policy changes to funding and entry to Higher Education and are being considered by government, with an announcement expected in late autumn as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Chair PROVIDED a brief update on recent racism related incidents on campus, thanking the Director of Student and Academic Services and his team for their quick response when these incidents are identified. The Deputy Principal (Operations) has been asked to lead a review of campus security.

7. Reports from the Senior Management Team

There were no reports from the Senior Management Team on items not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

8. Report from the Students’ Union President

8.1 Paper AB/21/15, update from the Students’ Union President was RECEIVED. The President was pleased to report that events and activities organised by student societies had started again in the Students’ Union over the last few weeks and that projects around sustainability and improving safety and street lighting have been progressing well. She thanked the Academic Board and senior management team for their support during her terms of office as Vice President Education and President.

The Principal recorded his thanks to the student volunteers for their fantastic work supporting the local community during the pandemic, noting that their achievements will be recognised through the Royal Holloway Volunteering Awards scheme.
8.2 The Board received a presentation from the Students’ Union President on the key messages from the academic societies review carried out by an external provider, Organised Fun, between February and May 2021. Headline findings from the report included:

- There needs to be an agreed definition of the purpose of academic societies, changes could be made to Students’ Union processes to offer better to support academic societies, there are questions as to where the liability sits for unaffiliated student groups, departmental support for academic societies is varied and inconsistent despite a clear desire from College to support academic societies, there is inconsistency in the link between academic societies and academic representation, and there needs to be a more holistic approach to academic communities.

- A themes and purpose statement has been created to provide an agreed definition of academic societies, and a set of principles have been developed centred around addressing the key findings in the report. These include a providing a clear focus on wellbeing, co-curricular activity, employability and academic representation, formalising the relationship between the department, SU and the College and further research into future model possibilities such as free membership, auto enrolment, revised selection processes and paid positions for students.

- A three year implementation plan has been developed setting out the activities to be reviewed and implementation in each year.

- Next steps include a meeting with the external consultants and key College and SU stakeholders, a priority for implementation of the actions and creating a working group for ongoing discussions.

- The full report will be shared with AB once it has been finalised and published to students.

The Students’ Union Vice President (Education) PROVIDED a presentation on the findings from the Joint Honours Student Insight Report, commissioned to gain a better understanding of the needs of this group of students and consider ways of improving their student experience. Emerging themes from the report included a need for better communication between departments and disciplines spread across two Schools, allocating a personal tutor from each of the departments the student is studying in, addressing concerns around assessment bunching and timetable clashes, fostering a sense of belonging to both departments and considerations around academic representation. The full report will be shared with Academic Board once finalised. The Students’ Union will discuss the key recommendations with relevant stakeholders and anticipate a formal response to be published.

The Director of Student and Academic Services confirmed that the recommendations from the reports would be considered at the Joint Executive Committee to ensure they are passed onto the relevant committees for action.

The Head of the Department of Geography considered that the number of student representatives for each student society as proposed by the external consultants seemed unrealistic. The SU President confirmed that this needed further discussion with stakeholders.

9. Report from the Council

Paper AB/21/16, minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 February 2021, was RECEIVED.
10. Reports from Schools

The Head of the School of Performing and Digital Arts PROVIDED a presentation starting with the student and staff context and closing with an overview of the School’s strategy. Highlights included:

- The three departments of Drama, Theatre and Dance, Media Arts and Music score well in the REF, undergraduate student surveys and league tables;
- The School are working to understand their position in a complex arts marketplace;
- A summary of Successes and Initiatives in UG Education, including ‘Thinking Digitally in Teaching and Assessment’, which involves embedding more digital assessments and developing digital teaching support, and ‘Anti-racist Teaching’ including staff development programmes and embedding certain kinds of anti-racist learning outcomes into first year modules eg considering and acknowledging the ways race and racism impacts on performance cultures and the wider world;
- Reviewing the UG curriculum viz Joint Honours and creating an Inter-School Portfolio and reviewing the PGT curriculum in response to rapid evolution in the media industry;
- Successes at PGT include opportunities for students to submit work at the International Festival for Movies Made on Mobiles and an innovative collaboration between MA Theatre Directing students and the BA Stage Acting module;
- New initiatives around student experience focussing on arts and culture and career and employability;
- A summary of PGR activities including student led initiatives such as a symposium on Arts and Decolonisation and an inaugural School wide PGR conference on ‘Researching Performance’, a harmonised processes for annual review and vivas to ensure best practice across departments, a podcast launched by Dr Emma Brodzinski to provide support to students on health and wellbeing;
- a summary of research strengths and grants
- a summary of work on equality, diversity and inclusion
- an overview of the School’s strategic goals, which include developing relationships with local schools and colleges and building relationships at local, regional and national level enabling the School to participate as a Civic University.

