

APPROVED COUNCIL MINUTES
MEETING HELD ON 24th FEBRUARY 2022, 12.45pm to 1.45pm
Northampton Suite

Members		Meeting 1 07.10.21	Meeting 2 26.11.21	Meeting 3 24.02.22	Meeting 4 01.04.22	Meeting 5 13.05.22	Meeting 6 30.06.22
Independent Members	Ms Julia Palca (Chair)	✓	✓	✓			
	Professor Anthony Finkelstein (President)	✓	✓	A			
	Ms Kru Desai	✓	✓	✓			
	Mr Simon Harding-Roots	✓	✓	✓			
	Mr Adrian Haxby	✓	✓	✓			
	Professor Chris Jenks	✓	A	N/M			
	Mr Thomas Lee-Warren	✓	A	A			
	Dr Andrew Mackintosh	A	✓	✓			
	Ms Ebele Okobi	A	✓	A			
	Mr Anant Prakash	✓	✓	A			
	Ms Jen Tippin	A	✓	✓			
	Mr Ron Zeghibe	✓	✓	✓			
Staff and Student Members	Ms Shaima Dallali	✓	✓	A			
	Ms Mary Luckiram	✓	✓	✓			
	Ms Marion O'Hara	N/M	N/M	✓			
	Ms Liz Rylatt	✓	A	N/M			
	Professor Debra Salmon	✓	✓	✓			

Key: ✓ In Attendance A Apologies P Part Attendance N/M Not a Member S Sabbatical

In Attendance	Reason and Meeting Section
Selina Hannaford	Chief of Staff
Ruqaiyah Javaid	SU, Vice-President, Education
Professor Juliet John	Vice-President, Education
Dr William Jordan	College Secretary
Ms Sarah Lawton	Governance Administrator
Professor Miguel Mera	Vice-President, Research
Professor Susannah Quinsee	Vice-President, Digital and Student Experience
Dr Sionade Robinson	Vice-President, Enterprise, Engagement and Employability
Ben Tucker	Minerva (observing as part of the Council Effectiveness Review)

MINUTES SECTION A – OPEN FOR PUBLICATION

Part One – Preliminary Items

- 1. Highlighted Items**
Council **agreed** the highlighted items.
- 2. Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 26th November were approved.
- 3. Matters Arising**
Council noted the table of actions arising from past meetings and that many completion dates were yet to be agreed. **[Action]**

USS Update

- The Joint Negotiating Committee had agreed on a contribution increase of 0.5% for employers and 0.2% for employees to come into effect from 1st April 2022 as part of the UUK brokered conclusion to the 2020 valuation
- It had also been agreed to 'put on hold' for three years the proposed reduction in the Indexation Cap on pensions from the current limit of 5% a year to the proposed future limit of 2.5% a year.
- UCU's commentary on the current strike action in respect of USS and of the 2021 Pay Negotiations is that employers are being intransigent and as such, UCU has indicated that a change of campaign is necessary and they may

potentially decide to include a marking and assessment boycott as part of the forms of ASOS which the union asks staff to undertake. A boycott of this kind could impact on students' ability to graduate this summer.

- City has made it clear that it reserves the right to withhold up to 100% of pay for staff participating in Action Short Of a Strike (ASOS) which constitutes a breach of contract. City had been listed in national UCU communications as one of the 6 outliers in relation to its stance on this issue. The sector position is that many institutions have confirmed their position on ASOS as being aligned with City's.
- As a result of the industrial action called by UNISON, the majority of City's campus would be closed on Monday 28 February, Tuesday 1 March and Wednesday 2 March. This was due to the limited number of colleagues in security roles available for work on these dates with the sufficient level of safety training.
- To limit disruption to students, the following 4 areas will be open for the delivery of key practical/skills-based sessions which cannot be delivered online, as well as to maintain access to study spaces and resources in Northampton Square Library:
 - Northampton Square reception and café
 - Tait Level 2
 - CitySight
 - Northampton Square Library, 10am-5pmThe COO noted that, as a priority, she would be reviewing Business Continuity Plans across City.
- The Dean of Health noted that a significant number of students had already been impacted by strike action. Currently, staff were focusing on ensuring that the delivery of core learning was maintained but in due course a programme of events would be devised to attempt to make up for the lost student experience.

4. Conflicts of Interest

None.

5. Items Specially Brought Forward by the Chair

Council Member Appointment

Following a recommendation from CGNC, Council **approved** the appointment of Catherine McGuinness as an independent member of Council for a period of 3 years commencing on 1st May 2022.

6. Calendar

Council noted the calendar. **[Action]**

7. Ocean Bones: Business Proposal update

Council noted that it had approved the business case by circulation at the end of January 2022. In discussion the following points were noted:

- Progress was being made and contracts were likely to be signed in mid-March.
- It was agreed that City would register the new 1st year students (September 2022). The returning 3rd year students would continue to be validated by Birmingham. The 2nd year students would be consulted with to determine whether the cohort is validated by Birmingham or City.
- The TUPE list of staff transferring to employment at City would be finalised within the next few days.
- The Vice-President (Digital & Student Experience), had been appointed as Chair of the Implementation Group.
- Council would receive regular updates on progress and this would be added to the agenda for its next meeting on 1st April. **[Action]**

8. Princeton Street Sale

Council **noted** that this was approved by Council (by circulation) subject to receiving a further letter of assurance from Gerald Eve with regard to the sale price of £14M.

9. Five-year Financial Plan and OfS AFR

This version of the 2021 Financial Plan represented the final workings used to inform the 2021 OfS AFR. Significant changes to the May 21 version of the plan, as reported to SIPCo and Council in July were explained along with commentary relating to the year-on-year comparison to the last OfS plan. In discussion, it was noted that:

- The plan used the Mid-Year Forecast for 2021/22 and future years were informed by the outcomes of a review of student number projections carried out with the Schools during November and December.
- Any changes required to deliver the new Strategy would be made in future versions of the plan.

Decision

Council **approved** the plan and the AFR to be sent to the OfS.

10. Articles of Association of City, University of London Students' Union

Council had been made aware of the proposed changes at its meeting in November 2021.

Decision

Council **approved** the revised City, University of London Students' Union Articles of Association, subject to receiving confirmation that the SU had sought legal advice to confirm that the Articles of Association were fit for purpose. **[Action]**

The Chair asked that, when a vacancy next became available on the Board of Trustees, the SU give serious consideration to reappointing a member of Council, as the link to student matters this provided in the past had been invaluable to Council.

11. Modern Slavery Statement 2022

This item was deferred to the April meeting.

12. SIPCo Minutes

Council noted the minutes of 20th January 2022.

13. Any Other Business

To **consider** any other business.

14. FOI Review

Council **agreed** that no changes were required.

15. Date of Next Meeting

Friday 1st April, 9am Northampton Suite. Plenary dinner Thursday 31st March 6pm.

Julia Palca,
Chair of Council
March 2022