

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

Minutes of Council Meeting

Held at 170 Queen's Gate on 12 May 2023, at 09.00

Present

Mr J. Allan (Chair until item 2), Mr J. Cullen (Chair, item 2 onwards), Professor Sir L. Borysiewicz (online), Professor H. Brady (President), Professor N. Brandon, Mr T. Courtauld, Professor R. Craster (online), Sir R. Kalifa, Mr R. Kerse, Mr D. Khanna, Mr R. Lewis, Dr M. Meaney (online), Professor J. Mestel, Sir Jonathan Michael, Ms S. Murray, Dr M. Safa, Professor J. Sanders (online), Mr S. Saxena, Professor F. Veloso, Professor I. Walmsley (Provost)(online), Professor J. Weber, Mr C. Williams, Ms H. Wong and Ms. G. Brankin (College Secretary).

In attendance

Director of Communications, Director of Public Affairs, and Head of Central Secretariat.

Welcome

1. The Chair thanked members for their attendance.
2. None of the members noted a conflict with items on the agenda.

Chair's Report

3. The Chair noted that recent media attention on allegations against him (which he vigorously denied and had discussed with the President and other Council members prior to the meeting) could prove an unwelcome distraction within the College. He therefore proposed stepping back from activities at Imperial, noting that in the usual course his next commitment as Chair would be the Council meeting on 14 July 2023. He noted that his term as Chair would end on 31 December 2023 and that due to other commitments, he would not seek re-election. He hoped this could be an opportunity for the College to enhance the diversity of its composition, in accordance with its succession plans and the Athena Swan target it had adopted.

4. The Chair left the meeting, and the Deputy Chair assumed the role of Chair of the meeting. He led a discussion about the recent allegations and the appropriate response of the College. Council noted that the allegations did not relate to Imperial, nor had any complaint been received by the College. However Council was grateful for the Chair's consideration for the broader best interests of the College community and accepted this proposal to step back from any Imperial activities for the present time.
5. It was agreed that:
 - a. the situation should be reviewed by Council at its next meeting, unless there were material developments before that time,
 - b. the President and Deputy Chair should agree appropriate messaging to the College community.
 - c. the Deputy Chair, under the guidance of and on behalf of the Nominations Committee, should start the process for identifying a successor to the Chair.

Minutes and matters arising

6. The Minutes and notes from the meetings held on 2 December 2022, 23 February and 3 March 2023 were approved and the action tracker was noted.

Reports (Paper 3)

7. Council noted the reports from the President, Provost, and Chief Operating Officer.

Deep Dive: Imperial College Medical School and NHS relationship

8. The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine gave a presentation that set out the partnership with the NHS across research, education and through other collaborations, including NHS Trusts, integrated care systems, Academic Health Science Centre and the new governance structure which provided opportunities and challenges.
9. There was a discussion, including the complexity of the relationship, the importance of the NHS to reputation, rankings, and high-quality medical research outputs. In addition to the partnership with the Faculty of Medicine, the engagement was also important for research from other faculties, commercialisation and for entrepreneurial endeavour. It was noted that the NHS Partnerships was one of the Principal Risks for Imperial, and vital to the College strategy.

ICU President's Annual Report (Paper 5)

10. The ICU President presented her report, which included the Annual Report and Accounts as well as some personal reflections on her term of office.
11. There was a discussion, the key points of which were:
 - a. that there was a strong partnership between ICU and College leadership, but that further work was required to develop a partnership with Faculties and departments,
 - b. that the Union Council had passed a motion to support the strikes, including the marking and assessment boycott,
 - c. that the ICU had completed a culture review, which would feed into the development of an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion strategy to ensure that it was equipped to support all students.

Governance update (Paper 6)

12. Council noted the reports.

Committee reports (Paper 7 and 8)

13. Council noted the Annual Report from the Remuneration Committee, and the reports from the Property, Audit and Risk, and Finance Committees.

Researcher Development Annual Report (UUK concordat to support Early Career Researchers) (Paper 9)

14. Council approved the annual report.

Research Integrity Annual Report (UUK concordat to support Research) (Paper 10)

15. Council approved the Research Integrity Annual Report 2021 – 2022.

There were no items of other business and the meeting closed at 12.28.