Major Business

11. COVID-19: ongoing impact on the current year

The Senior Vice Principal (Education) REPORTED that students have returned to campus for term 3, in accordance with government guidelines. The recovery of teaching in laboratory and performing arts subjects has been well received by students. Professor Knowles thanked staff for their hard work during the year and noted that students have responded positively and with gratitude to teaching in a difficult year. There was limited government guidance for the next academic year, however preparations were underway for 2021-22 on the assumption that local lockdowns and travel restrictions may still apply. College intended to adopt a blended delivery of teaching with at least 50% of activities offered face to face. There would be an emphasis on the campus experience and the Director of Student and Academic Services and his team were working to ensure a variety of on campus activities from the start of term. There would a renewed emphasis over the summer on ensuring the quality of the delivery, for example podcasts and Moodle and the Educational Development Centre planned to offer refresher and development training. College Teaching Prizes would be awarded at the Teaching and Learning symposium on 9 June with Professor Knowles noting the invention and creativity in teaching
this year. Updated policies were being developed on lecture recording, engagement and attendance and extensions and extenuating circumstances.

An elected member of the Board requested an update on the College’s position on postgraduate student travel. The Senior Vice Principal (Academic Strategy and Research) advised that he was aware of the issues caused by travel ban in 2020 and that the Director of Health and Safety was drafting a policy to enable students to travel again as and when travel restrictions are lifted by the government. Professor Badcock further advised that is already a process in place whereby he can authorise essential travel.

An elected member of the Board reported concerns about staff workload again next year, commenting that the Senior Management Team must consider how to enable staff to continue to offer a strong education and level of support for students that also protects staff welfare. The Chair reported that reducing workloads have been an important consideration in recent policy changes and that senior colleagues will continue to review processes and whether these can be further simplified, noting the recent review of the complaints process as an example of a process that has been streamlined. He hoped that the lifting of restrictions will lead to a more normal campus experience next year, although some aspects of the digital offer will be retained.

12. **Ensuring Student Success in 2021-22**

12.1 The update from the Senior Vice Principal on Education Planning for 2021-22 was discussed alongside item 11.

12.2 **Paper AB/21/27 Personal Tutoring in 2021-22** was RECEIVED.

The Director of Student and Academic Services REPORTED discussions with the School Directors of Student Experience and representatives from the Students’ Union have identified changes in the aspects of the subject matter on which students are reaching out for support, and the areas of good practice from how personal tutoring was delivered in 2020-21, for example using Microsoft Teams to support group and individual discussions and to cascade information. The outcomes of a review of wellbeing and welfare support in the spring term conducted by the Head of Student Advisory & Wellbeing Services will inform the key areas for resources and campaigns in 2021/22. Moving forwards, there will be a termly reflection on engagement, demand and activities in Student Wellbeing. Major changes to the personal tutoring system in 2021-22 were unlikely, however, a review of the system will take place for implementation in 2022-23 as part of Pillar 4 of the 3 year Strategic Plan. This review aims to address the simplification of the personal tutoring system to support effective signposting and engagement and link up with other projects already underway, for example the Enquiry Management and Analytics & Reporting projects.

12.3 **Paper AB/21/17a Shape of the Academic Year, a mid-year assessment point** was RECEIVED.

The Senior Vice Principal (Education) REPORTED the proposal aimed to create an academic year that supports the assessment pattern implemented in 2020/21, whereby approximately 30% of assessment takes place at the end of the first term or the start of the second term. He noted it should help staff and students to manage their workloads better, improve the joint honours student experience by bringing a consistent approach to scheduling mid-term assessments and teaching, and there are proven pedagogic advantages to assess students close to when they received the teaching. Acting now would also put the College in a better position to respond to changes in government policy. He emphasised that there would not be an increase in the number of teaching weeks, the proposal was about shifting the structure of the year to create a decided period of time for assessments and marking. Professor Knowles
favoured the staggered approach set out in the paper to allow time to work through the complex implications of the change, particularly at departmental level and avoid hurried radical changes in 2023/24 to address shifts in government policy.

