

Minutes of the proceedings at the 2014 Meeting of the Court of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine

The 2014 Meeting of the Court of Imperial College was held in the Queen's Tower Rooms, Sherfield Building, South Kensington Campus at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, 9th May 2014.

Present:

Baroness Manningham-Buller (Chair), Dr. M. Al-Memar, Ms. T. Batten, Ms. A. Blake, Professor D. Bradley, Dr. A. Brown, Mr. P. Brown, Dame Ruth Carnall, Dr. L. Chow, Mr. H. Common, Dr. S. Cosgrove, Dr. J.B. Edel, Mr. T. Fairhead, Professor D. Gann, Mr. P. Garwood, Mr. D. Goldsmith, Professor N. Gooderham, Mr. J. Holmes, Professor D. Humphris, Dr. C. Ince, Ms. V. Joliffe, Professor D. Kelleher, Ms. N. Kempston, Mr. D. Kingsbury, Ms. M. Lewis, Mrs. L. Lindsay, Dr. D. Lodge, Professor A. Macdonald, Professor J. Magee, Mr. T. Miller, Professor R. Parker, Mr. K. Porter, Mr. P. Read, Mr. R. Rhys-Jones, Professor S.R. Richardson, Mr. M. Sanderson, Professor J. Stirling, Dr. Peter Thompson, Dr. Paul Thompson, the President & Rector and the Clerk to the Court and Council.

In Attendance:

The Assistant Clerk to the Court and Council.

Apologies:

Professor I. Adcock, Professor A. Anandalingam, Dr. E. Barry, Mr. T. Bell, Mr. C. Brinsmead, Dr. P. Burrows, Ms. L. Chothia, Mr. I. Conn, Mrs. P. Couttie, Ms. D. Crassa, Emeritus Professor A. Cummings, Professor M. Dallman, Mr. P. Dilley, Dr. M. Dixon, Mr. A. Emecz, Sir Robert Finch, Dr. I.W. Foulkes, Dr. L. Gordon, Cllr. S. Greenhalgh, Mr. P. Hamilton, Mr. S. Harding-Roots, Professor Dame Julia Higgins, Professor H. Huppert, Mr. C. Jones, Dr. V. Lawrence, Ms. R. Lomax, Ms. C. Matterson, Sir Alan Munro, Mr. J. Newsum, Mr. S. Newton, Ms. J. Norrington, Dr. L. O'Toole, Ms. K. Owen, Professor J. Pearson, Mr. T. Peat, Cllr. R. Robathan, Mr. M. Roth, Mr. J. Szemalikowski, Mr. H. C. Tan, Ms. P. Travis, Dr. D. Wilbraham, Mr. N. Williams and Professor R. Vinter.

WELCOME

1. The Chair welcomed new members of the Court to their first meeting.

MINUTES

2. The Minutes of the Meeting of the Court held on 3rd May 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE COURT

3. The President & Rector gave a presentation to the Court on the opportunities and challenges facing the College. He highlighted in particular the College's latest plans for the development of the Imperial West Campus and the progress being made with the Research and Translation Hub, as well as the growing number of companies making use of incubation and acceleration space at South Kensington and Imperial West. He also reported on recent research and education highlights, including the College's new Data Science Institute and the opening in August 2013 of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine in Singapore. Other issues noted by the President & Rector included the redesignation of the Imperial College Academic Health Science Centre, which had had its status reconfirmed for a further five years by the Department of Health, and record increases in philanthropic support for the College this year. Closing his report, the President & Rector was pleased to highlight the recognition gained by the College for promoting women in science. In 2013, the College had been awarded an institutional silver Athena Swan award; one of only three universities to be so recognised. In addition, the Chemistry Department had become only the fourth university department to gain the prestigious Athena Swan gold award.

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. The Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Muir Sanderson, presented the College's Financial Statements for 2012-13 and then gave a presentation on the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) process and how this was used by the Government to assess universities' financial performance.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ROYAL CHARTER (PAPER A)

5. The Clerk presented Paper A and said that the proposed revisions to the Charter and Statutes were intended to reflect the College's new President and Provost governance model. He reminded members that changes to the Charter had to be passed by the Court as well as by the Council before they could be submitted to the Privy Council for final approval. The only substantive change to the Royal Charter was the change of "Rector" to "President".

Resolved: That this Court, in pursuance of Article 23 of the Royal Charter, hereby approves the amendments to the Royal Charter, as set out in Paper A.

CENTRES FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING "HOW DO YOU DELIVER MODERN DOCTORAL TRAINING"

6. The Provost, Professor James Stirling, gave a presentation on Doctoral Training Centres (CDTs) to the Court. CDTs aimed to provide a supportive and exciting environment for EPSRC and ESRC funded PhD students with the intention of producing scientists, engineers

and leaders with the capabilities to tackle societal challenges. PhD students in CDTs studied for 4 years and were also provided with technical and transferrable skills training as part of a cohort of students working in a theme-based centre. In its second round of funding in January 2014, the EPSRC had announced funding for 91 CDTs across the Country, 12 of which were at Imperial (the highest number at any one university). Although there were clear benefits in the CDT model, there were also challenges, including the need to balance CDT-style training and more flexible ('best student/best project') PhD funding; recruiting sufficient numbers of qualified home and EU students, given the 10% cap on international students; and finding dedicated space in College for the CDT students and their training needs.

7. Professor Stirling was asked if the College would be able to recruit sufficient students for all its CDTs. He said that full recruitment in the first year of operation might be challenging. However, there was some flexibility to accommodate additional numbers in later years so this could be balanced out. It was noted that the first cohort of students with £9000 fees would be graduating next year. It was not clear that they would then want to take on a further four years of study for a PhD. Members were informed that the four-year PhD programme included a year of MRes training, which would run in parallel with the College's Masters programme. It was also noted that the College currently had a range of PhD programmes lasting between 3 and 4 years in addition to the CDT scheme. This flexibility was seen as a positive mix for the College.
8. It was suggested that the collaboration with industry that was a fundamental feature of CDTs provided another advantage. These links provided additional funding for the programmes as well as giving students a clear career path. It was noted that the CDT themes were all multi-disciplinary in nature. Professor Stirling was asked if this would have a detrimental impact on more traditional PhD programmes in single-subject disciplines. Professor Stirling reminded members that extra funding was being provided for CDTs so there would be an overall increase in the numbers of PhD students. There was still plenty of scope for students to study in traditional disciplines as well as in CDTs.
9. Bringing the meeting to a close, the Chair invited the members of the Court to take part in one of three discussion groups and then to join her at the public opening of this year's Imperial College Festival. The three discussion groups were:
 - *Embracing New Approaches to Developing and Supporting Research Impact*, led by Professor Donal Bradley, Vice Provost (Research) and Mr Mark Bambury, Research Impact Programme Manager
 - *STEM Careers - The Current Picture*, led by Elspeth Farrar, Director of Careers Service
 - *Corporate Engagement in Research and Entrepreneurship*, led by Dr Simon Hepworth, Head and Director of Corporate Partnerships.