

Academic Board**Meeting date** Wednesday 2 July 2025**Paper reference** AB-25-07-02-03.1**Status** FINAL**Minutes**

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

Date 9 April 2025, 14.00**Location** Great Hall, Strand Campus and MS Teams

Composition			Members		Attendance 2024-2025				
					30 Oct	11 Dec	17 Mar	9 Apr	2 July
Ex officio	Chair of Academic Board, Vice-Chancellor and President		Professor Shitij Kapur		P	P	P	P	
	Senior Vice Presidents & Vice Principals	SVP Academic (Vice-Chair)	Professor Rachel Mills		P	P	A	A	
		SVP Health & Life Sciences	Professor Graham Lord		P	A		A	
		VP Education & Student Success	Professor Adam Fagan		P	P	P	P	
		VP Research & Innovation	Professor Bashir Al-Hashimi		P	P	P	P	
		VP International, Engagement & Service	Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin		P	P	A	P	
	The Reverend the Dean		Rev'd Canon Dr Ellen Clark-King		P	P	P	P	
	The President of the Students' Union		-		-	-	-	-	-
	KCLSU Vice Presidents Education	Vice President for Education (Arts & Sciences)	Madeeha Saher		P	-	-	-	-
		Vice President for Education (Health)	Julia Kosowska		P	P	P	P	
		Vice President Postgraduate	Sheeba Naaz		P	P	P	P	
	Executive Deans of Faculty	Arts and Humanities	Professor Simon Tanner		P		P	P	
		Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	Professor Michael Escudier		P		A	A	
		Dickson Poon School of Law	Professor Dan Hunter			A	A	P	
		King's Business School	Professor Stephen Bach			P	P	P	
		Life Sciences & Medicine	Professor Ajay Shah		P			P	
		Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences	Professor Rachel Bearon		P	P	P	P	
		Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	Professor Richard Harding		P	P	P	A	
		Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (Interim)	Professor Matthew Hotopf			P	A	A	
		Social Science and Public Policy	Professor Linda McKie		P	P	A	P	
	Dean for Doctoral Studies		Professor Rebecca Oakey					P	
	Executive Director: Centre for International Education & Languages (CIEL)		Sarah Shirley		P	P	A	P	
Elected Students	One student from each faculty, split equally across UG/PGT/ PGR	Arts and Humanities	David Williams		P	P			
		Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	Elle Hill		P	P	P		
		Dickson Poon School of Law	Jonathon DiPietro			P	P		
		King's Business School	Aditya Bangar		P		P		
		Life Sciences & Medicine	Rei Korkuti		P	A	P	P	
		Natural, Mathematical and Engineering Sciences	Damon Cleaver		P		P		
		Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	Yike Yang			P	P	A	
		Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience	Faiza Inamdar		P		P	P	
		Social Science and Public Policy	Hannah Walz		P	P	P	P	
Elected Staff	Four academic staff members from each faculty (and five in the case of larger faculties) elected by and from the staff	Arts & Humanities (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Virginia Crisp (HoD)		P	P	P	P	
			Dr Alice Hazard		P	P	A	P	
			Dr Zeena Feldman		P	P	P	P	
			Dr Timothy Huzar			P	A	P	
			Dr Laura Gibson		P	P			
		Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Kirsty Hill (HoD)		P	P	P	P	
			Dr Mads Bergholt		P	P	P		
			Professor Richard Cook		P	A	A	P	
			Dr David Moyes		P	P	P	A	
		Dickson Poon School of Law (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Catharine MacMillan (HoD)		A	P	A	P	
			Professor Ann Mumford		P	P		P	
			Professor Ewan McGaughey			P			
			Dr Elin Weston		P	A	P		

