

Academic Board

Meeting date Wednesday 30 October 2024

Paper reference AB-24-10-30-03.1

Status Unconfirmed



Minutes

Academic Board is asked to approve the unconfirmed minutes of the previous meeting.

Date 26 June 2024, 14.00

Location Great Hall, Strand Campus and MS Teams

Composition		Members	Attendance 2023-2024						
			1 Nov 23	13 Dec	6 Mar 24	17 Apr	26 Jun		
Ex officio	Chair of Academic Board, President & Principal	Professor Shitij Kapur	P	P	A	P	P		
	Senior Vice Presidents & Vice Principals	SVP Academic (Vice-Chair)	Professor Rachel Mills	P	P	P	P	P	
		SVP Health & Life Sciences	Professor Richard Trembath	P	P	P	P	A	
		VP Education & Student Success	Professor Adam Fagan	P	P	A	A	A	
		VP Research & Innovation	Professor Bashir Al-Hashimi	P	P	P	A	P	
		VP International, Engagement & Service	Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin	P	P	P	A	P	
		The Reverend the Dean	Rev'd Canon Dr Ellen Clark-King	A	P	P	P	A	
		The President of the Students' Union	Steven Suresh	P	P	P	A	P	
		KCLSU Vice Presidents Education	Vice President for Education (Arts & Sciences)	Sadaf Abbas Cheema	P	-	-	-	P
			Vice President for Education (Health)	Janvi Jagasia	P	P	P	P	P
			Vice President for Postgraduate	Alizeh Abrar	P	-	-	-	P
		Executive Deans of Faculty	Arts and Humanities	Professor Marion Thain	P	P	P	P	P
			Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	Professor Michael Escudier	P	P	P	P	P
			Dickson Poon School of Law	Professor Dan Hunter	P	A	P	A	A
			King's Business School	Professor Stephen Bach	P	P	P	P	P
			Life Sciences & Medicine	Professor Ajay Shah	P	P	P	A	P
			Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences	Professor Rachel Bearon	P	P	P	P	P
			Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	Professor Irene Higginson	A	A	P	P	P
			Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (Interim)	Professor Matthew Hotopf	P	P	P	A	P
		Social Science and Public Policy	Professor Linda McKie	P	A	P	A	P	
	Dean for Doctoral Studies	Professor Rebecca Oakey	P	P	P	A	P		
	Executive Director: Centre for International Education & Languages (CIEL)	Sarah Shirley	P	P	P	P	p		
Elected Students	One student from each faculty, split equally across UG/PGT/PGR	Arts and Humanities	Jenee Gardner	P	P	P	P	P	
		Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	Jekaterina Polomarenko	P	P	P	A	P	
		Dickson Poon School of Law	Emilia Britain	P	P	P	P	A	
		King's Business School	Vacancy	-	-	-	-	-	
		Life Sciences & Medicine	Mariana Ferreira Teixeira Da Silva	P	A	A	A	A	
		Natural, Mathematical and Engineering Sciences	Navye Jain	P	P	A	P		
		Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	Marie Martos	P	A	P	A		
		Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience	Emil Galanides	P	P	A	P	P	
Social Science and Public Policy	Joep Lahaije	P	P	P	A	P			
Elected Staff	Four academic staff members from each faculty (and five in the case of larger faculties) elected by and from the staff of	Arts & Humanities (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Virginia Crisp (HoD)	P	P	P	A	P	
			Dr Hannah Crawforth	A	P	A	P	P	
			Dr Zeena Feldman	P	P	P	A	P	
			Professor Nick Harrison	P	P	P	A	P	
		Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Laura Gibson	P	P	P	P	P	
			Professor Kim Piper (HoD)	P	P	P	P	P	
			Professor Jeremy Green	A	P	P	A	A	
			Professor Richard Cook	P	P	P	P	P	
		Dickson Poon School of Law (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr David Moyes	P	P	P	P	P	
			Vacancy	-	-	-	-	-	
			Professor Ann Mumford	P	P	A	P	P	
			Professor Ewan McGaughey	A	A	A	P	P	
	Dr Elin Weston	P	P	P	A	P			
	Professor Gulcin Ozkan (HoD)	P	P	P	P	P			

