

## King's College Council

Meeting date 12 May 2025

Paper reference KCC-25-05-12-04.1

Status Unconfirmed

Access Members and Committee Staff Resource



### Minutes

The Council is asked to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

**Date** 31 March 2025, 17.00

**Location** Council Room, Strand

**Present** Lord Stevens of Birmingham (Chair); Nhuoc Lan Tu (Vice-Chair); Professor Shitij Kapur; Vivek Ahuja; Dr Natasha Awais-Dean; Tom Berry; Paul Cartwright; Sir Jon Coles; Dr Joanna Davies; Vinay Jha; Sir Ron Kerr; Professor Rachel Mills; Professor Kim Piper; Steve Weiner; Jon Zehner

**Apologies** Donna Catley; Clare Sumner; Sheeba Naaz

**In attendance** Malcolm Ace, CFO/ Vice President (Finance)  
Jeremy Cook OBE, COO/ SVP (Operations)  
Julia Kosowska, KCLSU student representative  
Professor Anita Grigoriadis, Chief Executive Officer and Professor of Molecular and Digital Pathology (*for the Community Story*)  
Gregory Verghese, Chief Technology Officer and researcher at the Comprehensive Cancer Centre (*for the Community Story*)  
Robin Mclver, Deputy Vice Principal (Operations) (*for item 9*)

**Secretariat** Dr Sinéad Critchley, University Secretary & Director of Assurance  
Brenda Thomas, Interim Head of Governance  
Christine Cartwright, Governance Manager

### Community Story – PharosAI

The Chair welcomed Professor Anita Grigoriadis, Chief Executive Officer and Gregory Verghese, Chief Technology Officer of PharosAI to the meeting.

They presented the timeline to date of the project which is a collaboration between King's College London, Queen Mary University of London, Barts Health NHS Trust and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust. PharosAI will develop highly-curated multimodal patient datasets which can be utilised by companies with AI tools seeking to improve diagnostics and therapies available to cancer patients. The three-year plan was presented, which would ultimately result in the creation of a spin-out company.

The Council discussed how the company would determine the value of the datasets available to other companies which sought access. The Council heard about the ethics and security measures which were applied when working with anonymised patient datasets, as well as the diversity of the patient data on which the AI tools would be tested.

## 1 Welcome, Apologies and Notices

The Chair welcomed members and attendees to the meeting. Jeremy Cook was welcomed to his first meeting as Chief Operating Officer/ Senior Vice President (Operations).

The Vice-Chancellor provided Council members with an update on the recent tragedy which had resulted in the death of a student and serious injury of two others. He reflected on the response from the staff and student community as well as the work of the Dean and her office in concert with the College's student support staff. The Chair expressed condolences on behalf of the Council to be conveyed to the deceased student's family.

## 2 Declarations of Interest

The Governance team had received updates in advance of the meeting relating to the interests of one member.

### 3 Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

**4 Unanimous Consent Agenda (including Minutes of the Previous Meeting) [KCC-25-03-31-04]**

The items on the Unanimous Consent Agenda were taken as read and noted or approved as set out in the papers.

The Action Log was reviewed and updated. The Chair of the Finance Committee reported that it had completed its review of the King's Endowment Fund Ethical Investment Policy. The Board Assurance Framework would be presented to Council following the appointment of a member of staff, and the Estates Committee would review of benefits of the LIHE **[ACTION]**.

## 5 Matters Arising

None were raised.

## 6 Report of the Chair

The Chair updated members on his continuing meetings across King's College, including with Faculties, students and senior colleagues.

**7 Report of the Vice-Chancellor & President [KCC-25-03-31-07.1]**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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#### International Subject Rankings

The Vice-Chancellor noted King's recent success in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025.

#### Senior Appointments

The Vice-Chancellor noted the permanent appointment of Lisa Adams in her role as VP (People & Talent)/Chief People Officer and the appointment of Professor Sebastien Ourselin to a new role of Assistant Principal (Innovation).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

#### Office for Students

The Vice-Chancellor updated Council on the recent decision by the Office for Students to impose a significant fine on the University of Sussex following the conclusion of its investigation into compliance with two conditions of registration relating to free speech and academic freedom requirements and the university's management and governance practices. The Vice-Chancellor and Senior Vice President (Academic) assured Council that King's had already taken steps to review its relevant documentation and there was confidence that King's governance of such matters was robust, though the details of the policies and guidelines were being examined. King's had sought the assistance of Advance HE for a part of this.

The Council discussed the importance of clarity in respect of the University's values and duties in regard to academic freedom, freedom of speech and viewpoint diversity as they pertained to teaching and research. The Vice-Chancellor noted that King's had clear guardrails, most prominently through the Code of Practice which had been approved by Council last year.

The new responsibilities from August 2025 provided a welcome opportunity to review some of the customs and practise, bring it all together and link it to the Council's role and responsibilities in this regard.

It was agreed that Council would have a further discussion on these topics **[ACTION]**.

#### **Benchmark Report** [KCC-25-03-31-07.2]

The Vice-Chancellor presented the report on the University's performance across a broad range of key metrics. The Council discussed how this was used within the University, both at Executive level and within the Faculties.

Consideration of the Staff:Student Ratio data had recently been discussed by the Finance Committee, and it was agreed that the new People Committee could receive a more detailed breakdown of staff diversity data **[ACTION]**.

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### **8.1 Summary Report of Key Issues [KCC-25-03-31-08.1]**

The VP Education (Health) presented the report, highlighting the recent turnout in the elections for sabbatical team for 2025/26.

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### **8.2 KCLSU Annual Report [KCC-25-03-31-08.2]**

The Annual Report was presented, noting that while income had increased by 4% to £10.36m, spending had increased by 6% to £10.42m driven by increased support and funding for student activities, but the reserves were in line with financial policy.