of each faculty.	King's Business School (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Gulcin Ozkan (HoD)	A	P	P	P	
		Dr Simona Grassi	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Christopher Hazlehurst	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Andrew McFaul		P	P		
	Life Sciences & Medicine (7 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Susan Brain (HoD)	P	A	P	A	
		Professor Pete Zammit		P	P	A	
		Professor Claire Wells	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Baljinder Mankoo	P	A	A	A	
		Dr Anna Battaglia	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Marina Cecelja		P	A	P	
		Dr Timothy Pullen	P	P	P	P	
	Natural, Mathematical and Engineering Sciences (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Chris Lorenz		P	A	P	
		Dr Andre Cobb	P	A	P	A	
		Professor David Richards	P	P	P	P	
		Professor Gerard Watts		P	P	P	
		Dr Stefanos Leonardos	P	P	P	P	
	Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Lorraine Robinson (HoD)	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Jocelyn Cornish		P	P	A	
		Dr Wladzia Czuber-Dochan	P	P	A	P	
		Irene Zeller	P	P	A	P	
	Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (6 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Sarah Byford (HoD)	P	A	A	A	
		Dr Eleanor Dommett	P	P	P	A	
		Dr Rina Dutta			A		
		Dr Yannis Paloyelis	P	P	P	A	
		Dr Eamonn Walsh	P	P	P		
		Dr Anastasia Vikhanova	P	P	P	P	
	Social Science and Public Policy (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Jelke Boesten (HoD)	P	P	A	P	
		Dr Hillary Briffa	P	A	P	A	
		Dr Sunil Mitra Kumar			P		
		Dr Tim Benbow	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Kiran Phull	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.	Sarah Shirley (see ex officio)	P	P	A	P	
		Suzie Coates	P	P	P	P	
		Dr Michael Elliott	P	P	P	P	
	Three professional staff	Education Support	Johnny De Silva	P	P		P
		Research Support	Dr Natasha Awais-Dean	P	P	P	A
		Service Support	Akic Lwaldeng	P	P	P	
	Two academic staff on research-only contracts	Arts and Sciences Faculties	Dr Aleida Mendes Borges	P	P	P	P
		Health Faculties	Dr Joanna Davies			P	A

v= vacant post

In attendance:

Darren Wallis, Executive Director, Students & Education Directorate (SED)
 Martin Compton, Senior Lecturer - AI and Innovation Lead, King's Academy

Secretariat:

Dr Sinéad Critchley (University Secretary & Director of Assurance)
 Christine Cartwright (Governance Manager)

1 Welcome, apologies and notices.

Members were welcomed to the meeting.

2 Approval of agenda

Approved.

3 Unanimous Consent Agenda (including Minutes of the Previous Meeting) [AB-25-04-09-03]

The Vice Chancellor reviewed the Action Log [AB-25-04-09-03.2] and confirmed that Academic Board would receive an update on the King's 2030 Strategy at its meeting in July. Actions relating to research strategy and King's research income and expenditure would also be covered in July.

Decision:

That the items presented in the Unanimous Consent Agenda were approved or accepted for information.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION

5 Generative AI and Academic Integrity [AB-25-04-09-05]

Academic Board received a presentation from Professor Adam Fagan, Vice-President Education & Student Success, Professor Dan Hunter, Executive Dean of the Dickson Poon School of Law, Martin Compton, Senior Lecturer - AI and Innovation Lead, King's Academy and Darren Wallis, Executive Director, Students & Education Directorate (SED).

The Vice-President Education & Student Success set out that while Generative AI could be a threat to academic integrity, it was clear that students would use it regardless and therefore adaptations to teaching, learning and assessment were required, as well as the regulations, policies and procedures to handle the misuse of these tools. He noted that AI could also provide solutions to academic integrity issues, such as through proctoring or technology-assisted vivas.

The Executive Dean of the Dickson Poon School of Law set out the advances in the use and sophistication of Large Language Models (LLMs) since he had last presented to Academic Board on this matter 18 months ago. Research now indicated 92% of students used AI tools in their studies, and LLMs could now generate computer code with greater accuracy than a person.

He presented an example of questions he had set for students two years ago which emulated the style of the New York Bar exam. At the time, AI tools were not consistently successful in answering these questions but recently, Claude 3.5 had answered these questions with 100% accuracy.

He set out the development of Language Reasoning Models which can now generate arguments, which is an advancement of the abilities of LLMs.

The AI and Innovation Lead, King's Academy added that for academics the use of AI required a mindset shift, as they were not experimenting with AI tools. This also extended to the nature of assessment itself, changing the types and stakes of the assessment, considering cross-modular assessment. He acknowledged that the curricula were already full, and to make space to incorporate AI, careful consideration would need to be given as to what should be removed.

He reflected on the current regulations, policy and guidance which had been issued in October 2023. While these had been co-created, it had become apparent there was a need for more local decision-making and consistency within departments and Faculties.

