

Academic Board Minutes - Approved

Academic Board is asked to approve the unconfirmed minutes of the previous meeting.

Date 28 June 2023, 14.00

Location Great Hall, Strand Campus and MS Teams

Composition		Members	Attendance 2022-23					
			22.11.22	14.12.22	08.03.23	19.04.23	28.06.23	
Ex officio	Chair of Academic Board, President & Principal	Professor Shitij Kapur	P	P	P	P	A	
	Senior Vice	SVP Academic	Professor Rachel Mills	P	P	P	P	
	Presidents & Vice Principals	SVP Health & Life Sciences	Professor Richard Trembath	P	P	P	P	
		VP Education & Student Success	Professor Adam Fagan	P	P	P	P	
		VP Research & Innovation	Professor Reza Razavi (to 31.12.22)	P	P	-	-	-
			Professor Bashir Al-Hashimi (from 1.1.23)	-	-	P	P	P
	VP International, Engagement & Service		Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin	P	P	P	A	P
	The Reverend the Dean		Rev'd Canon Dr Ellen Clark-King	P	A	P	P	P
	The President of the Students' Union		Yasir Khan	A	P	P	A	P
	KCLSU Vice Presidents Education	Vice President for Education (Arts & Sciences)	Sara Osman Saeed	P	P	P	P	A
		Vice President for Education (Health)	Julia Kosowska	P	P	P	A	A
		Vice President for Postgraduate	Shagun Bhandari	P	P	P	P	P
	Executive Deans of Faculty	Arts and Humanities	Professor Marion Thain	P	P	P	P	
		Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	Professor Michael Escudier	P	P	P	A	P
		Dickson Poon School of Law	Professor Dan Hunter	P	P	A	P	P
		King's Business School	Professor Stephen Bach	P	P	P	P	P
		Life Sciences & Medicine	Professor Ajay Shah	P	P	P	A	P
		Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences	Professor Bashir Al-Hashimi (to 31.12.22)	P	P	-	-	-P
			Professor Mark French (Interim)					
		Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	Professor Irene Higginson	P	P	P	A	
Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (Interim)		Professor Sir Simon Wessely	P	P	P	P	P	
Social Science and Public Policy	Professor Linda McKie	P	P	P	A*			
Dean for Doctoral Studies		Professor Rebecca Oakey	P	A	P	P	P	
Executive Director: King's School of Professional & Continuing Education		Nina McDermott (to 31.12.22)	P	A	-	-		
		Dr Ana de Medeiros (from 08.03.23)	-	-	P	A	P	
Elected Students	One student from each faculty, split equally across UG/PGT/PGR	Arts and Humanities	Kriti Gupta (from 14.12.22)	V	P	P	A	A
		Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	Vacancy	V	V	V	V	
		Dickson Poon School of Law	Vacancy	V	V	V	V	
		King's Business School	Vacancy	V	V	V	V	
		Life Sciences & Medicine	Vacancy	V	V	V	V	
		Natural, Mathematical and Engineering Sciences	Vacancy	V	V	V	V	
		Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	Amelia Martin (from 14.12.22)	V	P	P	A	A
		Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience	Bella Zilan Demirci (from 14.12.22)	V	P	P	A	A
Social Science and Public Policy	Ting Meng (from 14.12.22)	V	P	P	A	A		
Elected Staff	Four academic staff members from each faculty (and five in the case of larger faculties) elected by and from	Arts & Humanities (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Anna Snaith	P	P	P	P	A
			Professor Matthew Head	A	P	P	P	P
			Dr Hannah Crawforth	A	P	P	P	P
			Dr Zeena Feldman	P	P	P	P	P
	Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Nick Harrison	P	P	P	P	A	
		Professor Kim Piper	P	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Ana Angelova	A	P	P	P	P	
		Professor Jeremy Green	P	P	P	A	P	
	Dickson Poon School of Law (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Richard Cook	P	P	P	P	P	
		Professor Ann Mumford	P	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Ewan McGaughey	P	P	P	P	P	
		Professor Satvinder Juss	P	P	P	A	A	

