

Academic Board**Meeting date** Wednesday 9 April 2025**Paper reference** AB-25-04-09-03.1**Status** Final**Minutes**

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

Date 17 March 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 Jun
Ex officio	Chair of Academic Board, President & Principal		Professor Shitij Kapur		P	P	P		
	Senior Vice Presidents & Vice Principals	SVP Academic (Vice-Chair)	Professor Rachel Mills		P	P	A		
		SVP Health & Life Sciences	Professor Graham Lord		P	A			
		VP Education & Student Success	Professor Adam Fagan		P	P	P		
		VP Research & Innovation	Professor Bashir Al-Hashimi		P	P	P		
		VP International, Engagement & Service	Professor 'Funmi Olonisakin		P	P	A		
	The Reverend the Dean		Rev'd Canon Dr Ellen Clark-King		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		
		Vice President Postgraduate	Sheeba Naaz		P	P	P		
	Executive Deans of Faculty	Arts and Humanities	Professor Simon Tanner		P		P		
		Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences	Professor Michael Escudier		P		A		
		Dickson Poon School of Law	Professor Dan Hunter			A	A		
		King's Business School	Professor Stephen Bach			P	P		
		Life Sciences & Medicine	Professor Ajay Shah		P				
		Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences	Professor Rachel Bearon		P	P	P		
		Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	Professor Richard Harding		P	P	P		
		Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (Interim)	Professor Matthew Hotopf			P	A		
		Social Science and Public Policy	Professor Linda McKie		P	P	A		
	Dean for Doctoral Studies		Professor Rebecca Oakey						
	Executive Director: Centre for International Education & Languages (CIEL)		Sarah Shirley		P	P	A		
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		
		Natural, Mathematical and Engineering Sciences	Damon Cleaver		P		P		
		Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care	Yike Yang			P	P		
		Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience	Faiza Inamdar		P		P		
		Social Science and Public Policy	Hannah Walz		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		
			Dr Alice Hazard		P	P	A		
			Dr Zeena Feldman		P	P	P		
			Dr Timothy Huzar			P	A		
		Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Laura Gibson		P	P			
			Professor Kirsty Hill (HoD)		P	P	P		
			Dr Mads Bergholt		P	P	P		
			Professor Richard Cook		P	A	A		
			Dr David Moyes		P	P	P		
		Dickson Poon School of Law (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Catharine MacMillan (HoD)		A	P	A		
			Professor Ann Mumford		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		
		Dr Simona Grassi	P	P	P		
		Dr Christopher Hazlehurst	P	P	P		
		Dr Andrew McFaull		P	P		
	Life Sciences & Medicine (7 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Susan Brain (HoD)	P	A	P		
		Professor Pete Zammit		P	P		
		Professor Claire Wells	P	P	P		
		Dr Baljinder Mankoo	P	A	A		
		Dr Anna Battaglia	P	P	P		
		Dr Marina Cecelja		P	A		
		Dr Timothy Pullen	P	P	P		
	Natural, Mathematical and Engineering Sciences (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Professor Chris Lorenz		P	A		
		Dr Andre Cobb	P	A	P		
		Professor David Richards	P	P	P		
		Professor Gerard Watts		P	P		
		Dr Stefanos Leonardos	P	P	P		
	Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care (4 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Lorraine Robinson (HoD)	P	P	P		
		Dr Jocelyn Cornish		P	P		
		Dr Wladzia Czuber-Dochan	P	P	A		
	Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (6 members, including HOD equivalent)	Irene Zeller	P	P	A		
		Professor Sarah Byford (HoD)	P	A	A		
		Dr Eleanor Dommett	P	P	P		
		Dr Rina Dutta			A		
		Dr Yannis Paloyelis	P	P	P		
		Dr Eamonn Walsh	P	P	P		
	Social Science and Public Policy (5 members, including HOD equivalent)	Dr Anastasia Vikhanova	P	P	P		
		Professor Jelke Boesten (HoD)	P	P	A		
		Dr Hillary Briffa	P	A	P		
		Dr Sunil Mitra Kumar			P		
		Dr Tim Benbow	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 Kiran Phull	P				
		Sarah Shirley (see ex officio)		P	A		
		Suzie Coates	P	P	P		
	Three professional staff	Dr Michael Elliott	P	P	P		
		Johnny De Silva	P	P			
		Research Support	P	P	P		
	Two academic staff on research-only contracts	Service Support	P	P	P		
		Arts and Sciences Faculties	P	P	P		
		Health Faculties			P		
		Dr Aleida Mendes Borges	P	P	P		
		Dr Joanna Davies			P		

v= vacant post

In attendance:

