



ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Thursday 18 October 2012

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Professor Anthony Smith (*Chair*)

President and Provost
Professor David Bogle
Dr Arne Hofmann

Professor Raymond MacAllister
Dr Christine Hoffmann

Professor Jonathan W

In attendance: Mr Jason Clarke (Secretary); Ms Judith Hillmore; Ms Harriet Lilley;
Dr Stephen Price; Mr Rob Traynor.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr David Ashton, Dr Paul Ayris, Professor Steve Caddick, Ms Geraldine Davies, Dr Leonie Hannan, Mr Dante Micheaux, Professor David Price, Professor Alan Thompson, and Professor Michael Worton.

Key to abbreviations

AC	Academic Committee
A&H	Faculty of Arts and Humanities
CEO	Committee for Equal Opportunities
FBE	Faculty of the Built Environment
FLS	Faculty of Life Sciences
FTC	Faculty Teaching Committee
GPA	Grade Point Average
HEI	Higher Education Institution
KIS	Key Information Set
NSS	National Student Survey
UKBA	UK Border Agency

1 TERMS OF REFERENCE, CONSTITUTION AND 2012-13 MEMBERSHIP

Noted:

- 1.1 AC's terms of reference, constitution and 2012-13 membership at AC 1-1 (12-13).

Reported:

- 1.2 The AC Chair welcomed the following new members to AC:

- 4.3 The GPA modelling exercise in the Faculty of Laws had resulted in a significant decrease in overall results when transferring marks from the current classification system to the GPA scheme, with no student achieving the equivalent of a first class result. The standard GPA model, which compared a result of 70% to a GPA of 3.75, would need to be reduced to 65% in Laws in order to avoid overall grade deflation.
- 4.4 The next phase of the GPA modelling exercise would use results from the Department of Mathematics.

Discussion:

- 4.5 It was noted by AC members that moving to a GPA scheme would have greater implications for quantitative subjects compared to qualitative subjects. Understanding and describing the characteristics of an 'excellent' piece of work, regardless of subject, would be key in moving towards the GPA scheme.
- 4.6 AC thanked the members of the GPA Working Group and agreed that a further report be made to the Committee in the Spring Term 2013.

RESOLVED

- 4.7 That the Working Group on the GPA submit a progress report to AC in the Spring Term 2013.

[ACTION: Professor Mike Ewing/Mr Unt of Cw0REPA schem/ArPJ30ol te /P A

Discussion:

- 5.5 The Faculty Tutor for A&H, supported by the Faculty Tutors for FBE and FLS, expressed opposition to any suggestion that the Faculty Tutors should no longer serve on AC, which was implied by the proposal at paragraph 19 of the report (that the *ex officio*

Reported:

6.2 In his presentation, the AC Chair noted the following in particular:

The UCL Council White Paper 2011-21 noted that UCL's aim is to be in the top three institutions in the UK for education. However, the 2012 NSS results put UCL 73rd in the UK, with an overall satisfaction of 85% (equal to the sector average), and 20th out of 24 among Russell Group universities.

The 2012 NSS received the highest ever participation levels at UCL – 64% of UCL undergraduate students had taken part. However, this was still 2% behind the sector average participation level of 66%.

NSS results show that UCL is behind the sector average for its scores in (i) student assessment and feedback by 8%, (ii) academic support by 3%, and (ii) personal

10 REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS ETC OF ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Noted:

- 10.1 The AC officers had received on behalf of AC, since the last meeting of AC, Minutes of the following:

Committee for Equal Opportunities (13.6.12);
Education Committee (29.6.12);
Joint Staff Student Committee (17.5.12);
Library Committee (14.6.12);
Quality Management and Enhancement Committee (19.6.12);
Research Degrees Committee (11.6.12);
Research Governance Committee (25.6.12);
Student Scholarships and Funding Committee (28.6.12).

11 FACULTY TEACHING COMMITTEES

Noted:

- 11.1 A list at AC 1-5 (12-13) of the meetings of FTCs of which the Minutes had been received by the AC Secretary on behalf of AC since the Committee's last meeting.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted:

- 12.1 The next meeting would be on **Thursday 13 December 2012** at **9.00am** in the **Old Refectory**.