The Executive Director, Students & Education Directorate advised that of the 91 cases of academic misconduct which had reached the central decision-making level, 10% of these listed misuse of AI as one of the factors.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The need to engage with the students on this issue and how to demonstrate the need to develop independent critical learning skills, as well as how those would be useful in employment.
- The potential for AI tools to personalise knowledge and learning, making it more accessible.
- The use of AI tools to summarise texts which enables students to engage with a broader range of material.
- The impact on staff and the amount of time required to maintain an awareness of the tools being used by students.
- A current lack of awareness within the university as to the AI tools and skills required by employers, as well as a potential inability by employers to articulate the specific skills or knowledge required.

The Chair advised Academic Board that the Executive Dean of the Dickson Poon School of Law has been requested to lead a team including King's Academy to develop a strategy for King's 2030 with three strands: (i) the integrity of our assessments (ii) how pedagogical methods should change and (iii) the employability skills required.

REGULAR BUSINESS ITEMS

6 Report of the Vice-Chancellor & President [AB-25-04-09-06]



The Chair thanked all for their efforts to encourage students to complete the National Student Survey which, after nine weeks had resulted in a 67% response rate, which equalled that achieved in 2024, King's highest response rate. Activities this year had resulted in reaching the 50% threshold in the shortest time on record for King's and the latest response rate was 20% ahead of the response rate at this stage in 2022, highlighting the impact of the three-year strategy to drive higher NSS participation and secure responses much earlier in the campaign.

The Chair addressed the recent fine issued by the Office for Students against the University of Sussex. He advised Academic Board that King's had already engaged AdvanceHE, prior to the decision by the Office for Students, to review the freedom of expression policies. As a result of the decision, it was important to understand how to balance academic freedom against equalities legislation, and the Chair cited the guidance issued by the Department for Education to schools in 2014. In this guidance, it states that the content of the curriculum is excluded from the Equality Act 2010 which meant that schools are free to include a full range of issues, ideas and materials in their syllabus, and to expose pupils to thoughts and ideas of all kinds, however challenging or controversial, without fear of legal challenge based on a protected characteristic. However, the way in which that curriculum is delivered is covered by the Act.

The Chair noted that the outcome of AdvanceHE's review would be brought to Academic Board at a future meeting [**ACTION - AB-05-24/25**].

7 KCLSU Officers' Report [AB-25-04-09-07]

Academic Board noted the report.

8 Reports of Committees

8.1 Report of the Academic Board Operations Committee [AB-25-04-09-08.1]

The University Secretary presented the report which set out the timetable for the upcoming elections as well as the principles by which elections would be conducted. This followed the decision made by Academic Board at its meeting in June 2024 when it agreed on a fluctuating number of seats held by Senior and Junior staff.

Academic Board discussed the proposed balance of membership which appeared to favour staff who held posts captured under the heading of Junior staff (includes roles with the following Post Profile: Lecturer; Research Fellow and equivalent (G6, G7). Views in favour and against were expressed and the Chair concluded the matter should be delegated to the Academic Board Operations Committee to resolve.

Decision:

That views on the matter should be communicated to the University Secretary, and final decisions would be made by the Academic Board Operations Committee.

8.2 Report of the College Education Committee [AB-25-04-09-08.2]

The Chair of the Committee presented the proposal to revise the Academic Calendar from 2026/2027, noting that this had been discussed at and endorsed by both education and management committees. The addition of one week to Assessment Period 1 was considered a minor change and not as ambitious as some had set out to achieve. At present, 38,000 examinations take place during the one week of Assessment Period 1 and this adjustment sought to mitigate the pressures experienced by students with assessments during that time.

During discussion, concern was raised about the potential impact on modules taught during term 2 which would need to be redesigned in content or delivery to account for the loss of one week of teaching. Concern was also raised that adding a week would encourage additional assessments to be sat in that period, which would affect staff workload, and that the rigor and demand of assessments which may be taken shortly after the end of teaching could be diminished.

The Chair of the Committee advised an operational implementation group was already established and working through the logistics of the proposal.

Decision:

That the revised Academic Calendar from 2026/27 be approved.

The remaining items were noted or approved under the Unanimous Consent Agenda.

9 The Dean

9.1 Report of The Dean [AB-25-04-09-9.1]

The Dean added that the first term of the course for those who took the Associates of King's College qualification next year would focus on AI.

9.2 To elect Associates of King's College [AB-25-04-09-10.2]

No discussion – all approved under the Unanimous Consent Agenda

10 Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 16:30.

Christine Cartwright
Governance Manager
April 2025