

**Academic Board**

Meeting date 3 February 2021

Paper reference AB-21-02-03-03.2

Status Confirmed

Access Members and senior executives

FOI release Following approval by Academic Board, subject to redaction

FOI exemption None, subject to redaction for commercial interest or personal data

**Minutes - Approved**

Date 9 December 2020, 14.00

Location Remote Meeting held by MS Teams

Composition		Members	Attendance 2020-21					
			07.10.20	09.12.20	03.02.21	28.04.21	16.06.21	
<b>Ex officio</b>	President & Principal (Chair of Academic Board)	Professor Sir Edward Byrne	P	P				
	Senior Vice Presidents & Vice Presidents	SVP/Provost (Health) SVP/Provost (Arts & Sciences)	Professor Richard Trembath* Professor Evelyn Welch	P P	P P			
		VP (Education)	Professor Nicola Phillips	P	P			
		VP (International)	Dr 'Funmi Olonisakin	P	P			
		VP (Research)	Professor Reza Razavi	P	A			
		VP (Service)	Professor Bronwyn Parry	P	P			
		VP (London)	Baroness Bull	P	P			
		College Chaplain & Dean	Rev'd Canon Dr Ellen Clark-King	P	P			
		The President of the Students' Union	Salma Hussain	P	P			
		KCLSU Vice Presidents Education	Vice President for Education (Arts & Sciences)	Vatsav Soni	P	P		
			Vice President for Education (Health)	Aless Gibson	P	P		
			Vice President for Postgraduate	Heena Ramchandani	P	P		
		Executive Deans of Faculty	Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	Professor Ian Norman	P	A		
			Social Science and Public Policy	Professor Frans Berkhout	P	P		
			Dickson Poon School of Law	Professor Gillian Douglas	P	P		
			Arts and Humanities	Professor Marion Thain	A	P		
			Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience	Professor Ian Overall	P	P		
			King's Business School	Professor Stephen Bach	A	P		
			Natural and Mathematical Sciences	Professor Bashir Al-Hashimi	P	P		
			Life Sciences & Medicine	Professor Richard Trembath*	P	*		
	Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	Professor Mike Curtis	P	P				
	Dean for Doctoral Studies	Professor Rebecca Oakey	P	P				
<b>Elected Students</b>	One student from each faculty, split equally across UG/PGT/PGR	Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	John Imaghodor	v	A			
		Social Science and Public Policy	Bryan Strawser	v	P			
		Dickson Poon School of Law	Rebecca Seling	v	P			
		Arts and Humanities	Adam Roberts	v	P			
		Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience	Malikkca Kanoria	v	P			
		King's Business School	Raghav Bansal	v	P			
		Natural and Mathematical Sciences	Vacancy	v	v			
Life Sciences & Medicine	Bilyana Batsalova	v	P					
Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	Vacancy	v	v					

<b>Elected Staff</b>	Four academic staff members from each faculty (and five in the case of larger faculties) elected by and from the staff of each faculty.	Arts & Humanities (5 members)	Professor Anna Snaith	P	P				
			Dr Jessica Leech	P	P				
			Dr Simon Sleight	P	P				
			Professor Matthew Head	P	P				
			Professor Mark Textor	P	P				
		Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences (4 members)	Professor Kim Piper	P	P				
			Dr Barry Quinn	P	P				
			Dr Anitha Bartlett	P	P				
			Dr Ana Angelova	P	P				
			Professor Satvinder Juss	P	P				
	Dickson Poon School of Law (4 members)	Professor Alison Jones	P	P					
		Dr Federico Ortino	P	P					
		Dr Ewan McGaughey	P	P					
		Professor Satvinder Juss	P	P					
	King's Business School (4 members)	Crawford Spence	P	P					
		Dr Chiara Benassi	P	P					
		Professor Riccardo Peccei	P	P					
		Dr Susan Trenholm	A	P					
	Life Sciences & Medicine (5 members)	Dr Alison Snape	P	P					
		Dr Samantha Terry	P	A					
		Professor Maddy Parsons	P	P					
		Dr Baljinder Mankoo	P	P					
		Dr Susan Cox	P	P					
	Natural and Mathematical Sciences (4 members)	Professor Paula Booth	P	P					
		Professor David Burns	P	A					
		Professor Michael Kölling	P	P					
		Professor Sameer Murthy	P	P					
	Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care (4 members)	Dr Tommy Dickinson	A	A					
		Professor Jackie Sturt	P	P					
		Dr Julia Philippou	P	P					
		Irene Zeller	P	P					
	Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (5 members)	Professor Guy Tear	P	A					
	Dr Marija Petrinovic	P	P						
	Dr Yannis Paloyelis	P	P						
	Dr Eamonn Walsh	A	P						
	Professor Robert Hindges	P	P						
Social Science and Public Policy (5 members)	Professor Kerry Brown	P	P						
	Dr Rebekka Friedman	A	A						
	Dr Clare Herrick	A	P						
	Dr Ye Liu	P	P						
	Dr Jane Catford	P	P						
Three professional staff	Education Support	Syreeta Allen	v	P					
	Research Support	James Gagen	P	P					
	Service Support	Kat Thorne	P	P					
Two academic staff on research-only contracts	Arts and Sciences Faculties	Dr Hannah Murphy	P	P					
	Health Faculties	Dr Moritz Herle	v	P					

