Record of the Meeting of the Court of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine held on Wednesday 26 June 2019 in the IHub, White City Campus, London

Present:
Dame Alison Nimmo CBE (Chair), Mr. Luke Blair, Ms Claire Cockerton, Mr Hamish Common, Mr Christopher deMattos, Professor Alice Gast (President), Dr Sarah Houlton, Ms Dominique Kleyn, Mr. John Neilson, Mr Ian McCulloch, Mr Michael Murphy, Ms. Nicola Pogson, Mr Kevin Porter, Ms Yasmin Razak, Mr. Muir Sanderson, Mr Yuen Shek, Professor Ian Walmsley (Provost) and Mr Malcolm Weir.

In Attendance:
Ms. Angela Bowen and Mr. Jon Hancock (the Assistant Clerk to the Court and Council).

WELCOME

On behalf of the Chair of Court, Sir Philip Dilley, who was unable to attend this meeting, Dame Alison Nimmo welcomed new members of the Court, Ms Claire Cockerton, Mr Christopher deMattos, Mr Yuen Shek and Mr Malcolm Weir, to their first meeting. She also welcomed the College’s new Vice-President (Advancement), Mr Michael Murphy, to his first meeting of the Court, and asked that the Court’s thanks to the retiring members be recorded.

COLLEGE UPDATE

The Court received an update on recent developments at the College from the President, including the recent opening of the Molecular Sciences Research Building at White City, the development of the ScaleSpace facility on the South side of the White City Campus, and the College’s efforts to build and develop its international partnerships across Europe and the World. The President also discussed the College’s work to improve the visa position for overseas students, and to advocate for post-studies work visas.

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH: MEASURING THE WORLD’S HEALTH, STREET BY STREET

The Court received a presentation from Professor Majid Ezzati, Professor of Global Environmental Health in the College’s School of Public Health, on measuring, and improving, the World’s health, country by country and street by street. Professor Ezzati showed how his research group was using AI and deep learning tools to analyse satellite and other imagery,
together with survey and census data, to track variations in health in cities at small and large scale.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- The political implications of publishing data on countries’ health performance were recognised; no Country wants to be listed as doing badly.
- The School works with the WHO to understand why some countries’ performance are worse than they should be, and countries will be alerted if controversial results are about to be published. However, benchmarking is a fundamental part of the School’s work in this field.
- The ultimate aim is to improve health outcomes; benchmarking and comparisons of health outcomes and performance can be a catalyst for positive change.
- Public Health England is also interested in using this data for public health interventions and measuring their effectiveness.

Returning to the visa issue raised by the President in her update, it was noted that the US was an attractive destination for overseas students because they could stay in the Country for a few years after graduation, whereas in the UK, they had to leave immediately after completing their course. Relaxing this requirement would enable UK universities to recruit more overseas students, particularly at postgraduate level.

**INTRODUCTION TO STUDENT ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND HACKSPACE**

After the meeting, the Court was provided with an introduction to the Hackspace and its work on encouraging student entrepreneurship by Professor Oscar Ces, Professor of Chemical Biology, including a tour of the Hackspace facilities.