

# THE CHARTER

# ELIZABETH THE SECOND

by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth,  
Defender of the Faith:

## TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING!

WHEREAS an humble Petition has been presented unto Us by Our most dearly beloved Mother, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Chancellor of Our University of London, Our trusty and well beloved Sir Frank Hartley, Knight, Commander of Our Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, formerly Vice Chancellor of the University of London, the Delegacy of University of London King's College and the Corporation of King's College London, praying that We should be graciously pleased to grant a Charter to King's College London which was founded by Charter granted on the fourteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-nine by His Majesty King George the Fourth:

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of King's College London was incorporated by the said Charter of 1829 and (notwithstanding the annulment of that Charter by the King's College London Act 1882) remained incorporated by virtue of that Act and subsequently by virtue of the King's College London (Transfer) Act 1908:

AND WHEREAS the King's College London Act 1978 received Our Assent on the twentieth day of July 1978 and whereas that Act will not come into operation unless and until a Charter is granted consequent upon the said Petition:

AND WHEREAS We have taken the said Petition into Our Royal Consideration and are minded to accede thereto:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We by virtue of our Prerogative Royal and of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion have willed and ordained and by these Presents do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, will and ordain as follows: –

1. In this Our Charter and in the Statutes except where the context otherwise requires –

“the College” has the meaning assigned to it by Article 2 hereof;

“the Council” means the Council of the College established by Article 5 hereof;

“functions” includes powers and duties;

“Ordinances” means Ordinances made by the Council in accordance with the Charter and Statutes;

“Regulations” means Regulations made by the Council or other such authority as delegated by the Council in accordance with the Charter and Statutes;

“the Principal and President” means the person who holds the office of Principal and President of the College established by Article 6 hereof;

“Special Resolution” means a resolution passed at one meeting of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council and confirmed at a subsequent such meeting held not less than one calendar month nor more than three calendar months after the former meeting where written notice of each meeting and of the object of the meeting has been given to each member of the Council not less than fourteen clear days before the date fixed for the meeting and the resolution has been passed at each meeting by not less than two-thirds of those present and voting;

“the Statutes” means the Statutes referred to in Article 11 hereof;

Words importing the masculine gender shall, where necessary, be construed as importing the feminine and words importing the singular number shall, where necessary, be construed as importing the plural and vice-versa.

2. (1) The Corporation of King's College London, hereinafter referred to as “the College”, shall forever hereafter be one body corporate and politic by the name and style of King's College London with perpetual succession.
- (2) The College shall hereafter consist of those persons who are for the time being the members of the Council, the Fellows, the staff and students of the College and of such other persons as may be included by or under the provisions of this our Charter, the Statutes and Ordinances and Regulations.

- (3) The College though a fully autonomous institution in its own right is also a constituent college of the University of London.
3. (1) The objects of the College shall be to advance education and promote research for the public benefit. In so doing the College shall have regard both to its Anglican tradition and the diverse beliefs and backgrounds of its members;
- (2) All the functions of the College shall be performed in accordance with this our Charter and Statutes. The College shall have the power to do anything within the law which furthers or helps to further the objects of the College.
4. The College shall be a teaching, research and examining body and shall, subject to this Our Charter and the Statutes and the Ordinances and Regulations, have the power to:
- (1) Award degrees and other academic awards to persons who have pursued a programme approved by the College, including any such academic awards or distinctions in conjunction with another institution or institutions;
- (2) Confer Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and Honorary Fellowships or other distinctions on approved persons.
- (3) To revoke any degree, diploma, certificate or other academic distinction awarded or conferred by the College.
5. (1) There shall be a Council of the College which, subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, shall be the supreme governing body of the College and as such shall exercise all the powers of the College save to the extent that this Our Charter and the Statutes shall otherwise provide. The Council shall conduct the general business of the College consistently with the provisions of this Our Charter and the Statutes.
- (2) There shall be elected from among the members of the Council a Chairman and one or more Vice-Chairmen of the Council, who shall not otherwise be in the employment of the College and the manner of election, period of office, powers and duties of each of them shall be as prescribed by the Ordinances. The Chairman of the Council, or nominee drawn from the Council membership determined in conjunction with the Principal and President, shall confer degrees and other academic distinctions.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, the constitution of the Council, its powers and duties, the manner of appointment and period of office of its members, the manner of filling vacancies in its membership, the conduct of its meetings and affairs and all other matters relating to the Council shall be as prescribed by the Statutes and Ordinances.
6. There shall be a Principal and President of the College who shall be the chief academic and executive officer of the College and his powers and duties shall, subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, be as prescribed by the Statutes.
7. There shall be a Visitor of the College who shall be appointed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council on the representation of the Council for such period and with such duties as We, Our Heirs or Successors shall deem fit.
8. There shall be an Academic Board whose members shall be as prescribed in the Ordinances and it shall, subject to the powers of the Council prescribed in this Our Charter and the Statutes, be the body responsible under delegated authority from the Council for the regulation of the academic work of the College in teaching and examining and in research. It shall also advise the Council on academic matters affecting the College.
9. Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter, the Council may appoint such staff, having such powers and duties and upon such terms and conditions, as the Council sees fit. Staff employed by the College who are directly engaged in teaching and research shall have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or privileges.
10. There shall be a students' union of the College whose constitution, and any amendments thereto, shall require the approval of the Council.
11. (1) The Council may by Special Resolution make, amend or revoke Statutes for the conduct of the affairs of the College.
- (2) No Statutes made by the Council shall have effect if they are repugnant to the provisions of this Our Charter or until they shall have been approved by the Lords of Our Most Honourable Privy Council of which approval a Certificate under the hand of the Clerk of Our said Council shall be conclusive evidence.
12. Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter and the Statutes, the Council (or such other proper delegated authority) may make such Ordinances and Regulations as it considers necessary or desirable for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the College and shall stipulate when such Ordinances and Regulations come into effect. Such Ordinances and Regulations may add to, amend or repeal the existing Ordinances and Regulations.