the staff of each faculty.		Dr Jonathan Gingerich	A	P	P	P	P	
	King's Business School (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Gulcin Ozkan	P	A	P	P	P	
		Dr Jack Fosten	P	P	P	A	P	
		Dr Juan Baeza	P	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Andrew McFaul	P	P	P	P	A	
	Life Sciences & Medicine (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Susan Brain	A	P	P	A	P	
		Dr Manasi Nandi	A	P	P	P	P	
		Professor Claire Wells	P	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Baljinder Mankoo	A	P	A	P	P	
		Dr Anna Battaglia	P	P	P	P	P	
	Natural, Mathematical and Engineering Sciences (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Luc Moreau	P	P	P	P	P	
		Professor Michael Kölling	P	P	P	A	P	
		Professor Sameer Murthy	A	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Andre Cobb	P	P	P	A	P	
	Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	<i>Vacancy (HoD)</i>	V	V	V	V	V	
		Dr Jocelyn Cornish	P	P	P	P	A	
		Dr Wladzia Czuber-Dochan	P	P	P	P	P	
	Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Irene Zeller	P	P	A	P	P	
		Professor Matthew Hotopf	P	A	P	P	P	
		Dr Eleanor Dommett	P	P	P	A	P	
		Dr Rina Dutta	P	A	P	P	A	
	Social Science and Public Policy (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Yannis Paloyelis	P	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Eamonn Walsh	P	P	P	P	A	
		Professor Jelke Boesten	P	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Tim Benbow	P	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Hillary Briffa	P	P	P	P	P	
	Three staff members on contracts which include teaching from Professional and Continuing Education elected by and from the staff members on contracts which include teaching in PACE. One of the three seats will be held by a Head of Department or equivalent.	Dr Sunil Mitra Kumar	P	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Kiran Phull	P	P	P	P	A	
		Sarah Shirley	P	P	P	A	P	
	Three professional staff	Suzie Coates	P	P	P	P	P	
		Education Support	Syreeta Allen (to 31.12.22)	A	A	-	-	-
		Research Support	Dr Natasha Awais-Dean	P	P	P	P	P
	Two academic staff on research-only contracts	Service Support	Akic Lwaldeng	P	A	P	P	A
		Arts and Sciences Faculties	Dr Harriet Boulding	A	P	P	A	P
		Health Faculties	Dr Moritz Herle	P	P	P	A	A

v= vacant post

In attendance:

Darren Wallis, Executive Director, SED

Lynne Barker, Associate Director (Academic Regulations, Quality and Standards), SED

Alison Clarke, Regulations Manager, SED

Secretariat:

Irene Birrell (College Secretary)

Paul Mould (Deputy College Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer)

1 Welcome, apologies and notices

The Deputy Chair noted that she would be chairing the meeting in the absence of the President & Principal. She welcomed members and guests in attendance at the meeting. She noted that the Board was joined by Aaron Porter from Advance-HE who would be observing the meeting as part of the governance review commissioned by Council. Members of the Academic Board would have a separate consultation session at which to provide their views on 18 July.

2 Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

3 Unanimous Consent Agenda (including Minutes of the Previous Meeting) [AB-23-06-28-03]

It was noted that in the CEC Report, the item related to amendments to the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy should be removed from the UCA as further changes were needed and delegation to CEC for final approval was being sought.

Decision

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

[Secretary's Note: Later in the meeting it was determined that it was the Academic Misconduct Policy for which delegated authority was sought.]

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5 Generative AI [AB-23-06-12-05]

Dean Dan Hunter presented the report on Generative AI noting that the conversation in the sector hitherto has focussed on the challenges of the technology with concerns about assessment and personal essays for admission driving the conversation. Rather, King's should be looking at the opportunities offered by Generative AI in teaching and education and use it as an opportunity to re-think our processes. King's can be a leader in this space. In discussion, the following points were noted:

- Generative AI is a language model technology based on predicting the next word (they have been described as 'stochastic parrots'); with no 'human thought' behind material it creates, current standard modes of assessment, while cheap and convenient, cannot be relied upon as being genuine.
- Commercial detection systems are problematic on two fronts: they do not work very well, and their use is contrary to privacy laws.
- Use of computer tools is not new. They become useful when we understand what they can do and what their limitations are. We should embrace this technology and equip our students to use it effectively. This will mean changing our policies and practices in research but that is not a bad thing. There is much good practice emerging and the College Research Committee would be working on this over the coming year.
- There is some urgency in moving apace with respect to assessment. Assessment methods for courses for the coming year are already established and the rigidity of our assessment rules makes it difficult to change what is in place.
- King's Academic is developing considerable expertise in this area and has established a working group focused on a number of tasks related to assessments, course design, and pedagogy. Some preliminary guidance had already been developed that should be added to academic handbooks.

