

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

at the seventy-fourth meeting of the

COUNCIL OF THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

The seventy-fourth meeting of the Council was held in the Dyson Ground Floor Lecture Room at 10 am on Tuesday Friday 17 September 2021, when there were present:

Mr J. Allan (Chair), Mr. C Brinsmead, Mr. T. Courtauld, Professor R. Craster, Mr J. Cullen, Professor A. Gast (President), Mr L. James, Mr. R. Kalifa, Professor Sir L. Borysiewicz, Professor J. Mestel, Ms. S. Murray, Dr. M. Safa, Professor J. Sanders, Mr. M. Sanderson, Professor F. Veloso, Professor I. Walmsley (Provost), Professor J. Weber, Mr. C. Williams, and Mr. M. Edwards.

In attendance

Mr. B. Alexander (Item 3.3), Professor S. Curry (Item 3.2), Ms R. Knight (Assistant Clerk to the Court and Council), Mr T, Orchard (Item 3.3), Professor N Shah (Item 3.1), Ms A. Wolthuizen.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, particularly Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz and Professor Jonathan Mestel who were attending their first meeting. Apologies were received from Professor Nigel Brandon and Sir Jonathan Michael.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

2. Council received the minutes from the meetings held on 16th and 27th July 2021.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the seventy-second and seventy-third meetings of the Council, held on

16 and 27 July 2021, be approved.

3. There were no matters arising to note.

CHAIR, PRESIDENT AND PROVOST REPORTS

Chair's Report

4. Since the last meeting, on 12 August 2021, the Chair had agreed an unlimited indemnity clause in the NHS data access and sharing renewal agreement by Chair's action. The agreement was essential to the College's medical research, including the COVID REACT study.

President's Report (Paper 2.2)

5. The President, Professor Alice Gast, presented her report and dashboard. She summarised recent changes in government ministerial portfolios and their potential impact on the College.
6. Council received a presentation and update on the Dangoor plaza.

Provost's Report (Paper 2.3)

7. The Provost, Professor Ian Walmsley, presented his report. He confirmed measures were in place to ensure that in person teaching and learning could resume safely. These included the development of protocols regarding covid testing, facemasks, registering vaccination status with the CCT hub, and encouraging vaccinations.
8. Council discussed changes in income trends, including the impact of the pandemic on charity research spend, and the subsequent impact on competition for academic research funds. Whilst this was expected to recover, it was creating short term challenges.

MAJOR DISCUSSION ITEMS

History Group Recommendations (Paper 3.1)

9. The Chair welcomed the Chair of the History Group, Professor Nilay Shah, to the meeting. Further to the discussions at the July meeting of Council, it was confirmed that the History Group Report would be published in October. Council had been provided with the draft report to enable them to provide advice in support of the approach and to help the Executive navigate the community dialogue they were launching.
10. The report uncovered missing information about the College's history, particularly some individuals that have been overlooked and should be celebrated, as well as a relatively small number of important findings, where activities and teaching associated with key namesakes are no longer compatible with the values and culture of a twenty-first century global institution. The context was important, but the Group was motivated by ensuring that all members of the community felt a sense of belonging, with no stark reminders that caused them discomfort.
11. In discussion, the importance of transparency was emphasized, both in the context of the proposed consultation, and in future philanthropic decisions. Credibility would also be important, both academically but also for future students. Other institutions had made some missteps from which lessons had been learnt, particularly regarding the need to have an open dialogue that brings together differing views and experiences.

Equality and Diversity Annual Report (Paper 3.2)

12. Professor Stephen Curry, Associate Provost (EDI), was welcomed to the meeting.
13. Following a short presentation from Professor Curry which outlined progress to date and upcoming priority actions, members noted that remote learning and working had had a mixed impact on equality. Some minority groups had benefitted from being able to engage with studies or participate in conferences remotely, for example, people with autism had reported that they had thrived whilst working from home. Cross-College conversations had fostered innovation and ideas, despite challenges caused by a devolved structure. It was confirmed that personal development plans, including

academic promotion processes, provided an opportunity to be recognised for promoting EDI activities, including helping other ethnic minority academics. Council emphasized the importance of hiring role models and effectively rewarding those active in EDI matters.

14. One of the characteristics of the 2020-21 student intake was the increased number of students from under-represented groups. The census point to determine progress of this cohort was the number of students returning for the next year of their programme, which would be reported to Council at the February meeting alongside the Access and Participation Plan monitoring return.

College links with ICHT (Paper 3.3)

15. The Chair welcomed the Acting Chair, Mr Bob Alexander, and the CEO of ICHT, Prof Tim Orchard to the meeting. Noting that this was the first time that ICHT had attended Council, he recognised the importance of our partnership with them in training medical students and conducting medical research.
16. Council received a presentation, which outlined the development of the Trust and the relationship with the College, as well as a summary of current and upcoming challenges. The partnership would continue to be critical to providing stability in the sector given the upcoming NHS ICS organisational changes and pressures created by the pandemic, and to maintain the teaching, training, research and innovation agendas.
17. Council discussed risks related to the relationship, including the importance of collaboration, trust and alignment whilst recognising the autonomy of both organisations. The partnership required a strong framework to deliver the best healthcare for people in North West London. It was well known that COVID had created challenges for NHS Trusts. Council were assured that medical students continued to have access to teaching clinicians, although the emotional impact on students of being on the front line had been hard.
18. The Chair of Council thanked Mr Alexander and Professor Orchard for their time, and the shared commitment to the partnership. ICHT were invited back to Council in a

years' time.

Faculty of Medicine Strategy (Paper 3.4)

19. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Jonathan Weber, presented his paper, which set out a strategic 5-year programme, covering student numbers, estates and facilities, EDI ambitions and maximising partnerships. Each Department strategy was tailored to its own strengths and opportunities, exemplified by the new School of Public Health Building in White City, which provided an unparalleled opportunity for engagement with the local community in public health.
20. Council recognised that some of the challenges and opportunities were unique to the Faculty and noted that external partnerships were central to the implementation of the strategy.

College Strategy – refreshed growth and vision plan (Paper 3.5)

21. The Provost presented his paper which provided an update on the academic vision and growth plan for the next decade of the College's education, research, and translation activities. The February awayday would explore the estates strategy in more depth.

Any Other Business

22. The Chair noted that this was the last meeting for Mr Chris Brinsmead, who retired from Council at the end of the month. Mr Brinsmead was thanked for his commitment to the College since he joined Council in 2013, having served in a number of roles, including as Chair of Finance Committee.
23. The next meeting would be held on Friday 26th November 2021, preceded by the Court and Council dinner the prior evening.

ACTION: Future Council meetings to begin at 9.30 am.

The meeting closed at 1.10 pm