

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

at the Fiftieth Meeting of the

COUNCIL OF THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

The Fiftieth Meeting of the Council was held in The Council Room, 170 Queen's Gate, South Kensington Campus at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday 16 February 2017, when there were present:

Sir Philip Dilley (Chair), Professor N. Alford, Mr. N. Andriopoulos, Mr. C. Brinsmead, Mr. I. Conn, Mr. J. Cullen, Professor A. Gast (President), Professor J. Magee, Ms. S. Murray, Ms. A. Nimmo, Professor J. Sanders, Mr. M. Sanderson, Professor G. Screaton, Professor J. Stirling (Provost), Professor T. Welton, and Mr. J. Neilson (Clerk to the Court and Council).

Apologies

Mr. T. Courtauld, Ms. R. Lomax, Professor N. Phillips, Dr. M. Safa and Mr. C. Williams.

In attendance

Mr. J. Hancock (Assistant Clerk to the Court and Council).

ITEM 1 – MINUTES

Council – 25th November 2016

1. The Minutes of the forty-ninth meeting of the Council, held on Friday 25th November 2016, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

ITEM 2 – CHAIR'S REPORT (PAPER B)

2. The Chair noted that a number of members had been unable to attend this meeting and the following Away Day on 17th February because the meetings had been scheduled in half-term week. In order to avoid a similar clash next year the Council Dinner and Meeting in February 2018 would now be held on 22nd and 23rd February, rather than 15th and 16th February as originally scheduled.
3. The Chair reported that the Nominations Committee had identified a preferred candidate to succeed Dame Ruth Carnall as the Council member with expertise in health and the NHS. Although the candidate was willing to join the Council, he was consulting with the Chairs of

the other boards on which he was a member to make sure any potential conflicts of interest could be managed. The Chair said that the Nominations Committee would make a recommendation to the Council as soon as these issues had been resolved.

ITEM 3 – PRESIDENT’S REPORT

4. The President reminded members that governing bodies had been given a new responsibility this year to review the College’s annual provider return relating to the student academic experience and student outcomes, and that the first such return had been approved by the Council at its last meeting in November. She was pleased to report that HEFCE had not identified any issues or concerns with the College’s return, and she thanked Professor Sanders for his assistance in scrutinising the return prior to submission.
5. The President then reported on the Industry Partners event which had been held in January to discuss how to maintain mobility for talented individuals, and the UK industrial strategy. The College had acted as the convenor for the discussion, and a wide range of industrial partners from across a variety of sectors had been represented at the event. The discussion had been very fruitful, and the College had agreed to convene another similar event for its industrial partners in a few months’ time. The President had also been invited to join the Mayor, Sadiq Khan’s, Brexit Expert Advisory Panel, advising him on Brexit and its implications for London. The College had also been well represented at the recent World Economic Forum event in Davos. The College was increasing its level of engagement with the World Economic Forum’s online presence, and in particular was now coordinating its RSS newsfeeds with the World Economic Forum’s feeds. This was likely to raise the College’s profile with World Economic Forum members, and other interested parties.
6. Finally, the President advised members that some taught postgraduate students at the College had been caught by US visa requirements for students travelling to the US on field trips that formed part of credit-bearing courses. In the short term, a proposed field trip to Utah had been relocated to the Pyrenees for this year so as to avoid students on the course having a problem with their US visas.

ITEM 4 – PROVOST’S REPORT

7. The Provost, Professor James Stirling, reminded members that from August 2017 Imperial College would become ‘smoke-free’, and that from that date there would be no smoking allowed on any College campuses and properties (with very limited exceptions). The decision would be communicated to the staff community on 17th February. Copies of the all-staff message were tabled for Council members’ information.
8. With great sadness, the Provost reported that an MSc student in the Department of

Computing had passed away on Monday 30th January 2017. Appropriate support had been offered to the student's friends in the department, and the College was in touch with the student's parents. The funeral had been held on Friday 10th February, and a number of people from the College had attended, including one of the College Tutors and the director of the MSc course.

ITEM 5 – CENTRAL LIBRARY - COOLING & VENTILATION IMPROVEMENT WORKS (PAPER B)

9. The Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Muir Sanderson, introduced Paper B. The proposed works to the Library's cooling and ventilation systems would provide better environmental conditions and improve the student experience. It was strongly supported by the Students' Union.

Resolved:

That the Central Library Cooling & Ventilation Improvement Works Project, as set out in Paper B, be approved at a total cost of £11.5M.