**In attendance:**

v= vacant post

Lynne Barker, Associate Director, Quality Standards & Enhancement

Darren Wallis, Executive Director, Students & Education Directorate

Chris Mottershead, Senior Vice President, Quality, Strategy & Innovation

Judy Raper, Dean and CEO TEDI-London (for item 6.4 – TEDI-London)

Tasnia Yasmin, KCLSU VP Community and Welfare (invited for Item 5 – decolonising the curriculum)

Professor Ben Forbes, head of Institute of Pharmaceutical Science (for Item 8 – Quinquennial Review Progress Report)

Dr Rebecca Browett, Head of Education Transformation, Students & Education Directorate

Dr Cat Mora, Director of Research strategy Delivery

**Secretariat:**

Irene Birrell (College Secretary)

Xan Kite (Director of Governance Services)

Joanna Brown (Governance Manager)

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**1 Welcome, apologies and notices**

The Chair welcomed members and guests in attendance to the meeting. In particular, newly elected members and the Revd Canon Dr Ellen Clark-King were welcomed to their first meeting.

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**2 Approval of agenda**

The Principal stated that Item 5 (Decolonising the curriculum through a new perspective to internationalisation) would be discussed after 3pm to accommodate the availability of the Vice President (International). The agenda was approved.

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**3 Unanimous Consent Agenda (including Minutes of the Previous Meeting) [AB-20-12-09-03]**

The Academic Board noted a conflict of interest registered by the President of the KCLSU for item 11.2 (election of Associates of King's College (AKC), and her abstention from this particular vote.

**Decision**

That the reports on the Unanimous Consent Agenda be taken as read and noted or approved.

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**4 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

The Vice President (Education) reported that regarding communications around safety net provisions, which had been raised at the previous meeting under Matters Arising, communications had been correct but that there had been an error in application for four students which has since been rectified. All 708 students in the 2% boundary had been triple-checked to ensure no one else had been missed.

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**5 Decolonising the Curriculum through a new perspective to internationalisation [AB-20-12-09-05]**

This item was taken later in the meeting to accommodate the availability of the Vice President (International).

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**6 Report of the President & Principal [AB-20-12-09-06]****6.1 Key Current Matters**

It being his last meeting of the Academic Board, the Principal said that it had been a massive privilege to work at King's and to chair the Academic Board. Professor Shitij Kapur would begin his tenure as President & Principal s in June 2021. Professor Evelyn Welch would take on the role of Interim President & Principal (and interim Chair of Academic Board) from February 2021, ahead of Professor Kapur's arrival. He highlighted the following key current matters covered in his summary report: Coronavirus update; Admissions Update; and Rankings. With regards to the Admissions update he noted the positive variance, but that there remained uncertainty around the January enrolments.

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**6.2 COVID-19 Update (Education) [AB-20-12-09-06.2]**

The Executive Director, Students and Education, reported that since the Board had last met, the national situation had changed. The national lockdown had pivoted some of King's programmes online for the remainder of the term. That transition had happened smoothly, with learnings from the previous lockdown being applied. Faculties had been requested to think about plans for additional community building and extra-curricular activities in parallel with online learning. Extended access to library and learning spaces had been provided and those spaces were being well used; use of the spaces over the holiday period by students remaining in London would be monitored. Today was the last day of the student travel window.

While it was reported that students had appreciated the calibre of online teaching, they clearly were looking forward to more opportunities for an on-campus experience. The timetable for return to campus, which continued to project two-metre social distancing, was out for consultation with faculties and would be sent to students by the end of the week. Following recent guidance, a

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proposal for a staggered return for the second term was also currently with faculties for consultation and would be announced shortly. Clinical and practical programmes were to start any time after 4 January, with remaining programmes commencing after the week of 25 January.

The KCLSU President put on record thanks to the Executive Director, Students and Education and his team, and particularly to the timetabling team. She also underlined the need to address important issues that had been raised.