each faculty.	King's Business School (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Jack Fosten	A	P	P	A	P
		Dr Juan Baeza	P	P	A	P	P
		Dr Andrew McFaul	P	P	P	P	P
	Life Sciences & Medicine (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Susan Brain (HoD)	P	P	P	A	P
		Dr Manasi Nandi	P	P	P	P	P
		Professor Claire Wells	P	P	P	P	P
		Dr Baljinder Mankoo	P	P	A	P	P
		Dr Anna Battaglia	P	P	P	P	P
	Natural, Mathematical and Engineering Sciences (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Luc Moreau (HoD)	P	P	P	P	P
		Dr Andre Cobb	P	P	P	A	A
		Professor David Richards	P	P	P	P	P
		Professor Gerard Watts	P	P	P	P	P
	Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Lorraine Robinson (HoD)	P	A	P	P	P
		Dr Jocelyn Cornish	P	A	P	A	P
		Dr Wladzia Czuber-Dochan	A	A	A	P	P
		Irene Zeller	P	A	A	P	P
	Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Sarah Byford (HoD)	A	P	P	P	P
		Dr Eleanor Dommett	P	P	P	A	P
		Dr Rina Dutta	A	P	A	A	P
		Dr Yannis Paloyelis	P	P	P	P	P
	Social Science and Public Policy (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Eamonn Walsh	P	A	P	P	P
		Professor Jelke Boesten (HoD)	P	P	P	A	P
		Dr Hillary Briffa	P	A	P	P	A
		Dr Sunil Mitra Kumar	P	P	A	P	P
		Dr Tim Benbow	P	P	P	P	P
	Three staff members on contracts which include teaching from Professional and Continuing Education elected by and from the staff members on contracts which include teaching in PACE. One of the three seats will be held by a Head of Department or equivalent.	Tomas Maltby	P	P	P	P	A
		<i>Sarah Shirley (see ex-officio)</i>	-	-	-	-	-
		Suzie Coates	P	P	A	A	P
	Three professional staff	Dr Michael Elliott	P	P	P	P	P
		Education Support	Thomas Seagroatt	P	-	-	-
		Research Support	Dr Natasha Awais-Dean	P	P	P	P
	Two academic staff on research-only contracts	Service Support	Akic Lwaldeng	P	P	A	P
		Arts and Sciences Faculties	Dr Harriet Boulding	P	P	P	P
		Health Faculties	Dr Joanna Davies	P	P	P	P

v= vacant post

In attendance:

Darren Wallis, Executive Director, Students & Education Directorate (SED)

Lynne Barker, Associate Director (Academic Regulations, Quality and Standards), (SED)

Phil Berry, Director of Academic Quality, (SED)

Sam Smidt, Deputy Chair, College Education Committee

Joy Whyte, Strategic Director, Education and Students

Malcolm Ace, Senior Vice President (Finance)

Anette Schroeder-Rossell, Deputy Director - King's Language Centre & Chair - King's College Academic Standards Sub-Committee (ASSC)

Observers:

Incoming University Secretary & Director of Assurance, Dr Sinéad Critchley

Incoming VP Education (Art & Sciences), Madeeha Saher

Incoming VP Education (Health), Julia Kosowska

Secretariat:

Irene Birrell (College Secretary)

Sheron Balfour (Governance & Compliance Manager)

1 Welcome, apologies and notices.

Members and guests were welcomed to the meeting. The Chair gave a special welcome to Dr Sinéad Critchley the new University Secretary and Director of Assurance, to her first meeting of the Academic Board.

2 Approval of agenda

The Chair noted that the report of the College Education Committee (Item 7.2) would be taken earlier in the meeting than originally planned. The strategic discussion item would be later in the meeting than normal in order to accommodate the diary of the Senior Vice President (Finance), and agenda items would be shifted accordingly.

3 Unanimous Consent Agenda (including Minutes of the Previous Meeting) [AB-24-06-26-03]

There had been some questions raised with respect to the College Education Committee report, specifically with regard to:

- CEC annex 3, MCF policy
- CEC annex 4, Postgraduate Taught Dissertation Framework
- CEC annex 9, Academic Regulations 2024-25
- CEC annex 16, Transforming Assessment for Students

Questions with respect to annex 3 and annex 4 had either been resolved or would be subject to further discussion over the summer and remained on the Unanimous Consent Agenda. A verbal update would be provided at the meeting regarding Annex 9, Academic Regulations 2024-25, and this was removed from the Unanimous Consent Agenda. Questions remained regarding Annex 16, and this was removed from the Unanimous Consent agenda for discussion.