The Council queried the decline in cash from £1.6m to £800k, and the VP Education (Health) would provide a response from KCLSU on this at the next meeting **[ACTION]**.

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### **8.3 KCLSU Articles of Association [KCC-25-03-31-08.3]**

The University Secretary presented the item on behalf of the Chief Executive of KCLSU. It was explained that King's held a 26% vote share at KCLSU Company Members Meetings, but that this vote had not been cast at the meeting held in February to avoid fettering Council's decision-making at the point of approving the Articles of Association as presented. It had been thought by KCLSU that the University would be able to cast its vote following Council's approval, and the Articles would be formalised. However, recent legal advice confirmed this was not permissible and the full vote would need to be re-run by the Students' Union.

#### **Decision:**

Council agreed to recommend the Articles of Association as presented here and delegated the vote share to the Vice-Chancellor or his nominee to be cast at the next opportunity.

It was confirmed that if any changes were made to the Articles of Association, they would be reported back to Council for final approval.

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## **9 Strategy 2030 [KCC-25-03-31-09]**

The Vice-Chancellor updated Council on the recent work undertaken on the development of the new strategy, and the results of a multi-day planning session attended by the senior team. These sessions had covered the following areas of focus:

- Careers and employability – building on the current provision to build on the high-quality education offered.
- Size and shape – future student numbers whilst maintaining the high-quality offer.
- The implications for research and prioritisation of funding and support.

Future discussions would consider a digital strategy and a third stream of educational provision covering online education, King's abroad and other options outside of the traditional provision, and this would be provided to Council at its meeting in July.

Noting that the majority of the meeting in May would be focused on the Strategy, Council provided their initial feedback on the Strategy and report of the planning session.

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## **10 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### **10.1 Report of the Academic Board [KCC-25-03-31-10.1]**

*The report from the Academic Board had been noted on the Unanimous Consent Agenda.*

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**10.2 Report of the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee [KCC-25-03-31-10.2]**

Annual Health and Safety Report

**Decision:**

The Council approved the Annual Health and Safety Report.

Board Assurance Framework

The Chair of the Committee advised that the development of the Board Assurance Framework was contingent on the appointment of a member of staff to focus solely on this piece of work, and that the Framework would be presented to Council as soon as it could be implemented.

The Council agreed that until the digital strategy had been formalised, oversight of this would remain with the Finance Committee.

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**10.3 Report of the Estates Strategy Committee [KCC-25-03-31-10.3]**

*The report from the Estates Strategy Committee had been noted on the Unanimous Consent Agenda.*

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**10.4 Report of the Finance Committee - *RESERVED* [KCC-25-03-31-10.4]**

[REDACTED]

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**10.5 Report of the Staff and Culture Strategy Committee [KCC-25-03-31-10.5]**

*The report from the Staff & Culture Strategy Committee had been noted on the Unanimous Consent Agenda.*

*Malcolm Ace, CFO/ Vice President (Finance), Jeremy Cook OBE, COO/ SVP (Operations) and Julia Kosowska left the meeting*

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**10.6 Report of the Fellowships and Honorary Degrees Committee – *RESERVED* [KCC-25-03-31-10.6]**

[REDACTED]

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**10.8 Report of the Governance and Nominations Committee [KCC-25-03-31-10.8]**

Independent Members' Executive Search Update

The Chair reported that the search for independent members to join Council was underway, and it was expected that interviews would be held between the May and July Council meetings. The candidate brief would be circulated to members following this meeting [**ACTION**].

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#### Academic Board membership of Council

*The Senior Vice President (Academic) remained in the meeting but noted a conflict of interest in relation to the following decision.*

The Committee had interviewed three candidates from the elected members of the Academic Board for the two positions available on Council which were available to staff elected to the Academic Board and two names were recommended to Council.

#### **Decision:**

To approve the appointment of the two candidates recommended.

#### Amendments to Ordinances and Terms of Reference review

The amendments to the Ordinances and the Terms of Reference were presented, with the Terms of Reference having been reviewed by the Chairs of each Committee in advance. It was confirmed that, where necessary, it would still be possible to co-opt individuals onto committees. The membership of each committee would be confirmed by the University Secretary in consultation with the Chair of GPRC [**ACTION**].

#### **Decision:**

To approve the Ordinances and the Terms of Reference.

#### Council and committee meeting dates

Following the decision of Council to adjust its standing committees from 1 April 2025, and to reflect the needs of business being brought to Council, some adjustments were required to the remaining meetings in this academic year.

The dates for the revised cycle of meetings for 2025/26 and the proposed dates for 2026/27 would be submitted to Council at its meeting on 12 May.

#### **Decision:**

To approve the revised calendar of Council and Committee meetings.

*The Vice-Chancellor, the Senior Vice-President (Academic) and the Secretariat support staff left the meeting.*

#### Extension of the Vice-Chancellor and President's appointment for a further term - **RESERVED AND RESTRICTED**

[REDACTED]

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#### **10.7 Report of the Remuneration Committee – *RESERVED AND RESTRICTED* [KCC-25-03-31-10.7]**

The Council noted the report of the Remuneration committee.

*The Vice-Chancellor re-joined the meeting at 19:23.*

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#### **11 Any other business**

Members were invited to share reflections on the meeting. It was noted that the balance of the agenda

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had moved away from committee feedback reports to strategic discussion, and that this should be maintained. In respect of student engagement, the Vice-Chancellor was invited to bring forward proposals on where Council's input would be impactful.

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## **12 Meeting Adjournment**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 19:32.

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**Lord Stevens of Birmingham**

**March 2025**