

The minutes of the meeting of the College Council held on 30 January 2017

Present: Sir Christopher Geidt (Chairman); Baroness Morgan of Huyton (Vice-Chair); Professor Edward Byrne (President and Principal); Mr Michael Da Souza; Dr Angela Dean; The Hon Sir David Foskett; Mr Ben Hunt; Ms Ros King (from 4.00pm); Professor Sir Robert Lechler; Mr Chris Mottershead; The Right Reverend Dame Sarah Mullally; Dr Joanna Newman (until 5.10pm); Mr Andrew Summers; Ms Nhuoc Lan Tu; Professor Evelyn Welch

Apologies: Professor Brian Holden Reid; Sir Nigel Sheinwald; Professor the Baroness Alison Wolf.

In attendance: Mr Steve Large; Professor Ian McFadzean (from 4.50pm); Dr Ian Tebbett; Mr David Newman; Miss Julie Thomas.

PART 1: KCLSU SABBATICAL OFFICERS

1 Current Issues

1.1 Welcome New Members

The Chairman welcomed the KCLSU sabbatical officers accompanying the President, Ben Hunt: Momin Saqib (Vice President Activities & Development); and Mahamed Abdullahi (Vice President for Welfare & Community).

The Chairman invited the President to introduce his Report (KCC_17_01_30_1.1) and for all the officers to take questions. The report focused on 3 main issues: increasing student facilities and space; mental health provision; inclusive education.

The President highlighted:

- the good working relationship between the university and KCLSU, notably in the publication of a joint paper around the TEF, and the joint email post-Brexit stressing the international and welcoming nature of the institution;
- KCLSU participating in the *national* NSS boycott, not a local campaign;
- Discussions on ethical investment, with the arms trade currently of concern;
- Issues of transparency and accountability to the student body: for example the use of fee income;
- The visioning workshop on mental health held during the previous week which had been cross-cutting. The President's web article about his own mental health had been the most widely-read in King's history; and
- Current conversations regarding the expansion of student space and quiet study space at Denmark Hill which had become more urgent with the increase in undergraduate education on the campus.

In discussion the following key points were noted:

- The university's strong support for the mental health initiative which would be a priority for the new Regius Chair of Psychiatry, Professor Sir Simon Wessely. King's wanted its strategy in this area to be the best in the UK. King's was well placed to be an exemplar and had already developed initiatives such as the 'take a break' campaign during the exam period;
- The rise in mental health issues was not specific to King's but a national phenomenon; and
- The increasing willingness to talk about mental health issues, which had to be met with a capacity to deliver help and support.

Decision:

Council **agreed**:

- (i) that it would consider direct reports on mental health initiatives; and
- (ii) that Professor Sir Simon Wesseley (IoPPN) would be invited to address Council.

1.2 KCLSU Additional Sabbatical Officer

KCLSU sought Council's approval to amend its constitution to add a sixth sabbatical officer (KCC_17_01_30_1.2).

In discussion the following points were noted:

- KCLSU confirmed the urgent need for the new post.
- Consultation had taken place, including with King's doctoral student forum.
- The Principal confirmed this was increasingly the model used in research intensive universities. He further noted that the sabbaticals were incredibly positive and constructive in coming up with initiatives for the wellbeing of students.

Decision

The Council **endorsed** the proposal, and agreed that the sixth sabbatical officer post could be included in the forthcoming KCLSU elections.

PART 2: WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

2 Apologies and Notices

Council **noted** apologies from: Professor Brian Holden Reid; Sir Nigel Sheinwald; Professor the Baroness Alison Wolf.

3 Notification of Other Business

Council **noted** the following tabled papers to be considered under Chairman's Business on the agenda:

- Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2015-16 (KCC_17_01_30_06 (i))
- Nominations Committee Recommendations (KCC_17_01_30_06(ii))

***4 Minutes**

The Council **approved** the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 November 2016 (KCC_17_01_30_04).

Decision

It was **agreed** to recirculate the joint statement with KCLSU noted under the item on Teaching Excellence Framework (KCC_16_11_24_13.2) (and referred to by the President of KCLSU in his opening remarks).

5 Matters arising

The Council was asked to **consider** a report of actions agreed at its two previous meetings, and the progress made to date (KCC_17_01_30_05).