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**6.3 NMS Change of Faculty Name [AB-20-12-09-06.3]**

The Executive Dean of the Faculty presented the report, which requested approval for a minor change in Faculty name in order to recognise engineering, which was supported within the Faculty. The new acronym for the Faculty would be NMES.

**Decision:**

That the name of the Faculty of Natural and Mathematical Sciences be changed to the 'Faculty of Natural, Mathematical and Engineering Sciences'

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**6.4**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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**6.5 Report from Council [AB-20-12-09-06.4]**

The College Secretary had suggested a new standing report from Council which would briefly summarise key issues discussed, and decisions taken at Council, in order to improve the flow of information between the two bodies. She presented the report as a good example of the standard set of items that the College Council considers on a regular basis. The Southeast London Innovation Quarter item had been unusual, but provided early notice of a project, just as the Academic Board sometimes received.

As with Academic Board, the Council meetings were largely driven by the activities of its standing committees.

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**6.6 Academic Board Elections Report [AB-20-12-09-06.6]**

The College Secretary presented the results of the recent Academic Board elections, which filled two recent vacancies. Syreeta Allen and Dr Moritz Herle were welcomed as new members to Academic Board.

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**7 Portfolio Simplification Update and Decisions [AB-20-12-09-07]**

**7.1 Portfolio Simplification – Final report and plans for implementation**

The Vice President (Education) presented the final Portfolio Simplification report and plans for implementation. She put on record thanks to all those involved in Portfolio Simplification, and especially to the Portfolio Simplification project team, which had been working closely with faculties to ensure all processes were in place for monitoring and maintenance going forward. She stressed that one of the motivations behind the project had been to create space for new imaginative types of modules and academic offerings, that there was a lot of interest in sustainability in the curriculum, and in service-led learning, and that this final report did not signify the end of the introduction of new modules.

During discussion points raised included:

- There was no intention to dismantle research-led teaching and new colleagues would have the opportunity to raise new modules reflecting their research interests. However new modules would need to be consistent with the principles of portfolio simplification.
- Regarding study abroad opportunities it was recognised that simplification was at the point of entry. There was no intention to reduce study abroad opportunities

**7.2 Curriculum Commission reversal of prior approvals**

Academic Board was requested to approve minor amendments to a previous decision regarding PGT modules in the Department of English and a small modification regarding the MA History of War program in terms of the timetable for discontinuation.

**Decision:**

That the minor amendments to previous decisions made by Academic Board be approved as set out in the report.

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**8 Decolonising the curriculum through a new perspective to internationalisation [AB-20-12-09-05]**

The Vice-President and Vice Principal (International) presented the discussion paper. King's had been having discussions and focus groups on structural racism and decolonising the curriculum since 2017, following demands from students. These discussions had accelerated in the external context of the Black

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Lives Matter protests following the killing of George Floyd in June 2020; King's had been at the forefront of these conversations.

The VP (International) acknowledged the fine line between decolonising and internationalisation. While the definition was not easy to resolve there had been a consensus that there were several core points around power and privilege and how they manifested in the classroom and in student and staff experience. She noted the false assumption that internationalisation was about foreign students and stated that decolonisation is for everyone and everyone needed to become culturally competent.

The VP (International) raised three key points:

- Questions of inequity – the curriculum was an entry point to deal with cultural change at the university
- Questions of intersectionality - domestic and international students were one in talk about King's people.
- A lot of knowledge remained to be unearthed about teaching, learning and outcomes. Following research, this data would be brought to bear on decolonising the curriculum. Seeing the world through the eyes of another was a good starting point.

The VP (Education) emphasised that the report presented a way of framing the institutional approach to the issue of decolonisation but that there would need to be tailored responses across different subject areas. She noted that questions from members received prior to the meeting had informed the presentation.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- Decolonisation is about a sense of equal belonging and the curriculum is the engine that can drive this discussion.
- There would be central conversations about curriculum issues but individual disciplines would need to look at the pedagogy. Flexibility and the sharing of ideas would be important.
- Regarding attainment gaps, the key was to focus on how teaching was framed, and diverse ways of learning, rather than on grades; the student experience of teaching and learning ends up in grades and the wider academic processes had impact on the ability of students from different backgrounds to learn. A university degree would not resolve every issue about knowledge transfer and students must read interventions as interconnected.
- Cultural competency guidance and training would be needed across the board, for staff as well as for students. It was proposed that the academic teaching community be consulted on what kind of support would be helpful. People would be at different stages of need.
- Real institutional change was needed, with a need to address structural racism and inequality and to own King's colonial past and be clear about what decolonisation meant at King's, noting that it would mean different things in different faculties. A more holistic approach was needed particularly in relation to communicating to students.
- Temporary research staff and relocation expenses issues had the impact of attracting diverse individuals away from King's. The Principal flagged this as an issue to be responded to in depth. Ongoing visa fees were also raised as an issue to be responded to in more depth.
- The Thomas Guy statue had been contentious because of his legacy with investments in the slave trade. It belonged to the Trust, though it sat on King's owned the land, and the charity had been undertaking a survey and a lot of focus group work on what to do with the statue. The results of the survey were expected in the new year and would be used to inform some of the King's thinking. There would be an update report at the next Academic Board meeting.

