

Report

UC/17/R1

UCAS Council

Report of the ninth UCAS Council meeting, held on Friday 16 June 2017 at BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JP

Introduction

The ninth meeting of the UCAS Council ('Council') was held on Friday 16 June 2017 at BMA House, London. The meeting was chaired by Christian Brodie (Chair of Council and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Sussex), and was attended by 19 Council members ('Members'), the UCAS Chair, the UCAS Interim Chief Executive ('CEO'), and UCAS' Director of Technology and Operations. The full delegate list is attached to this report.

Report from the UCAS Chair and Interim Chief Executive

Membership

Following consideration, the Members approved the following Council nominations:

- Linda Merrick – Chair of Conservatoires UK; Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music
- Robbie Pickles – UK Chair of HELOA; Head of UK and EU Student Recruitment, University of Bath

The full list of Members is available on ucas.com.

New UCAS Chief Executive and Executive Team changes

The UCAS Chair informed Council that UCAS' new CEO, Clare Marchant, would be joining UCAS in July 2017. On behalf of the Board, he thanked Andrew Hargreaves for his successful leadership of the organisation during the two-month transition period.

Board of Trustees

Council was updated on the Board and Committee appointments since the last meeting – namely in February 2017, Thomas Chambers was appointed as a UCAS Trustee, Chair of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Remuneration Committee. Recruitment for two new UCAS Board members – to succeed Professor Janet Beer and Professor Toby Salt – was now underway, and the Board’s equality and diversity targets were being duly considered during the recruitment process.

UUK Sector Agency Review

Council was updated on the outputs of the UUK (Universities UK) Sector Agency Review, including the several recommendations that were relevant to UCAS. It was recommended that UCAS should work with HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency), HECSU (Higher Education Careers Service Unit) and Jisc to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of data-related functions and services for students. A Chair’s Forum would be established to provide a means for inter-agency communication and dialogue, and to ensure effective and coordinated responses to emerging policy agenda.

Admissions delivery and Confirmation & Clearing (C&C) 2017

Fatuma Mahad, Director of Technology and Operations, gave an overview of the delivery of the 2017 admissions cycle, and an update on readiness for C&C 2017.

Fatuma Mahad highlighted that, for the 2017 cycle, all schemes had progressed well and all milestones had been met successfully, including 2017 application processing deadlines. The new UCAS Undergraduate and UCAS Conservatoires collection tools had launched in February 2017, and – along with the multi-destination search tool that would be in place for the 2018 admission cycle – would mark the first of UCAS’ new digital services to be launched.

Fatuma Mahad also summarised key actions that had taken place since the last meeting in November 2016, which included building upon lessons learnt from C&C 2016 by working closely with awarding bodies to enhance data quality and the streamlining of customer communications. A number of activities had also taken place to support UCAS’ aim of strengthening embargo compliance with providers, including enhanced stakeholder communication and delivery of mandatory training to providers.

Transparency in admissions

Kate Butland, Head of Customer Strategy, introduced this item by asking Council for its steer on the provision of more transparent information to facilitate students’ decision-making process. Council was invited to explore the key stages where students require

greater transparency, discuss the changes in customer behaviour, and consider the implications these brought to the higher education sector. Council members made a number of helpful comments and suggestions, which UCAS would consider.

Progression Pathways

Margaret Farragher, Head of Policy and Qualifications, invited Council to discuss the opportunities and challenges associated with the different routes to achieving a degree, as set out in the [Progression Pathways 2017](#) report. Members were asked to consider the long-term future of these progression routes, the challenges that existed for the sector, and how providers, advisers, and other key stakeholders were providing information and advice to learners to support these progression routes. Members were also asked how UCAS could help create a greater awareness/understanding of these routes and support effective decision-making among learners. Members made a number of helpful comments and suggestions, which UCAS would consider.

Chair's business

Christian Brodie, Chair of Council, thanked Members for their contributions, acknowledging the value of Council's consideration of the substantive issues and confirming the outputs from the next UCAS Board would be shared with Council in due course.

Next meeting

The next Council meeting would be held on Thursday 30 November 2017.

Delegate list

UCAS Council meeting held on Friday 16 June 2017

Present:	Christian Brodie, Chair of Council and Pro-Chancellor of the University of Sussex; Chair of the Student Loans Company Matthew Andrews, University Secretary and Registrar, University of Gloucestershire Lysandre de-la-Haye, Deputy Registrar, Newman University Marie-Noël Earley, Assistant Registrar, University of St Andrews Hassun El Zafar, Member of the National Executive Council, NUS Rod Francis, Head of Milford Haven School (Wales) Heidi Fraser-Krauss, Director of Information, University of York Janet Graham, Director of Supporting Professionalism in Admissions (SPA) William Hammonds, Programme Manager, Policy Group, Universities UK Professor Richard Harvey, Academic Director of Admissions, University of East Anglia Michelle Magee, Senior Admissions Manager, University of Westminster Linda Merrick, Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music; Chair of Conservatoires UK Andrew Parkin, Principal, St Dominic's Sixth Form College Dr Steven Quigley, Academic Registrar, Regents University; Member of the Association of University Administrators Board of Trustees Enzo Raimo, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Engagement), University of Reading Dr Millan Sachania, Head Master of Streatham and Clapham High School Dr Tim Westlake, Deputy Council Chair; Director for the Student Experience, University of Manchester Alastair Wilson, Head of HE, South Devon College
Alternates:	Rachel Lister, Head of Student Recruitment and Information and Acting Head of Widening Participation, Cambridge Admissions Office Adrian Watt, Headmaster, Viewforth High School, Kirkcaldy
Apologies:	Helen Thorne, Director of External Relations, UCAS Martyn Annis, Chair of the Academic Registrars Council Admissions Practitioner Group; Director of Academic Services, University of Brighton

Dr David Ashton, UCAS Trustee; Vice-President and Registrar, University of Surrey
Lisa Bowen, Head of Admissions and Enrolment, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Emily Chapman, Student Union President, Leeds City College
Jennifer Dwyer, Head of Admissions and Access Service, Queen's University Belfast
Christine Giles, Deputy Academic Registrar, University of Portsmouth
Deirdre Gillespie, Principal, St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt
Jonathan Godfrey, Hereford Sixth Form College Principal
Lynsey Hopkins, Head of Admissions, The University of Sheffield
Dr Mark Mabey, Principal of the London College UCK
Shakira Martin, Vice President Further Education, NUS
Mhairi Moore, Adviser, Higher Education, School Leaders Scotland
Professor Martin Stringer, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Swansea University

UCAS in attendance: Professor Sir Steve Smith, Chair of the UCAS Board; Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Exeter
Andrew Hargreaves, Interim Chief Executive, UCAS
Fatuma Mahad, Director of Technology and Operations, UCAS
Kate Butland, Head of Customer Strategy, UCAS
Margaret Farragher, Head of Policy and Qualifications, UCAS
Sara Smith, Corporate Governance Coordinator/Council Secretary, UCAS
Danya Young, Corporate Governance Manager, UCAS