Decision:

That the remaining items presented in the Unanimous Consent Agenda were approved or accepted for information.

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes**AEP Progression Working Group**

The Vice-Chancellor noted an update had been circulated to Academic Board members. He reassured members that this work had been progressed through the University Executive and remained a key priority over the next period.

5.1 Report of the Vice-Chancellor & President [AB-24-06-26-5.1]

The Vice-Chancellor presented his report, which highlighted current issues, events and developments since the last meeting of the Academic Board, including Admissions; Israel/Gaza response; Freedom of Speech legislation; and National Student Survey (NSS) 2024. Updates and discussion included:

Admissions: Application numbers were reasonable. Undergraduate applications were up, and postgraduate applications were down compared with last year. Following the previous year, when numbers had fallen short against target.

The Senior Vice President (Academic) confirmed that a large number of students with very high grades were applying, and there were no concerns about compromising on quality by making more offers.

In terms of de-risking recruitment and admissions in the future, Council would be seeking assurance from the Academic Board that academic standards were met and that Strategy 2026 milestones are being met.

Israel/Gaza: [REDACTED]

5.2 Freedom of Expression - Code of Practice and Statement on Academic Freedom [AB-24-06-26-5.2]

The Senior Vice President (Academic) stated that approval was sought just for the Code of Practice, at this point, the Statement on Academic Freedom still being under development.

Decision:

That the Code of Practice and the related Statement on Academic Freedom as part of the University's compliance with the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act, be recommended to Council for approval.

Approved on the Unanimous Consent Agenda:

5.3 *Student Terms & Conditions 2024-2025*

5.4 *King's Student Protection Plan*

5.5 *JEI SUSTech Student Protection Plan*

6 Report of the KCLSU President [AB-24-06-26-06]

The outgoing KCLSU President reported that sabbatical officers had achieved a lot that year in difficult circumstances. A key focus had been activating to stop donations from individuals with connections to the fossil fuel industry, and the Student Union had been working with FERG on that.

7 Reports of Committees

7.1 Report of the College Education Committee [AB-24-06-26-07.1]

(i) Amended Emergency Regulations

The Chair of the Academic Standards Subcommittee (ASSC) presented the amended emergency regulations for approval. ASSC had established a working group to review the existing emergency regulations of the University. There had been extensive consultation with faculties on the proposed revisions throughout the year. The College Education Committee had discussed and recommended the emergency regulations to the Academic Board for approval.

The ASSC Chair noted that the changes were subtle and should be looked at comprehensively. These were emergency regulations, and the aim was to provide the highest level of academic integrity as part of the process: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Deans had been at the heart of consultations.

During discussion points made included:

Comments made regarding the Marking Assessment Boycott (MAB)

- [REDACTED]
- During the recent marking boycott, students' concern had been about whether they were getting their marks back. It was also noted that timely issuing of marks could not override quality.
- [REDACTED]
- Anonymity of markers was felt to be a key problem, especially as the regulations were intended to be more transparent.
- It was not the students' responsibility to deal with the MAB. The University had the responsibility to deal with it for the benefit of the students.
- It was suggested, referring to 3.7.3 of the new emergency regulations, that confidence among the student body would not be inspired; that during industrial action the employer and the union need to negotiate and settle in good faith; that students could not have any recourse.
- [REDACTED]
- There were issues with marking even when there was not an emergency, and normal processes were used: the outcome this time had not been markedly different.
- The Executive Dean of FoLSM had observed that individuals on the assessment boards last year had taken their task incredibly seriously and stated that some of the comments being made did a great disservice to those colleagues, who had put students' interests at the heart of their efforts. He was very confident that these changes would not lead to any detriment. Furthermore, from a FoLSM perspective, regulatory bodies visit the Faculty on a regular basis and review regulations as part of that.

General comments:

- Emergency regulations were about getting the right balance between academic integrity and what was in the students' best interests.
- Vice-Deans of Education had been consulted and were comfortable with the changes.
- Tribute was paid to staff who work very hard to maintain quality and standards.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Use of emergency regulations was expected to be a rare occurrence.

