

Court Annual General Meeting

Record of the Meeting of the Court of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine held on Wednesday 1 July 2020, via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Mr John Allan (Chair), Mr Andrew Bayode, Ms Claire Cockerton, Ms Ann Collins, Mr Hamish Common, Sir Michael Dixon, Professor Alice Gast (President), Dr Sarah Houlton, Mr David Keene, Ms Dominique Kleyn, Mr Ian McCulloch, Mr Christopher de Mattos, Mr Martin Mensah, Mr Michael Murphy, Mr John Neilson, Mr Jonathan Newby, Mr Kevin Porter, Ms Christine Peterson, Dr Yasmin Razak, Mr Muir Sanderson, Mr William Shek, Professor Joe Smith, Mr Bernard Taylor, Professor Ian Walmsley (Provost), Mr Marc Warner, Dr Kerry O'Donelly Weaver, Dr Malcolm Weir and Mr Oliver Woolley.

In Attendance:

Professor Oscar Ces, Mrs Rachel Knight (the Assistant Clerk to the Court and Council), Ms Katie Livingstone, Mr Adrian Mannall, Ms Nicola Pogson, Mr Pramod Kumar Puthumanapully and Ms Meredith Wilson.

WELCOME

Mr John Allan introduced himself as the new Chair of Court and Council and welcomed other new members of the Court.

COLLEGE UPDATE

The Court received an update on recent developments at the College from the President, including the rapid response to Covid-19 and the transition to online education and assessment. The President also discussed the College's contribution to international research in Covid detection, vaccine and modelling.

The Provost presented how the College would deliver education and research after the lockdown, in line with the Academic Strategy 2020-2025. He referred to the emphasis on a high-quality student experience and to the recently launched 'Transition to Zero Pollution' cross disciplinary programme in research, education and innovation. He gave an overview on admissions perspectives and the multi-mode environment for students from this Autumn term.

The Court received a presentation from the Vice President (Advancement) about current alumni relations programming and fundraising activities and priorities at the College. It was

noted that Court members could contribute by making introductions and connections, particularly to communities with whom the College should be increasing engagement, and that the College would follow up with Court members.

In discussion it was noted changes in the delivery of teaching and research were presenting a range of operational challenges, which were being met through innovation and cross faculty co-operation. College leadership and academic staff continued to engage with the Government on the development of appropriate policies in relation to these new circumstances. Members expressed interest in learning more about the student experience and their experience of blended learning, as well as the College's learning experiences in going into, and coming out of, lockdown at a future meeting.

DigiFab DIGITAL MOLECULAR DESIGN AND FABRICATION: POST COVID-19

The Court received a presentation from Professor Oscar Ces, Head of Chemistry, about DigiFab, which represented a new era of digital molecular design and fabrication, driven by the accelerated acceptance of digital technologies in health driven by the pandemic.

In discussion, the following points were made:

- that the process could be applied to biological discoveries, and that it could apply to all sizes of molecules.;
- the importance of big data to this work, artificial intelligence in general, and that this was one of four pillars in the Academic Strategy.
- that the White City campus, where the project was based, had similarities to Kendall Square, and had the propensity to gain interaction with industry for incubation and early stage commercialisation, which would contribute to scientific and economic growth.
- the School was developing entrepreneurship opportunities, which were increasingly valued and appreciated by students.

CLOSING REMARKS

The President closed the meeting by noting that the past few months had seen a revolution in the delivery of Higher Education, in which the College was well positioned. She thanked everyone for attending and noted that the next Court-Council dinner would be organised when it was possible to do so.