13. The Statutes may direct that any of the matters authorised or directed in this Our Charter to be prescribed or regulated by Statute shall be prescribed or regulated by Ordinance or Regulation or by decision made by the Council.
- 14 Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter and the Statutes, the Council and the Academic Board may from time to time make Standing Orders governing their respective proceedings, and the power to make Standing Orders shall include the power to add to, amend or repeal any existing Standing Orders.
15. The Council may at any time revoke or vary any of the provisions of this Our Charter by a Special Resolution and any such revocation or variation shall, when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council, have effect so that this Our Charter shall thereafter continue and operate as if it had been originally granted and made as so revoked or varied, and this provision shall apply to this Our Charter as so revoked or varied.
16. Our Royal Will and Pleasure is that this Our Charter shall ever be construed benevolently and in every case most favourably to the College and to the promotion of the objects of this Our Charter.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the thirteenth day of May in the fifty-eighth year of Our Reign [2009].

**BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL**

# THE STATUTES

## Membership of the Council

1. The Council shall consist of the following persons:
  - (i) those appointed by the Council, on the recommendation of the Council's Nominations Committee, in accordance with the Ordinances, who shall number up to 20 members of whom 12 shall be lay members and 8 shall be members of the staff of the College to include the Principal and President.
  - (ii) the President of the King's College London Students' Union ("the Students' Union").
2. Other than the Principal and President and the President of the Students' Union who shall serve for the period of their respective offices, members shall be appointed for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment up to a maximum normally of three terms of three years or nine years in total in any one capacity.

## Meetings of the Council

3. The Council shall hold such number of meetings each year as shall be determined by Ordinances.
4. A quorum at a meeting of the Council shall be 11. Of those present, a majority shall be lay members.
5. A written resolution signed by all those entitled to vote at a meeting of the Council is as valid as a resolution actually passed at a Council meeting. For this purpose the written resolution may be set out in more than one document and will be treated as passed on the date of the last signature.

## Ordinances and Regulations

6. The Council shall make Ordinances and shall delegate to the appropriate authority as specified by the appropriate Ordinance, the making of Regulations. If there is an inconsistency between the provisions of any Ordinances and the Regulations, the Ordinances shall prevail.

## Functions and Powers of the Council

7. The Council shall be responsible for ensuring that the objects of the College are fulfilled. Without prejudice to the generality of the functions and powers exercisable by the Council on behalf of the College, those functions and powers shall include the following: –
  - (a) to be responsible for the management and use of all property, revenues and grants;

- (b) to govern, manage and regulate the finances, accounts, investments, property, business and all affairs whatsoever of the College and for these purposes to appoint bankers and any other officers or agents;
- (c) to solicit, receive and administer in the interests of the College money or property of any kind;
- (d) to sanction the receipt or acceptance on its behalf of any money or property by any committee or society or other body created or incorporated to raise funds for the College;
- (e) in furtherance of the objects, and so far permitted by charity law, to give guarantees;
- (f) to subscribe to any charities and to grant donations for any charitable purpose consistent with the Charter;
- (g) to enter into arrangements with institutions or public bodies or industrial or commercial concerns with a view to the advancement, application and dissemination of knowledge;
- (h) to deposit or to invest moneys and funds of the College as the Council shall from time to time think fit in accordance with all relevant laws and for those purposes shall have the authority to enter into any financial instrument which is ancillary or incidental to the exercise of such powers;
- (i) in furtherance of the objects, and so far as permitted by charity law, to borrow and raise money and give security for loans; and for those purposes the College shall have the authority to enter into any financial instrument which is ancillary or incidental to the exercise of such powers;
- (j) to exploit for the College's benefit a facility or resources of the College, including study, research or knowledge or the practical application of study, research or knowledge belonging to the College, whether alone or with someone else;
- (k) to constitute or dissolve Faculties, Schools, Institutes, Departments, Divisions and Centres of the College;
- (l) to confer on such persons as the Council considers worthy Honorary Degrees, Honorary Fellowships and Fellowships of the College and to revoke the same in accordance with the Ordinances and Regulations;
- (m) to promote and maintain a students' union for the benefit of the students of the College;
- (n) to appoint the Auditor who shall receive such remuneration as may be determined from time to time by the Council;
- (o) from time to time at any meeting of the Council to make, alter or revoke Ordinances and Regulations for the conduct of the business or affairs of the College: Provided that notice of an intention to propose any amendments to or revocation of the