[REDACTED]

and other members, rejected inflammatory words used during the discussion such as “fake

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Senior Vice President (Academic) reminded the Academic Board that the University had had emergency regulations in place since 2018, and that the paper before the Board was about improvements to current processes. She cautioned that the current emergency regulations would remain in place if an appropriate set of changes were not approved.

While thanking the Academic Standards Subcommittee (ASSC) for its work to date on the Emergency Regulations, it was requested that the ASSC Chair re-consult with the Emergency Regulations working group and respond to the points made in the discussion. A revised paper would come back to the Academic Board for approval, noting that in the meantime the current regulations remained in place.
[ACTION]

7.1 (ii) Academic Regulations 2024-25

This item had been removed from the Unanimous Consent agenda for an update. The Vice-Chair of the College Education Committee stated that regarding the query relating to the academic regulations, the regulations team had corresponded with colleagues in the Faculty of Natural & Mathematical Sciences (NMES), who had requested that the following update be noted at Academic Board:

The condonement allowance in tables 5.29 and 5.30 relating to the BEng and Meng programmes will be updated to ensure alignment with PSRB requirements after Academic Board and before final publication. Final clarification was being sought from NMES.

A correction is required in regulation 5.80 to exclude BSc Ordinary degrees as they are not awarded with classification. This will also be updated after Academic Board.

7.1(iii) Transforming Assessment for Students at King’s (TASK)

This item had been removed from the Unanimous Consent agenda for discussion. The Vice-Chair of the College Education Committee stated that TASK was not a policy, but a framework – a set of principles – to guide a change of assessment culture. A pilot on programmatic assessment was being carried out across several faculties, the learnings of which would be shared across the University. The focus was on reducing workload for students and staff. It was acknowledged that this was the beginning of a journey and that changes would be needed over time. The plan over time was to develop a web presence. The framework was launched at an education conference last month to positive response. There was commitment to doing this work, but it was recognised that it was difficult and that disciplinary differences had to be recognised. If

there were good pedagogic reasons for diverging from TASK there was a willingness to have those considered.

During discussion points made included:

- [REDACTED]
- It was recognised that there was an infinite variety of assessment processes, and that there therefore needed to be individual variation.
- [REDACTED]
- It was noted that not every aspect could be foreseen and that the process did not conclude until 2026-2027. A guiding principle was that on average this would lead to lower workloads.
- [REDACTED]
- Could this sort of thing be put up for open consultation when it reached a certain stage of development?

The Vice-Chair of CEC stated that TASK had started with a round of faculty conversations. All Vice Deans Education had been asked to bring whomever they felt was appropriate into the conversation. Consultation had included an away day and full discussion with assessment boards, with a period of two months for feedback which was either incorporated or responded to. Following discussion at CEC there had then been a second round of consultations with faculties.

In terms of the costing, estimates had been made as to what might need to be made available in the way of support. It was not feasible to attach a meaningful cost until there was a clearer understanding of faculty aspirations; similarly, for risks it was going to be highly variable and could not be fully known at this stage.

*All remaining items in the CEC report had been **approved** or noted on the Unanimous Consent Agenda:*

- (iv) Education Governance Review
- (v) Review of UK Transnational Education Case Study
- (vi) Mitigating Circumstances Policy
- (vii) Postgraduate Taught Dissertation Framework
- (viii) Student Disability and Inclusion Policy
- (ix) Non-Academic Misconduct Policy
- (x) Fee Status Assessment Policy for Applicants and Enrolled Students (Student Admissions)
- (xi) Degree Outcome Statement 2024/25
- (xii) King's/SUSTech joint programmes: proposed regulatory framework
- (xiii) RADA Academic Regulations 24/25
- (xiv) The Inns of Court College of Advocacy Academic Regulations 24/25
- (xv) Complaints Policy
- (xvi) PGT External Examiners Overview 22/23
- (xvii) Sunset Clause Policy
- (xviii) King's Digital Update
- (xix) Afe Babalola Centre for Transnational Education at King's
- (xx) Transforming Assessment for Students at King's (TASK)

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- (xxi) Higher Education Mental Health Implementation Taskforce: work underway at King's College London
 - (xxii) Access and Participation Plan (APP)
 - (xxiii) Community Charter
 - (xxiv) Continuous Enhancement Review overview
 - (xxv) College Teaching Fund: Innovations in teaching, assessment and feedback in the age of generative artificial intelligence
 - (xxvi) Periodic Programme Review reports
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7.2 Report of the Academic Board Operations Committee [AB-24-06-26-07.2]

The Chair of the Academic Board Operations Committee (ABOC) presented the report.