The Council noted the actions agreed and that all had been completed or would be completed within the agreed timeframe. There were no other matters arising.

PART 3: CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

*6 Chairman's items

6.1 Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2015-16 (KCC_17_01_30_06 (i))

The Council **noted** the tabled statement which the university was obliged to publish in accordance with the provisions of Section 54 of the *Modern Slavery Act 2015*. The statement had already received approval by Chairman's action so that it could be uploaded to the website before the statutory deadline.

6.2 Nominations Committee Recommendations (KCC_17_01_30_06(ii))

Council considered the recommendations of the Nominations committee, namely:

- (i) That Mr George Warren be appointed as the student member of Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee for a period of two years, renewable, beginning on the 1st February 2017.
- (ii) That Lan Tu be appointed to Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee for an initial period of three years, subject to continuing membership of Council, beginning on the 1st February 2017.
- (iii) That Sally Morgan be appointed to the membership of Nominations Committee for an initial period of three years, subject to continuing membership of Council, beginning on the 1st February 2017.

Decision

The Council **approved** all the Nominations Committee recommendations.

PART 4: PRINCIPAL'S BUSINESS

*7 President & Principal's Report

Council **considered** the Principal's Report (KCC_17_01_30_07). The following key issues were raised:

- The Principal invited the Director of Operations to provide an update and a précis of the external consultants' report following the IT service outage which occurred on the evening of Monday 17th October. The next stage of the business recovery process was close, with most of the interim management team having been able to stand down and a good understanding reached of the likely level of impact.

Currently 96.6% of the supporting attachments for Visa compliance, which had all been lost, had now been recovered; the UK Borders Agency was content.

56 academics with grants had been affected at the IoPPN, some severely. Funding bodies had been briefed and an action plan was being put in place at the level of each grant. The Principal had had meetings with the affected staff, and support had been offered to them. The restoration of trust would be critical as it was generally those complying with instructions who had suffered most.

14 of the 485 postgraduate students at the IoPPN were severely affected and the university will ensure that they will not be disadvantaged either financially or otherwise.

The detailed technical report from PA indicated that that failure would have been prevented if the software management system had been up to date. Initial findings suggested the choice of hardware was safe and appropriate; however, there were governance management and operational weaknesses identified under 5 themes: technology management; daily maintenance regime; relationship management; governance inadequacies; an IT department too process oriented.

The PA report would receive wider circulation within the next week, and the

management response would follow.

Ms Ros King joined the meeting at this point

- The President of KCLSU noted that international students had been very concerned about the loss of visa data; expressed concern about the apparent lack of apology to students; and asked about the compensation that affected students would receive. It was noted that absolute priority had been given to student recovery, and apologies were included in the emails requesting new visa data. It had been agreed that compensation would take the form of an appropriate fund that would transparently benefit international students and this would now be actioned.
- Dr Joanna Newman, Vice President/Vice-Principal International, would be leaving King's in April to take up the post of Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities having made an outstanding contribution to the university. Professor Funmi Olonisakin would take on the role of interim Vice-Principal (International).
- The recruitment process was continuing for the replacement of IoPPN and Dental Institute Executive Deans. It was confirmed that the rate of senior staff turnover as compared with the Russell Group was very good. Staff were not expected to spend more than 2 terms (of 5 years) in these roles. King's also now had a good training scheme in place for such roles.
- Recent negative PR had been received around both the Strand windows and the Prevent strategy. An extensive review of internal communications, using an external adviser, was currently taking place.
- The Principal had lobbied Government officials with regard to Nursing recruitment now that Government legislation required students applying for BSc programmes in Nursing, Midwifery, Nutrition & Dietetics and Physiotherapy to pay full fees per annum in line with all other undergraduate programmes. This fee had previously been covered in full by the NHS. A substantial decrease in applications was therefore not unexpected. However, this was likely to be a sector-wide problem, and the Faculty, Admissions and Marketing were working hard to ensure that the conversion of offer holders was as strong as possible.
- The King's Futures 'brand' would be retired in favour of a combined portfolio of priority transformation programmes that cut across the university as a whole, following the launch of Vision 2029. Future reports to Council on King's Futures initiatives would therefore be included within the Vision 2029 section.
- Congratulations were offered to the Principal and all those responsible for the Strategic Vision. Council considered its role in promoting the Vision.