Members of the Board expressed concerns about implementing changes for 2021/22, particularly in relation to the consequences on assessments and deadlines already planned for next year, and any further increase in staff workload. Concerns were raised in general about the impact of the change on activities such as field work, projects and internships that usually take place in term 3 and whether pushing teaching and assessment further into term 3 would negatively impact on students seeking internships or paid work in the summer holidays. The Students’ Union Vice President (Education) reported that students have been consulted on the proposed changes and further feedback from them was expected by the end of term. She considered it was important to students to build in a revision week at the start of the second term to ensure students can take a break and/or undertake paid work during the Christmas break. In response, the Senior Vice Principal (Education) advised he did not wish to extend the duration of term 3, he had consulted with Directors of Undergraduate Education who preferred the staggered approach, that there is already a pinch point in workload in departments already operating a January assessment week and that changing the shape of the year would ease workload.

The Chair summarised the discussion, noting the status quo is unsustainable in the longer term because of the inconsistency across departments, even within the same School, and the anticipated changes to government policy. Although the Board agreed in principle to create a standardised mid-year period of assessment, there was a reluctance to implement a staged approach from 2021/22. It was AGREED to continue with the mixed practice in 2021/22 and use the next year to work through the detail and consequences of any changes. Changes to the structure of the academic year would then take effect from 2022/23.

12.4 Paper AB/21/18, Principles underpinning the Extensions Policy for 2021/22 was RECEIVED. The Senior Vice Principal (Education) recorded his thanks to Dr Will Shuler and Sarah Smart for their work on streamlining the extensions process. The current process for requesting extensions was not fit for purpose in managing the considerable increase in requests seen in 2020/21. There had been delays in providing students with a decision on their application, students granted multiple extensions struggled with assessment bunching as they lost the benefit of staggered deadlines and marking schedules were significantly disrupted by the volume of and length of extensions given. Professor Knowles reported that there was not an easy technological solution to resolve the issue, and this has influenced the two main principles set out in the paper, viz that the extensions process is to manage unforeseen, short term issues impacting on a timely submission and granting students a maximum of two 2 working day extensions and two 5 working day extensions per academic year, with all other assessment submission related concerns to be considered under the extenuating circumstances policy. Requests within these limits would be granted automatically, removing student anxiety around waiting for a decision on their application, enabling staff to identify ongoing circumstances impacting on student performance and freeing up staff time to be used on a more supportive extenuating circumstances system.

A member of Board queried why students would have to provide a rationale for their request if the extension was to be automatically granted. Dr Shuler advised that students would be asked to choose a reason from a drop list to enable analysis of reasons for extensions requests. Another member requested that any EC and extensions training is scheduled outside of induction week.
The Board APPROVED the principles for the extensions policy as set out in paper AB/21/18 and that the final policy could be agreed by Chair’s action over the summer.

There would be further discussion with the Students’ Union to ensure agreement on the numbers of extensions per year as proposed and the arrangements for triggering a formal discussion with students with ongoing circumstances affecting performance over a longer period of time.

12.5 Paper AB/21/19 Lecture Recording Policy 2021/22 was RECEIVED.

The Senior Vice Principal (Education) REPORTED that the policy provides a framework for the recording of classes and aims to minimise concerns around lecture recording reported by some staff. A small number of minor changes had been made to the previous version circulated in March 2020. Discussions with the UCU at start of the pandemic had been useful in shaping the policy. Recording lectures would remain important in the 21-22 academic year to manage the uncertainties associated with the pandemic, for example if students are unable to travel or are required to shield. Student use of lecture recording increased dramatically in 2020-21 and they have appreciated the provision. It is clear from discussions with them that they consider it as a way of supporting teaching and learning and not as a replacement for contact time. The policy clarifies that there is no intention to use recordings to replace teaching lost due to strike action, that there is no interest in extending recordings to small group activities and where the control of the recording process sits and the appropriate frameworks for managing this. It consolidates all of the material associated with lecture recording in one document, including GDPR, training, approach to lecture recording and a set of FAQs. The policy had been amended slightly to extend to lectures, workshops and other large classes. It would be left to local discussion as to exactly what to record. The policy would be reviewed at the end of the academic year, the results of which would be presented to Education Strategy Committee, Executive Board and Academic Board. There had been useful discussion with UCU to address aspects of the policy where there had been a lack of clarity.

The President of the Students’ Union confirmed how much students have appreciated being able to access the recordings and thought that that any change or reversion back to pre-2020-21 practices would be unwelcome. The Students’ Union Vice President Education added that the student support for lecture recording was evidenced in the Digital Education surveys.

An elected member of the board reported that two elected members had contacted the Principal prior to the meeting asking for discussions on this item to be postponed due to concerns about the presentation of the material. They noted that the preliminary work conducted by the UCU on the benefits and potential drawbacks of lecture recording was circulated in March 2020 but not re-circulated with the papers for this meeting. They considered that the policy was being pushed through too quickly without taking into account all of the complicating factors and there were still issues to address around student quality, student safety, terms of education and GDPR. The Chair advised that it was important to confirm the College’s policy on lecture recording as discussions have been ongoing for some time and many other universities already have policies in place.

