

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

at the seventy-fifth meeting of the

COUNCIL OF THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

The seventy-fourth meeting of the Council was held in the Business School, Scale Space at 9.30 am on Friday 26 November 2021, when there were present:

Mr J. Allan (Chair), Professor Sir L. Borysiewicz, Mr. T. Courtauld, Professor R. Craster, Mr J. Cullen, Professor A. Gast (President) (from item 5.1), Mr L. James, Mr. R. Kalifa, Mr D. Khanna, Professor J. Mestel, Sir Jonathan Michael, Ms. S. Murray, Dr. M. Safa, Professor J. Sanders, Mr. M. Sanderson, Mr S. Saxena, Professor F. Veloso, Professor I. Walmsley (Provost), Mr. C. Williams, and Mr. M. Edwards.

In attendance

Ms R. Knight (Assistant Clerk to Council), Mr Nick Roalfe (item 3.2), Ms A. Wolthuizen.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1. The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, particularly Mr Deepak Khanna and Mr Subhanu Saxena who were attending their first meeting. Apologies were received from Professor Jonathan Weber.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

2. Council received the minutes from the meetings held on 17th September 2021.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the seventy-fourth meeting of the Council, held on 17 September 2021, be approved.

3. There were no matters arising to note.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Nominations Committee (Paper 2.1)

4. The Chair presented the report from the Nominations Committee.

Resolved:

That Dr Mary Meaney be appointed a member of Council, with immediate effect, to 31 July 2025.

Strategy Review Committee

5. The Chair of the Strategy Review Committee, Mr John Cullen, provided an oral update from the first meeting of the Committee, held on 12 November 2021. The group had discussed its approach, which would be one of challenge and advice on the implementation of the strategies, including adapting to emerging trends, in order to stretch the College's ambition.

ACTION: Council to receive a report on Strategy implementation, including updates on sub strategies where they intersect with the College Strategy.

Property Committee (Paper 2.3)

6. The Chair of the Committee, Mr Toby Courtauld, presented the report from the Property Committee. It was noted that the matters raised would all be discussed at the February awayday, where Council would explore Estates Strategy, including the relationship with government agendas regarding science, research, and investment across the UK.

Finance Committee (Paper 2.4)

7. Dr Mahnaz Safa, the Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the report from the meeting held on 1 November 2021.

MAJOR DECISION ITEMS

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2021 (Paper 3.1.1)

8. The Chief Financial Officer, Mr Muir Sanderson, presented the Annual Report and

Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2021. Council noted that there had been an increase in valuation of property over £100 million, coupled with a rapid growth in student numbers. A number of activities had operated differently over the past year, which did not reflect the real position. There was some tension between growth and reducing operating costs which would need to be addressed to make transformational changes.

9. In discussion it was noted that the accounts did not indicate the percentage subsidy that the College was contributing to support the research and development income. The data was reported via the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) system and would be shared with Council separately. Likewise data regarding the extent to which overseas recruitment subsidised home students.

Resolved:

That the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2021 is approved.

External Auditors Representation Letter (Paper 3.1.2)

10. The Chief Financial Officer presented the Representation Letter.

Resolved:

That the Representation Letter for the External Auditors be approved.

Annual Report from the Audit and Risk Committee (Paper 3.1.3)

11. The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Mr John Cullen, presented the annual report, which summarised the work of the Committee over the previous financial year, including the opinions of the External and Internal Auditors. In the coming year the Committee would continue to focus on the cybersecurity risk and the changing context of relationships with sensitive countries and the work of the Scrutiny Committee.
12. Council noted the report.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan (White City) (Paper 3.2)

13. The Chair welcomed the Director of Estates, Mr Nick Roalfe, to the meeting. The paper was presented by the Chief Financial Officer. He explained that the plan had

been subjected to extensive external and internal scrutiny, which confirmed that the proposals represented value for money.

Resolved:

That the investment of £54.2 million to complete the remaining design and procurement activities to deliver the permanent infrastructure for White City South be approved.