(i) Academic Board Membership and Faculty Numbers

The Committee had considered a wide range of options and recommended Option 7 as the optimal choice to better represent both research and early-career teaching/education staff, while achieving a more balanced representation across the faculties.

The College Secretary noted that while possible that opening the full range of academic staff seats to those with research-only contracts could result in a higher rate of turnover, it would be expected, as was currently the case for all those who stood for election to the Board, that candidates would only stand for election if they were aware that they would be able to serve a substantial part of a term.



The report was commended as both comprehensive and transparent in approach.

Decision:

That the proposals outlined in the report for amendments to allocation of academic staff seats on the Board, effective for the academic year 2024-25, be approved, and that Option 7 be recommended to Council for approval.

(ii) Assignment of Seats to the Centre for International Education & Languages

Decision:

- (i) That it be recommended to Council that the PACE membership of Academic Board be transferred to the Centre for International Education & Languages (CIEL), and that the number of seats allocated to CIEL on the Academic Board be maintained at three; and
- (ii) That it be recommended to Council that the ex officio seat originally allocated to the Executive Director of PACE be discontinued.

(iii) Education Governance Review

Decision:

That the proposed amendments to the College Education Committee processes, structure and terms of reference be recommended to Council for approval.

(iv) Discontinuation of the College International Committee, the College Service Committee and the College London Committee

Decision:

That it be recommended to Council that the College International Committee, the College Service Committee and the College London Committee, be discontinued.

All remaining items in the ABOC report had been **approved** or noted on the Unanimous Consent Agenda:

- (iv) College Research Committee Terms of Reference
- (v) Academic Board Elections

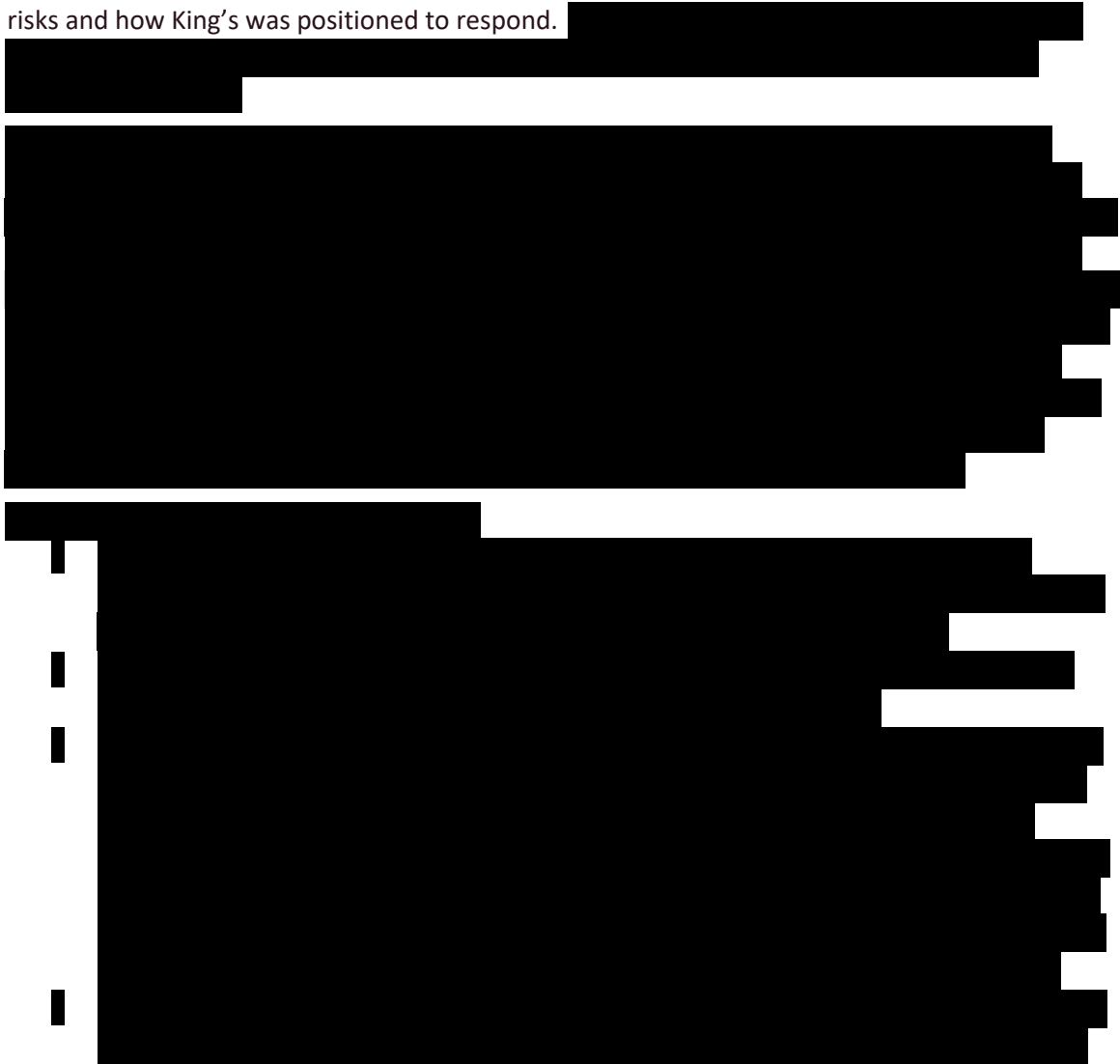
7.3 Report of the College Research Committee (CRC) [AB-24-04-17-07.3]