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**9** **Quinquennial Review Progress Report: Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences** [AB-20-12-09-08]

The Head of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Ben Forbes, introduced the report, which outlined the actions taken in addressing the recommendations and issues raised in the quinquennial review. He reported that delays in recruitment to vacancies remained a problem to be resolved. The Executive Dean of the Faculty put on record his thanks to Professor Forbes for his leadership.

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**10** **Reports of Committees**

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**10.1** **Report of College Education Committee (CEC)** [AB-20-12-09-09.1]

**(i) UG External Examiner Report**

The Vice President (Education) presented the report which detailed the main issues highlighted by external examiners in their annual reports, with a focus on judgements made on academic standards within King's. Overall, the reports were extremely positive but there were a number of ongoing concerns, mainly regarding inconsistencies in the quality of feedback.

Further to a query on the anonymity of assignments, the Professor Phillips undertook to review this and provide more detail.

There was an electronic vote by Microsoft Forms and it was resolved by majority vote:

**Decision:**

That the recommendations in the report be approved, namely:

1. The College continues to keep under review the awarding of 1st and 2:1 degrees to ensure concerns regarding grade inflation are being addressed, asking Assessment Sub-Boards to investigate possible reasons why there has been grade inflation, once identified.
2. External examiner comments are included in the review of student feedback, as part of the measure of responding to the 2020 NSS results around assessment and feedback.
3. A review of how assessment mark sheets are presented to Assessment Sub-Boards, with the aim to limit the volume of errors that have been reported in recent years.
4. When designing online assessment for 2020/21, consideration is given to the type of assessment, and whether, for example, an open book MCQ 24-hour examination is appropriate or whether this assessment should be time restricted.

**(ii) Degree Awards – I & IIA award analysis 2019/2020**

The Vice President (Education) drew attention to observations made by the Academic Standards Sub Committee (ASSC) and the College Education Committee (CEC) at Annex 2 to the report.

*Items noted on Consent*

- (iii) Decolonisation and Curriculum Design
- (iv) KCLSU report
- (v) Results of the institutional pulse survey
- (vi) Student Mental Health & Wellbeing Update
- (vii) C2029 Update
- (viii) King's Business School First Year Pilot
- (ix) Studentships
- (x) Study Abroad Simplification Update

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**10.2** **Report of College Research Committee (CRC)** [AB-20-12-09-09.2]

*Items approved and noted on Consent*

- (i) Research Integrity (approved)
- (ii) RMID Transformation
- (iii) Bullying and Harassment
- (iv) Academic Strategy for Research

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**10.3 Report of the College International Committee (CIC) [AB-20-12-09-09.3]***Items noted on Consent*

- (i) Updated terms of reference
- (ii) International Collaboration Dashboard
- (iii) Safeguarding in an international context

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**10.4 Report of the College Service Committee (CSC) [AB-20-12-09-09.4]***Items noted on Consent*

- (i) Chair and Director's Report
- (ii) What is next for Service?
- (iii) Other business

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**10.5 Report of the College London Committee (CLC) [AB-20-12-09-09.5]***Items noted on Consent*

- (i) Chair's Report
- (ii) Faculty Annual London reports
- (iii) King's London Highlights
- (iv) Extracurricular Report
- (v) Homeless London

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**10.6 Report of the Academic Board Operations Committee [AB-20-12-09-09.6]**

The VP (Education) presented the report which set out three items in the report for approval (with a further two having already been approved under the Unanimous Consent Agenda).

**(i) Eligibility of Affiliate Staff to Serve on Academic Board**

There was an electronic vote by Microsoft Forms and it was resolved by majority vote:

**Decision:**

- (i) That staff participants in elections to the Academic Board, as nominees, nominators and voters must be employed by King's College London.
- (ii) That the category of "adjunct academics" be added to those eligible to take part in the election if it is found that this group is easily identifiable and appropriately verified, but that wording be added to the standing orders for Academic Board to make clear that, in accordance with the College Charter and Statutes, only staff employed by King's can stand for election to Council.
- (iii) That the definition of staff for the purposes of membership of the Academic Board be reviewed in the event of any future material changes to policy or procedure, balancing the principles of inclusivity with that of Academic Board staff seats being held by individuals whose primary employer is King's.