The Senior Vice Principal (Education) confirmed that there would be further discussion with the UCU group about international transfer and GDPR.

The Board agreed to proceed in principle noting that there is a bit more work to be done on the finer detail and engaging with the UCU group. One member of the Board objected to proceeding with the current policy.
13. Academic Planning Update

Paper 21/20 Academic Planning update was RECEIVED.

The Senior Vice Principal (Academic Strategy and Research) REPORTED that Academic Board is not normally engaged with discussions on budgets and planning, however, these have a significant impact on the academy. Council have provided their commitment to dual excellence in teaching and research, which can only be achieved through the appropriate resources. An additional meeting of Academic Board would be scheduled on 29 June to discuss the planning and resourcing issues currently facing the College.

Professor Badcock advised that there had been a change of decision since the March meeting in relation to January start cohorts. This was in response to the red list travel restrictions imposed on some countries which would impact significantly on student numbers if they remained in place during the autumn. Specific courses in Computer Science and Information would welcome January start cohorts in 2021-22 and he expressed his thanks to the Heads of Computer Science and Information Security in determining how best to operate these without further impacting on staff workload. The Students’ Union Vice President reported concerns about additional January start cohorts, noting that there had been some student dissatisfaction this year. Professor Bhamra advised she is leading a group to review their student experience and lessons learned.

The Head of Law and Social Sciences reported that there had been double counting in the numbers of staffing for Law and Criminology and the Social Work numbers had been conflated with staffing in Criminology. He considered the staffing in Criminology and Law should be listed separately as there is no cross delivery of teaching between the two departments.

The Head of the Department of Economics advised the Staff Student Ratios are useful in showing the disparity in resourcing across the College.

14. Research Excellence Framework

The Senior Vice Principal (Academic Strategy and Research) thanked staff involved in collating the Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission. He was anticipating a good outcome for assessments on outputs, a weaker result for Impact and an overall outcome similar to the previous REF. There would be discussions on areas for improvement as part of the emerging knowledge exchange strategy.

15. Quality and Standards Report

Paper AB/21/22 Annual Quality and Standards Report was RECEIVED.

The Vice Principal (Quality and Standards) thanked the Academic Quality and Policy Office for their work during the year and the Head of Academic Quality and Policy for her help in drafting the report.


16.1 Paper AB/21/23 Annual Report on Appeals and Complaints was RECEIVED.

16.2 Paper AB/21/24 Report from the Process Fix review of non-academic conduct ‘conduct, complaints and concerns’ was RECEIVED.

The Director of Student and Academic Services reported that the review had identified considerable scope for increasing transparency and simplifying the process to reduce staff
workload and reduce student confusion. He would provide an update on progress with the implementation plan at the October Academic Board meeting.

17. **Office for Students Consultations**

   Paper AB/21/25 Summary of the College’s responses to recent OfS consultations was RECEIVED.

   The Chair invited members to contact him with any queries about the document.

**Items for formal approval**

18. **Student Protection Plan**

   Paper AB/21/16, Student Protection Plan was APPROVED.

19. **Regulations changes for 2021-22**

   Paper AB/21/27, changes to the Academic Misconduct regulations 2021-22 was APPROVED.
   Paper AB/21/28, changes to the Undergraduate regulations 2021-22 was APPROVED.

**Items for report**

20. **Annual Reviews**

   Paper AB/21/29, the composite report of the review of postgraduate taught provision in 2019-20 in the School of Engineering, Mathematical and Physical Sciences from the School Education Committee was RECEIVED.
   Paper AB/21/30, the composite reports of the review of postgraduate research provision in 2019-20 from the Research Degree Programmes Committee was RECEIVED.

21. **Academic Board Executive**

   Paper AB/21/31, Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board Executive held on 4 May was RECEIVED.

22. **Quality Assurance and Standards Committee**

   Paper AB/21/22, Minutes of the Quality Assurance and Standards Committee meetings held on 25 February 2021 and 12 May 2021 was RECEIVED.

**Other matters**

23. **Date of next meeting**

   There would be an additional meeting on Tuesday 29 June 2021.

   The dates of meetings in 2021-22: Wednesday 20 October 2021 at 2pm, venue to be confirmed, Wednesday 8 December 2021, Wednesday 16 March 2022 and Wednesday 1 June 2022.