All items in the CRC report were noted on the Unanimous Consent Agenda:

- (i) Improvement of PGR Student Experience Across Faculties
- (ii) Data Science, AI and Strategy Update
- (iii) King’s Doctoral College Update
- (iv) Revised Research Publications Policy
- (v) Planning for REF 2029: Interim Code of Practice and Draft Open Access Consultation Response
- (vi) Research Culture

8. Financial health of the higher education sector and the impact on King’s academic strategy

The Vice President (Finance) presented his report, which was intended to aid shared understanding of the international student picture at King’s, key interdependences, associated risks and how King’s was positioned to respond.





9 Report of The Dean

9.1 Report of The Dean [AB-24-06-26-09.1]

The Dean noted that the subject of next AKC seminar was “why war – living with peace and conflict”, and students were encouraged to attend as it would be a good opportunity to ask questions about Israel and Gaza.

9.2 Election of Associates of King’s College (AKC) [AB-24-06-26-09.2]

Item approved on Consent.

10 Report from Council

Noted.

11 Any Other Business

The Chair thanked members whose term of membership ended on 31 July 2024 for their commitment to the Academic Board:

Professor Richard Trembath, who is stepping down as Senior Vice President Health & Life Sciences at the end of this academic year. (Professor Trembath had given his apologies for today’s meeting).

- Dr Hannah Crawforth (A&H)
- Professor Nick Harrison (A&H) (standing down)
- Professor Kim Piper (FoDOCS)
- Professor Jeremy Green (FoDOCS)
- Dr Jack Fosten (KBS)
- Dr Juan Baeza (KBS)
- Dr Manasi Nandi (FoLSM)
- Prof Luc Moreau (NMES)
- Tomas Maltby (SSPP – maternity cover)
- Dr Harriet Boulding (Research – A&S)

Student members:

Steven Suresh – KCLSU President
Sadaf Abbas Cheema – KCLSU VP Education A&S
Janvi Jagasia – KCLSU VP Education
Alizeh Abrar – KCLSU VP Postgraduate
Jenee Gardner – A&H
Jekaterina Polomarenko - FoDOCS
Emilia Britain - DPSoL
Mariana Ferreira Teixeira Da Silva - FoLSM
Navye Jain - NMES
Marie Martos - NMPC
Emil Galanides - IoPPN
Joep Lahaije – SSPP

There being no further other business, the meeting adjourned at 16:30.

Irene Birrell
College Secretary
June 2024