Declan Mulkeen, Director of Research Strategy

Professor Frans Berkhout, Assistant Principal (King's Climate & Sustainability)

Darren Wallis, Executive Director, Students & Education Directorate (SED)

Phil Berry, Director of Academic Quality, (SED)

Professor Liviu Matei, Head of School of Education, Communication and Society, on behalf of Professor

Linda McKie, Executive Dean, Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy

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-25-03-17-03]

The Chair noted a request had been made to amend the minutes of 8.2.

Decision:

That the minutes of the meeting on 11 December 2024 were approved subject to the changes presented.

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

4 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Chair noted that at its meeting of 20 January 2025, Council agreed to expand its staff cohort membership from three to five members drawn from the elected membership of Academic Board.

It reached this decision having considered the position regarding the Academic Board members of Council, currently three elected staff members - two academic, one professional, and having noted the views of both management and the union. The Advance HE governance review had supported the appointment (rather than election) of a further two staff members to supplement the skills and needs of the Council. The Council was persuaded of the value of adding two regular (i.e. not senior management) staff members to replace two senior management members of the Council to bring additional relevant skills and expertise, and decided that the best way forward would be to select them through the already elected members of the Academic Board, with the Governance and Nominations Committee (GNC) specifying the particularly areas and skills that were needed from time-to-time, cognizant of the staff skills and perspectives already on the Council.

As for all Council membership categories, authority was delegated to GNC to conduct the selection process and bring forward to Council recommended candidates for consideration for appointment. A call for nominations had been issued on Friday 28 February and closed on Friday 14 March at 5pm. An update on the outcome of the process will be provided after the Council meeting on 31 March.

4.1 Curriculum Commission Update: Faculty of Arts & Humanities [AB-25-03-17-04.1]

The Curriculum Commission presented a case to reverse a decision made to withdraw two modules from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. While Chair's Action on behalf of the Commission had been taken already, the matter was brought to the attention of Academic Board, as Academic Board had approved all the outcomes from the Curriculum Commission that ran until 2021/22 and had been approving any revisions submitted.

Decision:

That modules 6AAEC069 and 5AAEB032 are retained.

4.2 Whole university approach to mid module evaluation [AB-25-03-17-04.2]

The Vice President (Education & Student Success) presented a report from the working group reviewing the whole university approach to mid module evaluation. The report noted the need to retain end of module reviews and there was a need to provide teaching staff with data to improve the module but also for progression and promotion.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The importance of staff being able to evidence performance on modules both internally and externally, and the importance of deriving objective as well as subjective data from the module reviews.
- Concern that viewing the module review work primarily through an education lens could result in deprioritisation of the issues previously raised around performance and promotion.
- Cumulative impact of change on academic staff without apparent oversight and a seeming move to implement a 'one size fits all' approach.

The Vice President noted that he, along with the Vice Dean of Education in each Faculty, had oversight of the impact of change on the academics, and that the Vice Deans should be driving the conversation on module reviews within faculty education governance structures. Further work on this issue would be brought to the Education Executive and College Education Committee before being presented to Academic Board again for final decision.

Decision:

That recommendations and direction of travel were endorsed.

The Chair informed members that this meeting would be the last meeting under the tenure of Steve Large, Senior Vice President (Operations). The Chair issued thanks to Steve Large for his long tenure at King's which had seen significant expansion of the University both in terms of campus size and number of students. The new Senior Vice President (Operations)/ Chief Operating Officer, Jeremy Cook OBE, would take up his post the following week.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION ITEMS

5 AI in research and innovation [AB-25-03-17-05]

The Chair introduced the item by noting that recently a company in Japan, Sakana, had produced the first paper which was fully generated by AI and passed the peer-review process at a workshop in a top international AI conference - The AI Scientist Generates its First Peer-Reviewed Scientific Publication.

