# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, 23 November 2022, at 4.00 pm
in the Court Room, Senate House

# MINUTES

| PRESENT | Jane Andrewartha |
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| | Colin Bailey |
| | Josette Bushell-Mingo |
| | Frances Corner |
| | Richard Dearlove (Chair) |
| | Patrick Dunne |
| | Andrew Halper |
| | Paul Layzell |
| | Kieran Murphy |
| | Andrew Ratcliffe (for BTMM 5941-5977) |
| | Christopher Rossbach |
| | Kavita Reddi |
| | Michael Spence |
| | Wendy Thomson (for BTMM 5941-6016) |
| | Rosalyn Wilton (Deputy Chair) |
| IN ATTENDANCE | Rita Akushie (Pro Vice-Chancellor (Finance and Operations)) (for BTMM 5941-6016) |
| | Simon Cain (Director of Human Resources) |
| | Damaris Currie (Central Secretariat) (for BTMM 5941- |

**Declarations of Interest**

5941    During the course of the meeting, the following interests were declared:

(i)      Kavita Reddi declared an interest in relation to the Report from the Investments Committee (BTMM 5999-6003 refer).

(ii)     Michael Spence declared an interest as a member of the Board of the Office for Students (OfS).

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(excluding confidential information at BTMM 5949, 5964, 5990-91, 5993-98,
6000-03, 6008, and 6010-11)
Worldwide (UoLW) Transformation Programme which was being progressed across three key areas: Infrastructure; Education and Student Outcomes; and Partnerships, each with several workstreams ×·×

5948   Members noted the update on the Library Transformation Programme.  A more detailed update on this project would be presented to the Board in the Spring Term 2023.

*Enquiry Management in UoLW*

*Information at BTM 5949 is considered exempt from disclosure in accordance with Part II of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

5949   Members were updated on the work being progressed within UoLW to deal with an accumulation of student enquiries. A significant proportion of the enquiries had been closed [   ]. The Board was informed of the processes now in place to help ensure that the overall number of enquiries was maintained at a manageable level. This would continue to be closely monitored by the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Group.

*Pro Vice-Chancellor (Partnerships and Governance)*

5950   The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Partnerships and Governance) highlighted two key areas of recent activity:

(i)      A new programme of major University events being planned for 2023, including high-profile speakers who would deliver lectures, take part in debates and attend roundtable discussions on issues of interest to the University, such as: international relations; the future of London; equality and inclusion; distance and digital learning; and public service leadership.

(ii)     A new plan being developed to enhance engagement and communications with the Federation Member Institutions. This would include ng ew -25.03 -1.3 Td  (Td  310 (5.3)-10 (newwUc-16 K1.39 0 Td  ( )Tj  0720

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5952   The Director of Human Resources (HR) reported that the Universities and
       Colleges Employers Association (UCEA), had, following discussions with the
       higher education (HE) sector, signalled to the Unions, a willingness to open
       the 2023-24 pay negotiation round earlier than usual, in an effort to avoid an
       escalation of industrial action. It was noted that Universities UK (UUK) was
       leading the sector response in relation to pensions.

5953   Members noted that UNISON was re-balloting members at 49 HE employers
       (and their associated subsidiaries and private companies) including the
       University, in its dispute over the national HE pay award for 2022-23.  The
       ballot for University of London members would open on 30 November and
       close on 21 December 2022. The Board would be updated at its next meeting.

**Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee for 2021-2022 for
the Board of Trustees and the Accountable Officer**

5954   The Chair of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC), Andrew
       Ratcliffe, presented the Annual Report of the ARAC for 2021-22 (BT1726,
       Confidential), including the Terms of Reference of the Committee (BT1726,
       Appendix 1) and the Uniac Internal Audit Annual Report (BT1726, Appendix
       2).  Members noted

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5959  **AGREED**

(i)      The Board concurred with the conclusion that the going concern basis
         was appropriate and there were no material uncertainties.

(ii)     The Board approvre

5967 The complexity of the Financial Return was commented upon and, in this context, the need for the Board to take assurance from officers' verification of the information provided and the scrutiny of the return undertaken by the Finance Committee.

5968 **<u>AGREED</u>**
The Board of Trustees:

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6000-03, 6008, and 6010-11)

5974　Members supported the view of VCEG that it should be made clear to Member Institutions that the University encouraged the use of the University of London degree. This could be communicated as part of the process of informal engagement with Member Institutions ahead of any formal notification by them of the intention to exercise their own DAPs.

5975　**AGREED**

(i)　　The Board approved that the University move away from the requirement for the Member Institutions to submit an application to the Collegiate Council and obtain formal approval by the Board of Trustees in order for them to exercise their DAPs. Instead, Member Institutions would be invited to submit a slimmed down statement to the Collegiate Council and Board of Trustees confirming their intention to exercise their DAPs or vary their application of their DAPs.

(ii)　　The Board approved that a review of, and amendments to, Ordinance 9 in respect of the points addressed in the paper 12er(h)1.2 0e  f*  E  [(O)2 (r)20.9[(b

student average for England of 82%. It was noted that, as discussed previously, the sector averages were largely reflective of campus-based part-time study and blended learning as the NSS did not distinguish between different modes of teaching, and that there were no direct comparators in terms of UK providers.  The UoLW students included in the 2022 NSS represented a very small percentage of the overall UoLW student population and therefore variations in responses could have a significant impact.  Members noted the importance of implementing the recommendations identified as being of highest priority in terms of improving student satisfaction for the 2022-23 academic year, and the progress being made in relation to one of these, enquiry management, as highlighted earlier in the meeting (BTM 5949 above refers).

5980 **AGREED**

(i)      The Board of Trustees confirmed assurance on academic quality and standards, and the integrity of University of London academic qualifications.

(ii)     The Board agreed that future reports should include closer reporting against the OfS conditions of registration.  This should, however, not be the only area of focus for the reports which should also aim to provide assurance on academic quality and process.

**Update on Assessments 2023**

5981   The Managing Director, UoLW introduced a report on the proposed methodology for conducting examinations from the summer of 2023 onwards (BT1733, Confidential). The Managing Director, UoLW outlined the recommended approaches for the conduct of examinations, as listed in the report, explaining that these had been supported by VCEG and were informed by detailed evaluations of the 2022 examinations with specific reference to student and examiner feedback as well as the views of both UK and overseas regulators.  The Board noted the report and the information that had been provided to give assurance on the robustness of the methodology and approach for conducting examinations from the summer of 2023.

5982   The Board was informed that survey data for 2022 showed that a significant majority of the candidates who had responded had welcomed the convenience of taking online exam

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**Prevent Duty Accountability and Data Return for 2021-22**
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