

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

at the meeting of the

COUNCIL OF THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

The special meeting of the Council was held via Microsoft Teams at 1pm on Monday 15th February 2021, when there were present:

Mr J. Allan (Chair), Professor N. Brandon, Mr. C Brinsmead, Mr. T. Courtauld, Professor R. Craster, Mr J. Cullen, Mr. R. Kalifa, Sir Jonathan Michael, Ms. S. Murray, Dr. M. Safa, Professor J. Sanders, Mr. A. Sood, Professor T. Tetley, Professor F. Veloso, Professor I. Walmsley (Provost), Professor J. Weber, and Mr. C. Williams.

Apologies

Professor A. Gast (President)
Mr. M. Sanderson

In attendance

Ms R. Knight (Assistant Clerk to the Court and Council).

WELCOME

1. The Chair welcomed members to the second Special Council meeting regarding the recent whistleblowing disclosure and subsequent disciplinary process involving the President and the Chief Financial Officer.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. There were two key communications required, the response to the OfS investigation and the letter to the UCU in response to the questions. These responses would be targeted and would not be for general release.
3. Council members had received a draft statement that confirmed that the College had followed the Ordinances and other regulatory requirements during the disciplinary process, as recommended by the Investigation Report produced by QC Jane McNeill. It was confirmed that College had adhered to the process and had followed all legal advice.
4. It was recognised that individual members did not share the same awareness of the process and outcomes due to different levels of involvement, but that Council supported the statement and the integrity of the disciplinary process, along with the outcome.

ACTION: The Chair of Council to ask the legal advisers to confirm in writing that the process was followed.

5. Council discussed whether a statement to the College would be helpful. There had not been a statement from Council as a body, which had led to the UCU asking whether Council had discussed the situation. The letter to the UCU was expected to be public and would include the statement from Council. It was noted that the President would be releasing a statement about the remainder of her tenure, and that the Working Together task group would meet for the first time in the coming week. The Provost and the Deans were cognizant of their role in improving the current environment and leading the College forward.
6. There was some reflection that Council could improve its connection to College in the coming months, potentially through better use of technology, such as broadcasts.

The meeting closed at 1.33pm.

ADDENDUM

Explanatory note from the Chair regarding the 2 special Council meetings circulated to Members at 12.03pm on 10 May 2021

Between the two special Council meetings on February 12th and 15th I spoke to every member of council individually.

There was unanimous support for the conclusion that the investigation and disciplinary process had been carried out in a totally professional and appropriate way.

The overwhelming majority of those I spoke to felt that the President and CFO should remain in post

I concurred with that view and that consultation strengthened my conclusion that both were fit and proper persons to continue in their current roles.