The Vice President (Research & Innovation) presented the item, noting that currently King's had £99m lifetime value of grants and fellowships relating to AI research and innovation work. The UK Government AI Opportunities Action Plan emphasised ensuring AI can drive economic growth and King's was well-positioned to engage with the action plans. It was recognized that two-thirds of awards from the King's Together programme in 2024 had been given to projects in the area of AI and data science, and collaboration across faculties was necessary to take this work forwards.

The University Executive had indicated support for this area of growth, having recently approved a £17m package of 20 "AI+X" Academic Fellowships (tenure track) to bring in new, wide-ranging, multidisciplinary research expertise across King's to benefit all Faculties.

King's was focused on ensuring ethical engagement with AI in research and the King's Research Integrity Office had published the five areas of focus to drive the training and guidance in this area.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- How to include work on AI as part of REF Impact case studies
- How to upskill researchers to use AI appropriately as part of their standard toolkit when conducting research
- How AI could improve non-research work for academics, and how students were using tools to support their study, to summarise recommended reading
- How King's could seek to deliver degrees which focused on AI.

6 Report of the Vice-Chancellor & President [AB-25-03-17-06]

The Chair reflected on the New Year's Honours which had been received by staff at King's, particularly noting the knighthood of the Vice President (Research & Innovation).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Academic Board was informed that Lisa Adams had been confirmed to the permanent role of Vice President (People & Talent)/ Chief People Officer and Professor Sebastien Ourselin had been appointed to a new role of Assistant Principal (Innovation).

The Chair noted that work on King's Strategy 2030 was continuing, and a detailed engagement plan would be published shortly. A date would be identified to bring the draft Strategy to Academic Board. [ACTION – AB-03-24/25]

7 KCLSU Officers' Report [AB-25-03-17-07]

The Officers noted that a recent Company Members Meeting had approved in principle the motion to amend the Articles of Association which would improve clarity of wording and agility in decision-making.

The results of the SU elections for 2025/26 were available on the website and it was confirmed that Sheeba Naaz would continue in her current role.

Academic Board noted that a request to discuss AI and academic misconduct had been raised by one of the student members, and the Board discussed the current guidance available and implementation of that guidance in practice.

The Chair agreed that Academic Board should discuss this matter in more detail at its next meeting [ACTION – AB-04-24/25].

8 Concordat on Sustainable Research [AB-25-03-17-08]

The Assistant Principal (King's Climate & Sustainability) presented the report to update Academic Board on the actions being taken to meet the requirements set out for all signatories to the Concordat. Focused attention was being paid to King's laboratories which required a lot of energy and generated a lot of waste but were seeking varying levels of LEAF accreditation as part of the Concordat and to meet the requirements of external funding bodies. The importance of engagement by Principal Investigators, alongside their lab technicians, was stressed as key to achieving the desired levels of accreditation. It was noted that many laboratories had already achieved the Gold standard and for the laboratories not currently accredited, work was needed to achieve the Silver standard in seven laboratories and the Bronze standard in 23 laboratories.

The next step in compliance with the Concordat would be a public letter from the Vice Chancellor which would be issued in May.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The criteria for the different levels of LEAF accreditation and whether they differed to take account of the various types of laboratory.
- The use of the King's Impact Fund to seek solutions to the need for reduction of single use plastic in clinical teaching settings.
- How to teach future Principal Investigators, as current students, about the need to be sustainable in research, and the support available to current staff to help them meet the criteria set out.

9 Reports of Committees

9.1 Report of the College Education Committee [AB-25-03-17-09.1]

No discussion – all approved or noted under the Unanimous Consent Agenda

9.2 Report of the College Research Committee [AB-25-03-17-09.2]

No discussion – all approved or noted under the Unanimous Consent Agenda

10 The Dean

10.1 Report of The Dean [AB-25-03-17-10.1]

Noted

10.2 To elect Associates of King's College [AB-25-03-17-10.2]

No discussion – all approved under the Unanimous Consent Agenda

11 Report from Council [AB-25-03-17-11]

The report from the first meeting of the year was presented, and it was noted as the first meeting for the new Chair of Council, Lord Simon Stevens of Birmingham Kt.

12 Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 15:50.

Christine Cartwright
Governance Manager
December 2024