**(ii) PGR Seats on Academic Board**

There was an electronic vote by Microsoft Forms and via the chat function and it was resolved by majority vote:

**Decision:**

That the two self-nominating postgraduate research students, Hiba Asrar from Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences and Jhanelle White from Natural & Mathematical Sciences, be acclaimed as elected members of the Academic Board.



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**(iii) Academic Board agenda planning**

The College Secretary stated that the long-term intention was to develop a calendar of business, which would be recommended through the Academic Board Operations Committee for Academic Board approval on an annual basis. This would provide Academic Board members the opportunity to discuss the key issues they wished to see over the coming year. There was an electronic vote by Microsoft Forms and via the chat function and it was resolved by majority vote:

**Decision:**

That Academic Board approve the following actions:

- (i) Long-Term Agenda Planning – that the Secretariat should prepare an annual forward Calendar of Business for the Board so that the issues to be discussed at each meeting are known in advance.
- (ii) Items from Members that arise from time to time –that every effort be made to accommodate issues that members wish to discuss that were not identified at the time that the Calendar of Business was approved. The following processes/principles would apply:
  - The College Secretary would need to receive the request to add an item to an immediately upcoming agenda at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.
  - The requested item must be within the terms of reference of the Academic Board or one of its standing committees to consider.
  - If a suggested item would normally be considered by a standing committee before being brought to the Board, the College Secretary would first refer it to the relevant standing committee for input before it came to Board, unless the member proposing the item indicated that there was an urgency to bring the matter immediately to the Board.
  - Where more items were received than time permitted discussion at a meeting, ABOC would be consulted on prioritisation.
  - The College Secretary would provide a report on requests received and their disposition at each Board meeting.

**(iv) Powers of Academic Board**

The VP (Education) reported that in response to concerns raised about lack of clarity and understanding about the ‘powers’ of the Board, the Secretariat would undertake a review of the terms of the reference of the Board and its standing committees with particular attention to delegations of authority and report back to the Board through ABOC in the spring.

*Items on Consent*

- (v) Committee Terms of Reference (approved)
- (vi) Student membership of ABOC (approved)
- (vii) Timing of Academic Board Paper Circulation (noted)

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**11 Report of the President of KCLSU [AB-20-12-09-10]**

Academic Board received the report of the President of the KCLSU. She stated that King's had very good policies but needed to address how the operationalisation of policies could be improved.

In response to a question on the extent that KCLSU interacts with the student rep system, the President confirmed this was a key issue for KCLSU, and that work was currently ongoing in response to a report completed a couple of years ago. During COVID there had been a need to have stopgap measures to use the student rep system effectively, and MSTeams channels were being developed, for example to hold Town Halls.

The top three KCLSU issues for management focus in the second term were: face-to-face teaching, community building and student wellbeing.

A student member of the Board reported student frustration following the rapid return to online teaching following the second lockdown. Some had been extremely disappointed, and especially those students who had travelled far and spent a lot of money to come to the UK.

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**12 Report of The Acting Dean**

**12.1 Report of the Acting Dean [AB-20-12-09-11]**

The new Dean, the Revd Dr Ellen Clark-King commended the report of the Acting Dean, and stated delight with the AKC take up and the quality of lectures given.

*Item approved on the Unanimous Consent Agenda:*

**12.2 Election of Associates of King's College [AB-20-12-09-11]**

**Decision:**

Academic Board elected as Associates of King's College those students and staff listed in the report.

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**12 Any Other Business**

A member had been in communication with the VP (Education)/Chair of ABOC with a query about student conduct during examinations. The misconduct regulations already covered the situations that the member had in mind, but at the suggestion of colleagues in the relevant teams, more explicit mention in the misconduct guidance of expected behaviour in relation to assessment and examinations would be considered.

It being his last meeting, the Principal expressed his thanks to the Academic Board for its support over the years and stated that the quality of guidance for the university was getting ever stronger. He placed on record his thanks to Chris Mottershead, who is also retiring, for his contributions to Academic Board, and welcomed the incoming (interim) Chair of Academic Board, Professor Evelyn Welch.

The Provost (Health) and the Provost (Arts & Sciences) thanked the Principal and the Senior Vice President (Quality, Strategy & Innovation) for all the work they had overseen on the Board over the years, including the integration of the student voice as part of the recent reorganisation of the Board and for all that they had done for King's.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned.

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**Irene Birrell**

College Secretary

December 2020