

Minutes of the proceedings at the first Meeting of the Court of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine

The First Meeting of the Court of Imperial College was held in Room 164, Skempton Building, South Kensington Campus at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, 11th May 2012.

Present:

Baroness Manningham-Buller (Chairman), Professor I.M. Adcock, Dr. M. Al-Memar, Dr. E. Barry, Ms. J. Bennett, Ms. A. Blake, Professor D. Bradley, Dr. A. Brown, Mr. P. Brown, Dr. P. Burrows, Mr. T.H. Cheong, Dr. K. Chow, Mr. H. Common, Mrs. P. Coultie, Dr. S. Cosgrove, Emeritus Professor A. Cummings, Professor M. Dallman, Mr. P. Dille, Dr. J.B. Edel, Mr. A. Emech, Dr. W. Ewart, Mr. T. Fairhead, Sir Robert Finch, Dr. I.W. Foulkes, Mr. P. Garwood, Dr. L. Gordon, Professor D. Griffiths, Mr. M. Heath, Professor Dame Julia Higgins, Mr. J. Holmes, Professor H. Huppert, Dr. C. Ince, Mr. D. Kingsbury, Professor J. Kramer, Dr. V. Lawrence, Dr. D. Lodge, Ms. R. Lomax, Professor J. Magee, Mr. N. Massie, Ms. C. Matterson, Sir Alan Munro, Mr. J. Newsum, Mr. S. Newton, Ms. J. Norrington, Dr. L. O'Toole, Ms. K. Owen, Mr. J. Parmar, Mr. T. Peat, Professor J. Person, Mr. K. Porter, Mr. P. Read, Professor S.R. Richardson, Mr. R. Rhys-Jones, Cllr. R. Robathan, Mr. M. Roth, Mr. M. Sanderson, Professor M. Swindells, Mr. J. Szemalikowski, Dr. P. Thompson, Dr. D. Wilbraham, Mr. N. Williams, the President & Rector and the Clerk to the Court and Council.

In Attendance:

The Head of Communications, the Communications Development Assistant and the Assistant Clerk to the Court and Council.

Apologies:

Mr. E. Astle, Mr. D. Bott, Professor J. Buckingham, Dr. S. Buckle, Ms. L. Chothia, Ms. D. Crassa, Dr. M. Dixon, Cllr. S. Greenhalgh, Mr. P. Hamilton, Mr. C. Jones, Ms. H. Mayfield, Professor Sir Anthony Newman Taylor, and Ms. P. Travis.

Before the formal meeting of the Court, members were invited to attend one of three discussions sessions:

Education

The Education Session, led by Professors Andrew George and Denis Wright focussed on the student experience. Court members discussed how to ensure students gain professional and transferable skills, and reviewed the proposed list of attributes that Imperial graduates should hold.

Research

The Research session was led by Professor Donal Bradley, Pro-Rector for Research. The session focussed on the topic of graduate training, in particular the purpose of a PhD, the number of PhD students trained in the UK and PhD funding. The group also discussed the investment involved in training PhD students and issues surrounding this, such as how to continue attracting the best

students including more from overseas, for example through scholarship provision.

Enterprise

The Enterprise session was led by Dr Sarah Shepley, Director of Imperial Business Partners. The session focussed on the Enterprise Group's key goal to provide commercial capabilities that support the College's core mission, particularly in knowledge transfer, and that help generate additional income. Dr Shepley also discussed Imperial Business Partners (IBP), the College's new forum to support and improve academic-business collaboration. IBP aims to broaden and deepen the links between Imperial and its major industry partners, and support the evolution of a new model for collaboration.

WELCOME

1. The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the reconfigured Court. The Court was intended to act as a Stakeholder body and it was hoped that the Court would help Imperial to engage with representatives from a variety of important areas, including alumni, funders, employers, schools, local authorities, professional bodies and partner institutions. It was hoped the Court would take a strong interest in the health and future of the College and she invited members to make suggestions for how the College could develop and also how the Court could be improved.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COURT (PAPER A)

2. Paper A was received for information.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

3. The Chief Financial Officer, Mr Muir Sanderson, gave a presentation on the College's Financial Statements for 2011 and the College's financial position and priorities. Although the College's financial position was good, its endowment was relatively small in comparison to its peers in the UK and the US. If it was to continue to invest in its future and maintain its position as one of the top universities in the world, the College would need a much larger endowment. It was expected that fundraising would be a major priority for the next President & Rector and the College hoped to be in the position to launch a major fundraising campaign on three or four years time.

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT & RECTOR

4. The President & Rector, Professor Sir Keith O'Nions gave a presentation to the Court on the challenges facing the College, its response to these and its strategic priorities for future development. He highlighted in particular the College's plans for the development of Imperial West, the new campus it was building in the White City area; its collaboration with the Francis Crick Institute; the creation of Imperial Health Partners in NW London and the need to grow the College's endowment fund. Sir Keith concluded his report with an explanation of the College's decision to appoint a separate President and Provost governance model.

5. The President & Rector was asked about the balance of home and overseas students at the College. He noted that 46% of students were originally from outside the UK. The numbers of

Chinese students had increased greatly in recent years, but the College still had a very wide and healthy spread of nationalities represented in both its student and staff bodies. Another issue was the balance between undergraduate and postgraduate students. Postgraduate numbers had also increased in recent years and it was noted that many employers were now moving to postgraduate recruitment. For the College, it was important not to become over-dependent on a single group or type of students.

6. In response to a question about the Business School and its place within the College the President & Rector said it was expanding rapidly and was attracting high quality staff and students. It had shown a real intent to integrate with the other faculties, as demonstrated by its programmes in healthcare management and its research collaborations with the Faculty of Engineering.

7. The development of different teaching methods and particularly e-learning was raised. It was suggested that students had previously had to come to university to access the best teachers, but that this paradigm was changing. In future, the internet would allow the best teachers to deliver material to students wherever they were. The President & Rector said it was clear that teaching methods would change profoundly over the next ten years. The College was looking at this carefully and was piloting the use of e-learning and social media and other formats on certain courses. However, he suggested that in STEM subjects students would still need to come to university to use state of the art laboratories and workshops that could not be provided elsewhere.

8. Concluding his report, Sir Keith O’Nions said that the College was in good health, but was realistic about the future. He then invited the members of the Court to attend the opening of the first Imperial Festival