ITEM 6 – ENDOWMENT BOARD, NON-CORE PROPERTY PORTFOLIO (PAPER C)

10. Mr. Sanderson introduced Paper C. He reminded the Council that the Endowment Board had been reviewing the assets it held as it moved towards a more traditionally structured endowment. Its review of its property assets had identified four properties that had been subject to strategic restrictions when they transferred to the Endowment. The Endowment was now recommending that two be returned to the College for management as 'related ventures', and that the strategic restriction be lifted from the remaining two properties.
11. Members queried why 52 Prince's Gate was not considered to be 'strategic' given its proximity to the rest of the South Kensington Campus, with all its space issues. Mr. Sanderson said this had been debated at length by the Endowment; 52 Prince's Gate was not ideal for academic use, and its absolute monetary value meant that its sale or exploitation could provide a better return to the College than if it was used for academic activities. Removing the strategic restriction did not mean that the Endowment would sell these properties, it simply gave them the option to do so.
12. It was agreed that, as a proviso to the removal of the strategic restriction on these properties, if the Endowment did decide to dispose of either of them, the College should be given first refusal rights to 'purchase' the properties before they were put on the open market.

Resolved:

- (i) That the transfer of the Ethos Sports Centre flats and the Secret Garden Cottage from the Endowment to the College, as set out in Paper C, be approved.**
- (ii) That the removal of the strategic restrictions on the South Kensington properties in the Non-Core Property portfolio, Cornerstone and 52 Prince's Gate, as set out in Paper C, be approved.**
- (iii) That the College would be given a first refusal option to purchase the Cornerstone and 52 Prince's Gate properties before either or both were placed on the open market, if at any time in the future the Endowment determined that either or both properties should be sold.**

ITEM 7 – IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION BYE-LAWS (PAPER D)

13. The Council received Paper D, and were reminded that the Imperial College Union's Constitution required that any changes to the Constitution or the Union's Bye-Laws must also be approved by the Council before they can take effect.

Resolved:

That the amendments to the Imperial College Bye-laws, as set out in Paper D, be approved.

ITEM 8 - UPDATE ON THE COLLEGE STRATEGY 2015-2020 (PAPER E)

14. The President presented Paper E, and reminded members that, when the Strategy had been approved in 2015, it had included a statement of goals to define 'what excellence would look like' in 2020, together with an assessment of how the College currently rated against those definitions. In preparing this update for the Council, the President's Executive Group had revisited those ratings.
15. It was suggested that the President's Executive Group had taken quite a hard view of the College's performance in revising these ratings, although members agreed it was appropriate for them to do so. It was also suggested that the definition of excellence in relation to informing decision makers and influencing policy agreed in 2015 might be unrealistic. The College's influence would only be apparent if decisions made by policy makers reflected the views expressed by the College in private; it was very unlikely that any advice offered by the College would be cited, or acknowledged, publicly.

16. Members thanked the President for the update on the Strategy, and it was agreed that this had been a very useful exercise.

ITEM 9 – REMUNERATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (PAPER F)

17. The Chair presented Paper F and highlighted the varied issues considered by the Committee during the year. With regard to the President's objectives, the Chair said that he had agreed with her that these would in future be shared in confidence with the external members of the Council.
18. It was noted that the Committee had reviewed information on equal pay, and had received additional information on the processes conducted across the College to provide equal pay for work of equal value. Members also noted that the new Gender Pay Gap Information Regulations were due to come into force on 6 April 2017, and that all organisations would then be required to publish information about their gender pay gap results. Professor Stirling said that the College monitored this carefully, and had undertaken a detailed analysis of gender pay issues as part of its submission for Athena SWAN Silver Award recognition last year. Although the overall picture was generally positive, there were nuances at a more detailed level that would need careful explanation. As there were relatively small numbers of staff at some grades, the equal pay position at those grades could change significantly with just one or two changes in personnel during a year. He also said that the College was planning to introduce a new salary structure intended to support equal pay for work of equal value. The President said that staffing and people issues, including pay, was proposed as the theme for the Council Away Day in 2018.

ITEM 10 – FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT (PAPER G)

19. Mr. Sanderson presented Paper G, which was received for information.

ITEM 11 – MAJOR PROJECTS REPORT (PAPER H)

20. Paper H was received for information.

ITEM 12 – STAFF MATTERS (PAPER I)

21. Paper I was received for information.

ITEM 13 – SENATE REPORT (PAPER J)

22. Paper J was received for information.

ITEM 14 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

23. There was none.

NEXT MEETING

24. The Chair reminded members that the next meeting would be held on Friday 12 May 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the recently refurbished City & Guilds Building at the South Kensington Campus, and that this would be preceded by a Council Dinner on Thursday 11 May 2017.