

Board of Trustees Minutes 5614 to 5671
(excluding confidential information at BTMM 5632, 5633, 5642-44 and 5649-50)

Welcome

5614 The Board noted that the Deputy Chair, Rosalyn Wilton, would chair the meeting, as Sir Richard Dearlove would need to leave before the meeting concluded.

5615 Members were welcomed to the meeting, in particular Steve Cannon, interim University Secretary, and Inger-Lise Moen, Head of Central Secretariat, who were attending their first Board of Trustees meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting on 24 November 2021

5616 The Board confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021.

Matters Arising

5617 Matters arising from the previous meeting were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Vice-Chancellor's Report

5618 Members noted the Vice-Chancellor's Report (BT1619, Confidential), including a list of the Vice-Chancellor's Main Activities and Meetings since 24 November 2021 (Appendix BT1619B). The following matters were highlighted:

- (i) The recent agreement by Collegiate Council that 'London Care Leavers' and 'London Scholars' awards should be implemented for the 2022-23 academic year, as part of the University's ongoing commitment to the social mobility of students in London. The awards would be open to young people living in London who wished to attend any of the University's Member Institutions, the Central Academic Bodies, or the intercollegiate Halls of Residence.
- (ii) An update on recent Office for Students (OfS) consultations. Members noted the University's response to the consultation on the proposed OfS Strategy for 2022-25 (Appendix BT1619A, Confidential). The University wasUnbe

continued elite performance of the University of London Boat Club;
broad membership of the club; and increased diversity of participation.

TEACHING, LEARNING AND RESEARCH

Report from the Academic Board

5619 The Board noted a report (BT1620) on matters considered and agreed by the Academic Board at its meeting on 2 December 2021.

5620 Further to a question about the process for the review of programmes, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International, Learning and Teaching) reported that a review was undertaken annually and that associated work was also being progressed as part of the Transformation Programme, considering both the academic portfolio and financial sustainability. Any resulting proposals would be considered *via* the appropriate governance processes.

Annual Academic Quality Assurance Report

5621 The Associate Director: Quality joined the meeting for the duration of the item.

5622 The Board considered the Annual Academic Quality Assurance Report (BT1621) which covered the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years, including the following information which had been appended to the report:

(i)

FINANCE

Internal Audit Contract Award Recommendation

- 5627 Abdul Bhanji declared an interest in the item, having recently finished a consultancy role with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) on 31 December 2021. He did not, therefore, contribute to the discussion.
- 5628 The Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC), Andrew Ratcliffe, informed the Board that he had declared to the ARAC that he was a former partner at PwC. As he was now independent of PwC, since stepping down from his role as partner in 2015, the Committee had agreed that his previous role did not give rise to conflict. He had served as invigilator to the tender evaluation panel.
- 5629 The Director of Finance and Planning introduced the report on the internal audit contract award recommendation (BT1623, Confidential) outlining the tender evaluation process. Members noted the summary of the compliant tender returns and the final evaluation following post-tender clarification and interview. The Board was informed that the tender evaluation panel had unanimously recommended the appointment of PwC as the University's Internal Auditors. The ARAC had considered the proposal at its meeting on 18 January 2022 and had been content to recommend it to the Board for approval.

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Update on CoSector

- 5634 The Head of Software Services, CoSector and the Transformation Consultant, CoSector joined the meeting for the item.
- 5635 The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Finance and Operations) gave a presentation further to the request at the previous meeting for an update on CoSector (BTMM 5583-84 refer), including: details of CoSector's annual turnover for the different areas of business; the proportion of higher education institutions using its services; information for planned organic growth over the scope of its Business Plan to 2026-27; a 'SWOT' (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis; and further plans.
- 5636 Further to queries regarding the current review of CoSector's priorities, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Finance and Operations) highlighted CoSector's potential, which was the key driver for the current review; its positive trajectory; and its contribution to the University.
- 5637 The Head of Software Services, CoSector and the Transformation Consultant, CoSector left the meeting at the end of the item.

OfS Annual Financial Return

- 5638 The Director of Finance and Planning presented a report (BT1625, Confidential) on the 2020-21 Financial Return Workbook (ent)25 Td [(06-5, (10)510.55 0-5E

HUMAN RESOURCES

Annual Report of the Health and Safety Committee for 2020-21

5652 The Board received the Health and Safety Committee's Annual Report for 2020-21 (BT1630 and Appendix BT1630A, Confidential). The Chair of the Health and Safety Committee, Stuart Reid, pointed out that this was the first annual report since the Committee had been reconstituted in 2021 and followed the format introduced in 2019, providing a summary of health and safety performance and activity for® ' f o f ® andA

New Year Honours 2022

5668 The Board noted a report on recent honours (BT1637), including awards in