Annual Prevent Return (Paper 3.3)

14. The Acting College Secretary, Dr Malcolm Edwards, presented the Annual Prevent Return. In 2020-21 there had been fewer events and speakers, which accounted for the numbers being lower than previous years. The training programme had continued remotely. In discussion it was confirmed that the College ICT system recognised and blocked certain activities, but that there were mechanisms to unblock as appropriate, for example for legitimate research.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Prevent Annual Accountability Statement and Annual Data Return, as set out in Annexes 1 and 2, are approved for submission to the OfS.**
- (ii) That the Chair is authorised on behalf of the Council to sign the statutory declarations contained in Annex 1.**

CHAIR, AND PROVOST REPORTS

Chair's Report

- 15. The Chair updated the Council on the Remuneration Committee held immediately before the meeting.
- 16. Since the last meeting, on 12 October 2021, the Chair had agreed to appoint two external members of Fitness to Practise Panels held on 28 October and 18 November 2021 by Chair's action.

Provost's Report (Paper 4)

- 17. The Provost, Professor Ian Walmsley, presented his report. These included an update on covid safety protocols and other measures. The number of covid cases

were incredibly low and campus was a safe place to work, reflected in the high levels of student participation.

18. UCU strike action was scheduled in December, to be followed by action short of a strike through to May. The results from the ICU student referendum on supporting the strike would be declared shortly, and it was reported that the results were unpredictable given the wide range of strongly held views across campus. The Provost updated Council on the USS pension negotiations.
19. The College had recently received the Race Equality Charter Bronze award, which constituted part of the comprehensive Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan to increase diversity. The Provost briefly outlined other actions that were ongoing.

MAJOR DISCUSSION ITEM

Business School Strategy (Paper 5.1)

20. The Dean of Imperial College Business School, Professor Francisco Veloso, presented the School's strategic plan, including the key aspirations and distinct cross cutting themes.
21. In discussion, Council challenged whether some of the targets were ambitious enough given the opportunities, particularly for online and other education driven by technology that would enable growth whilst maintaining quality. The School was in a strong position to work across faculties, but it was unclear how collaborative successes and progress was measured, and how far the Deans co-operated to agree collaborative targets.

ACTION: Following the presentation of Faculty strategies, Council to receive a report on cross-Faculty strategic contributions.

PRESIDENTS' REPORT (Paper 4)

22. The President, Professor Alice Gast, presented her report and dashboard. She announced that the College had received a Queen's Anniversary Prize, the highest national Honour awarded in UK further and higher education, in recognition of its contribution to the COVID 19 response.
23. The History Group report dialogue had garnered 160 email responses, plus a number

of focus group discussions. There was a plan for a larger town hall community discussion to increase the open dialogue, and to hear potential solutions, before the President's Board made its decisions in February.

24. The President updated Council on delays regarding the proposed regional partnership to establish a new medical school.
25. The events listing was available on Diligent. The Dangoor Plaza had been officially unveiled at an event on the 25 November 2021. This would be followed by the opening of the Sir Michael Uren building on 6 December.

Proposals for Honorary Degrees and Imperial College Medal (Paper 3.4)

26. The President invited Council to approve the proposals from Presidents' Board for the award of Honorary Degree and College Medals in 2022. The increased number of medal nominees reflected the number of people who had provided exceptional contributions to the College during the pandemic.

Resolved:

That the nominations for the conferment of Honorary Degrees and for the award of the Imperial College Medal be approved.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR DISCUSSION

Endowment Report (Paper 6.1)

27. The Chair of the Endowment Board, Mr Chris Williams, presented the annual report from the Endowment Board. The portfolio had performed strongly over the past year, noting that the gains were not expected to reoccur annually.
28. There had been continued emphasis on responsible investment. Endowment staff were focused on fulfilling the UN principles, including the Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI) reporting. External consultants had recently been appointed to continue the Strategic Asset Allocation Review into 2022.
29. Council thanked the Committee and the team.

STARRED ITEMS FOR NOTING AND FORMAL APPROVAL

30. Council received the starred items and noted nominated Court members (paper 7.3), the Harlington Trust Annual report (paper 7.4), the Staff Matters report (paper 7.5) and the Major Projects report (paper 7.6).

Resolved:

- i. **That the updated ICU Code of Practice as set out in Appendix A be approved (paper 7.1);**
- ii. **That the updated Partnership Agreement as set out in Appendix C be approved (paper 7.1); and**
- iii. **That the 2020-21 Modern Slavery Statement be approved (paper 7.2).**

Any Other Business

31. The Chair noted that this was the last meeting for Dr Malcolm Edwards in his capacity Acting College Secretary. He was thanked for his stewardship over the past 6 months.
32. The next meeting would be held on Friday 11^h February 2022, followed by the away day which would discuss the Estates Strategy.

The meeting closed at 1.03 pm