6 AEP Pathways [AB-23-06-28-06]

The Deputy Chair introduced her report which provided an update on progress with respect to a review of the AEP Pathways at the five-year point since their introduction. Initial data collection provided evidence of progression within the cohort but also made clear that there is more to do. It was proposed that a working group be established to carry out more detailed review and terms of reference for such a group had been provided with the paper for comment. The following was noted in discussion:

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- There is considerable variance in the experience of those on the AEP pathways in different faculties. That needs to be understood and it would be important to have all faculties represented on the working group.
 - While the statistics are encouraging, very few in the cohort have progressed to full professor. What does being on the AEP Pathway mean for people’s careers when they leave King’s?
 - Consideration should be given to how individuals move from AEP to a research pathway if they want to change direction.
 - The optimal ratio of AEP to research pathway staff will vary by discipline. It is not right to assume that AEP roles are taken up as a ‘way in’ to a research-intensive institution but, rather, focus should be on hiring individuals who want to be on the AEP track.
 - What does a focus on pedagogical scholarship mean in Russell group research-intensive institutions? The changing REF rules may help in informing this. Assessment will be based on three components in the next REF round – output, impact and environment – with a clear focus on research culture and move toward discipline-based submissions rather than individual submissions.
 - AEPs outside the Education department need training and support in pedagogical scholarship. They also need support for professional and academic development that is taken for granted by those in the research stream (funding for conference attendance, for example).

7 Report of the President & Principal

7.1 Summary Report [AB-23-06-28-07.1]

The Deputy Chair noted the summary report from the President & Principal contained in the agenda pack. Members asked questions about the following:

Student of Concern processes

It was noted that the procedures for students of concern appeared to be working well but that there did not seem to be parallel processes for post-docs. The Executive Director of SED responded that a pilot project was under consideration.



Cost of Living

Asked whether King’s intended to increase cost of living support for students, the Senior Vice-President (Operations) said that the College continued to keep the issue under review with the needs of students changing over time. A general contingency had been made in the upcoming budget but had not yet been allocated to specific programmes. The Executive Director (SED) added that the bursary programme would

be reviewed this summer with respect to access and participation to ensure those with the greatest need were being supported.

With respect to a comment about support for staff accommodation needs, the SVP (Operations) noted that there were no simple solutions. A number of programmes had been put in place to help staff through the cost of living crisis but in terms of accommodation, the real issue was availability within commuting distance of London, not something that the University could impact. This was different from the accommodation needs of students where King's does have control over the amount of housing stock available.

7.2 Student Terms and Conditions [AB-23-06-28-07.2]

The Executive Director (SED) presented a number of student terms and conditions for approval noting the effort that had gone in this year to improving consistency across the various sets. New guidance had been published by the CMA in May against which these would need a final check and some minor amendments might result.

Decision:

The Academic Board approved the following Terms and Conditions sets:

- a) General Terms and Conditions 2024-25
- b) Executive MBA Terms and Conditions 2024-25
- c) King's Online Terms and Conditions 2024-25
- d) King's International Foundation Terms and Conditions 2024-25
- e) King's Pre-Sessional Terms and Conditions 2024-25
- f) Open Enrolment Short Courses Terms and Conditions 2023-24
- g) Terms and Conditions for Corporate and Tailor-Made Tuition in the Language Centre 2023-24
- h) Evening, Saturday and Summer Language Courses Terms and Conditions 2023-24
- i) Terms and Conditions for Non-Credit Bearing Language Courses 2023-24

7.3 Merging the International School for Government into the Policy Institute [AB-23-6-28-07.3]

The Academic Board noted the merger.

8 Report of the KCLSU President [AB-23-06-28-08]

The KCLSU President took his report as read and focused his comments on the UCU Industrial Action and particularly the assessment and marking boycott. He noted the deep concern students were expressing about the impact of the boycott on their progression and ability to graduate, and the quality of assessments that might be undertaken by replacement markers. The number of student appeals with respect to assessments was expected to grow markedly.