- existing Ordinances and Regulations or the making of any new Ordinances and Regulations shall have been given in the notice calling any such meeting;
- (p) to appoint and dismiss the Principal and President; and
  - (q) to appoint and dismiss the person performing the role of Clerk to the Council.

### **Delegation by the Council**

8. Subject to Statute 9 below, the Council may delegate its powers under the Charter, the Statutes and Ordinances and Regulations while remaining accountable to:
  - (a) an appropriately qualified member of the Council; or
  - (b) an appropriately qualified committee that contains one or more members of the Council; or
  - (c) an appropriately qualified member of the College staff.
9. The Council may not delegate its powers:
  - (a) to appoint and dismiss the Principal and President and to approve the Principal and President's terms and conditions of appointment;
  - (b) to approve and monitor the strategic plan (along with associated annual business plans and risk management strategies) recommended by the Principal and President;
  - (c) to amend the Charter and the Statutes;
  - (d) to make College Ordinances ;
  - (e) to ensure the solvency of the College and safeguard its assets;
  - (f) to adopt the College's Budget and Annual Accounts;
  - (g) to appoint the College's Auditors; and
  - (h) to amend the Council's terms of reference.

### **Powers of the Chairman**

10. The Chairman of the Council who shall be known as the Chairman of King's College London, shall be empowered to take action on behalf of the Council in any matter being in his opinion either urgent or non-contentious and he shall report his action to that body at its next meeting for confirmation.

### **Powers & Duties of the Principal and President**

11. The Principal and President as the Chief Executive of the College shall:-
  - (a) have a general responsibility to the Council for ensuring that the objects of the College are fulfilled and for maintaining and promoting the efficiency, discipline and good order of the College and shall have such powers and duties as may be entrusted to him by the Council;

- (b) subject to the provisions of the Charter and these Statutes, have power to admit as a student of the College anyone having the requisite qualifications, in accordance with Ordinances and Regulations;
- (c) have power in accordance with Ordinances and Regulations, which shall provide for a right of hearing and of appeal to suspend or terminate the College registration of any student for reasons of academic insufficiency and to exclude any such student from access to any property of the College;
- (d) have power, in accordance with Regulations, to suspend any employee of the College and to exclude any person from access to any property of the College;
- (e) have power to delegate any or all of the powers conferred by paragraphs 11(b), (c), (d) and (e) of this Statute to such person or persons as he may think fit;
- (f) shall make an annual report to the Council.

### **The Vice-Principals**

12. The Principal and President may, with the approval of the Council, appoint one or more Vice-Principals who shall, subject to these Statutes, assist the Principal and President in such matters as the Principal and President may from time to time delegate to them. In the event of two or more Vice-Principals being so appointed, one of their number shall be appointed by the Principal and President to act for him in the event of his temporary absence. Where the office of the Principal and President is vacant or in the event of the incapacity of the Principal and President, the Chairman of the Council shall make the appointment.

### **The Auditor**

13. The Council shall appoint an Auditor of the College who shall be a member of a recognised supervisory body (as defined in Section 1217 of the Companies Act 2006) who is eligible for the appointment under the rules of that body. No person shall be appointed or remain Auditor who is or any one of whose partners is a member of the Council.
14. The Auditor shall hold office for such period as the Council may think fit and shall be eligible for reappointment, and shall receive such remuneration as may be determined from time to time by the Council.
15. The Auditor shall have a right of access at all reasonable times to the books, records, accounts and vouchers of the College and shall be entitled to require such information and explanation as may be necessary for the performance of his duties.
16. The Auditor shall make a report to the Council as to the accuracy of the Annual Accounts and the financial management of the College at least once in every year.

17. If the office of Auditor shall become vacant by the Auditor's death or resignation or any other cause before the expiration of his period of office, the Council shall forthwith appoint an Auditor in his place for the remainder of that period.

18. The Auditor may resign by notice in writing addressed to the Clerk to the Council.

**\*Transitional Provision**

19. Statutes 7(p) and 9(a) shall only come into effect upon the Crown renouncing its power to appoint the Principal and President. This transitional provision shall become redundant following its implementation and at which point shall be deleted from the Statutes.