Decision

It was **agreed**:

- (i) that the management response to the PA Consulting Report on the IT outage would be brought to the following meeting;
- (ii) that there would be a breakfast briefing for Council on the five strategic vision themes, to include discussion on appropriate ways in which Council members could become engaged.

***8 Estates Update**

Council considered the report on current Estates matters [KCC_17_01_30_08], specifically the briefing note and associated occupation/spatial analyses appendices relating to the sale

of Surrey Street buildings which had been presented to Chairman's Committee on 19 December 2016.

In discussion the following points were noted:

- Chairman's Committee had approved a change of plan for the divestment of the Surrey Street buildings and the Principal had been authorised to open discussions with a commercial party regarding the sale of the Macadam Building only. These negotiations were ongoing and a decision was expected in April.
- Although the original case for selling Surrey Street was financial, perceived operational needs had changed. It was now believed that the university will need the space provided by the Surrey Street buildings in order to accommodate its growth plans, and to provide some additional flexibility to respond to TEF and the Stern recommendations for REF.

Decision

Council **agreed** that the financial papers relating to the proposed transaction regarding the Macadam Building would be re-circulated to Members.

9 Fundraising Update

Council considered the report for the next Fundraising campaign (KCC_17_01_30_09).

In discussion the following points were noted:

- King's had received strong advice to launch the new campaign this year;
- The campaign would be for King's College London *and* King's Health Partners. KHP had made substantial investment in fundraising in the health related areas;
- The King's College team would be responsible for all the cross-cutting work, although small projects would be undertaken locally;
- The list of potential flagship projects had not yet been finalised and input from members of Council would be welcome;
- £5M had already been raised for the Sanctuary Programme, providing scholarships and other support, including online learning, for refugees both locally and globally.

Professor Ian McFadzean joined the meeting at this point

PART 5: STRATEGIC MATTERS

***10 Student Experience**

Council considered the update on progress made in NSS 2016 action planning and NSS 2017 plans (KCC_17_01_30_10).

In discussion the following points were noted:

- The action plans after the 2016 NSS had been put together with student involvement and would be followed up over the next few months;
- The university had perhaps not sufficiently advertised to students the successes and investments made on their behalf. These include, for example, the 'Global Lounge' which was open for students in London every day during the Christmas period; and

- King's community ambassadors who support first year students to settle into King's;
- The university respected KCLSU's decision to support the national campaign to boycott the 2017 NSS. All sides recognised the value of feedback and would continue to work together on this issue. Departments would send out a message to their students to invite them to participate; however, there would be no pressure or social media campaigning;
 - It was thought that 26 out of the 35 large student unions would boycott the NSS (it was more difficult for the smaller unions as they had to rely on the block grant);
 - Although IPSOS MORI had set out the NSS email early, coinciding with King's sessional examinations despite a request not to do so from HEFCE, the Russell Group had undertaken to convey the collective concern and disappointment at this decision to IPSOS MORI.
 - Assessment and feedback was still a priority and every department has been asked to adhere to College expectations in this area. Electronic assignment was being increased.
 - The President of KCLSU and his team were thanked for the constructive way in which they had handled engagement over both TEF and the NSS. King's should expect reference to the IT outage in the responses.

Dr Joanna Newman left the meeting at this point.

PART 6: COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

11 Academic Board

The Council **received** a report of the meeting of the Academic Board held on 7 December 2016.

Council **noted** the Athena SWAN section which highlighted the continuing challenge, despite strong commitment from the university body, of improving diversity in both committee membership and in appointments. The importance unconscious bias training was stressed.

PART 7: OTHER BUSINESS

12 Any Other Business

- The Principal reminded members that the BBC documentary on the Georgian Papers Programme, *George III – the Genius of the Mad King*, was due to air later that evening, Monday 30 January. The Chairman noted that the Georgian Papers Programme represented a fantastic collaboration between the Royal Archives and King's.
- Professor Sir Simon Wessely would be appearing on Radio 4's *The Life Scientific* the following week.
- The Chairman thanked members of Council for their forbearance as the location and timings of Council and Chairman's Committee meetings settled into the new pattern.

PART 8: FOR INFORMATION

13 Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 30 March 2017 at 5.30pm at the Denmark Hill Campus.