The Deputy Chair pointed out that the College was required by the regulator, OfS, to do all that it could to comply with commitments to students in the face of the boycott and to maintain academic standards while doing so. This was a priority for the College's leadership. The Vice-Principal (Student Success & Education) noted that the College did have latitude to deal with some elements of marking not taking place. He confirmed that no one was marking who was not qualified to do so. Processes were being put in place in alignment with emergency regulations put in place by the Academic Board a few years ago. He could not guarantee every outcome, but he remained cautiously optimistic that final year students would be able to graduate and receive classifications that accurately reflected their academic achievements.

A member stated that he did not believe that there was a coherent strategy, that students were being treated unfairly especially in light of the fees they were paying, and that universities had the necessary funds to meet the demands of staff who were dealing with real pay cuts. He urged the College leaders to foster support for a return to national negotiations and to genuine discussion of staff concerns.

In answer to a question about the impact on visa students, the Executive Director (SED) noted that these would have to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, looking at the information provided by other institutions to affirm whether offer conditions had been met.

In closing, the Deputy Chair remarked that the situation had caused real distress for all in the community – those who were supporting the boycott and those who had chosen to mark, as well as professional staff who were having to shoulder much of the burden of the crisis. At some point the strike would end and considerable work would be needed to heal rifts that had developed across the College.

On behalf of the Academic Board, the Deputy Chair offered thanks to the President of the KCLSU and his colleagues for their clear and challenging contributions to the work of the Board over the past year.

9 Reports of Committees

9.1 Report of the College Education Committee [AB-23-06-28-09.1]

Amendments to Academic Misconduct Policy – Delegation of Authority

The Executive Director (SED) clarified that the amendments proposed to the *Non-Academic Misconduct Policy* (Annex 9 of the report) were fine to be approved as presented. What was being sought was delegation of authority from the Academic Board to the College Education Committee to approve amendments to the *Academic Misconduct Policy* for which some additional consultation with faculties was needed.

Decision:

The Academic Board delegated to the College Education Committee authority to approve amendments to the Academic Misconduct Policy.

[Secretary's note: Following the meeting, members of the Board were sent a copy of the revised policy and invited to submit any comments or questions to the CEC prior to its meeting of 5th July.]

The remaining items in the Report of the College Education Committee were approved or received for information through Unanimous Consent.

9.2 Report of the College Research Committee [AB-23-06-28-09.2]

9.2.(ii) Policy and Procedure for Security Sensitive Research Activities

The Vice-Principal (Research & Innovation) presented the proposed new policy and related procedures noting that it had been under development for some time. It was intended primarily to safeguard researchers from inadvertently infringing the law, noting that researchers could be subject to surveillance by, or enquiries from law enforcement agencies when they were engaged in research on security sensitive matters.

A member pointed out that the policy did not address all circumstances noting, for example, that while it refers to research commissioned by Defence or Security agencies, there are cases where research might be funded by a defence agency but not commissioned by them. The Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) responded that the policy was a first start. There would undoubtedly be need for frequent updates and amendments to accommodate circumstances that had not been envisaged. He would take the member's suggestion back to CRC for consideration for future amendment and encouraged members to forward any other nuanced situations they might come across.

Decision:

The Academic Board approved the Policy and Procedure for Security Sensitive Research Activities.

The remaining items in the CRC report were noted on the Unanimous Consent Agenda:

10 Report of The Dean

10.1 Report of The Dean [AB-23-06-28-10.1]

The report was accepted as read.

10.2 Election of Associates of King's College (AKC) [AB-23-06-28-10.2]

Item approved on Consent.

Decision:

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

11 Report from Council [AB-23-06-28-11]

The report from Council was presented by staff Council Member Hillary Briffa. Issues considered at the most recent meeting had included a strategic discussion of a report from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) on the 'Innovation Landscape', a report on the outcomes and impact of the Portfolio Simplification Programme overseen by the Academic Board, the Annual Report of the KCLSU, and items from the April meeting of the Academic Board, noting particularly the discussions around Climate and Sustainability and Generative AI.

12 Any Other Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 16:25.

Irene Birrell

College Secretary

June 2023