



Minutes from School Presidents' Forum

16th of April 2018, 5pm

Students' Association Committee Room

Present

Member	Position
Zachary Davis	Director of Education
Professor Lorna Milne	Senior Vice-Principal (Proctor)
John Weaver	Science & Medicine FP
Nicola Simonetti	Arts & Divinity FP
Lily Ratcliff	Art History SP
Erin Phillips	Biology SP
Julian Frink	Classics SP
Gergely Flamich	Computer Science SP
Alison Quinn	Economics & Finance SP
Ellen White	English SP
Gaby Levey	Film Studies & Music SP
Abi Whitefield	Geography & SD SP
Alice Foulis	History SP
Sarah Gharib	IR SP
Philip Caraci	Management SP
Caitlin Macdonald	Modern Languages SP
Antonia Zimmermann	Philosophy SP
Alisa Danilenko	Physics & Astronomy SP
Gianluca Giammei	Psychology & Neuroscience SP
Rikke Nedergaard	Social Anthropology SP

In Attendance

Member	Position
Professor Garry Taylor	Master & Deputy Principal

1 Apologies

Member	Position
Srdja Popovic	Rector
Professor Paul Hibbert	Dean of Arts & Divinity
Professor Douglas Philp	Dean of Science
Fanny Empacher	Postgraduate Academic Convener
Camilla Duke	Rector's Assessor
Jacob Pepper	Chemistry SP
Cameron Smith	Divinity SP
Charlotte Gordon	Earth Sciences & Geology SP
Kamilla Rekenyi	Mathematics & Statistics SP
Carissa Jacobs	Medicine SP

2 Minutes & Matters Arising

2.1 Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were taken as approved. The Director of Education updated members on the strike action which has now been suspended following agreement by UCU and UUK on a new proposal on the 13th of April.

3 University's Space Strategy

The Master & Deputy Principal presented on the University's current space strategy, which revolves around the movements of Facilities and Schools in response to increasing student numbers, and highlights two important capital projects involving, short-term solutions following PSR move (end of 2019) and long-term plans following the acquisition of the Madras site in 2021. The key priorities and drivers for the plan involves creating School synergy, exploring new academic opportunities, and improving the student experience. Madras will open up opportunities for the expansion of learning and teaching with the option to relocate three academic Schools. Primary moves allow for secondary changes to be made in the estate, with a focus on refurbishment of older buildings. Within the North Haugh a new STEM building would allow for a co-located School of Mathematics & Statistics and would provide space for Biology. Following the presentation members discussed the following points:

- SP of History asked if only Modern History could be co-located on Madras with IR rather than asking the whole School to relocate, and also highlighted that Medieval History had a close attachment to the St John Building.
- It was noted that academic staff like being able to give tutorials in their offices, and the SPs agreed with this point, as it adds a characteristic and personal element.
- Discussing School synergy, members agreed that the Schools of Management, Economics, and IR would work well together and students would welcome it.
- The Science & Medicine FP raised the point that having all resources located within one building helps the School in building a strong community.

- The Psychology & Neuroscience SP stated that a split in their School would not make sense, both for synergy and student timetables.
- SP of Geography & SD noted that PhD students in SD are located at the Observatory and therefore do not interact much with the rest of the School which is in town, and it would be beneficial to co-locate the School.
- The topic of lab space was raised. It was noted that the STEM building would not be designed to contain lab space, and that further exploration would be needed to fully understand the University's current position and what would be required as part of future developments.
- SP of Film Studies stated that their space requirements are difficult given the need for special equipment and room fit-outs resulting in them being spread across the town. They also noted that co-location with Modern Languages might not be as advantageous as seen in other institutions.
- The Biology SP brought up the issue with classes being taught both in town and on the North Haugh, causing students to lose out on a significant amount of time travelling between classes. Co-locating sciences on the North Haugh was received well by members.
- Members also discussed PG spaces/offices and the opportunities to bring together PhD cohorts. The SP of Philosophy highlighted issues with the limited PG space currently available in their School.
- Finally, members raised the topic of study space and discussed how this would fit into the overall strategy. It was noted that space released by the PSR around the Main Library could facilitate this.

4 AOCB

The Proctor thanked the School Presidents for their valuable input and engagement at the School Presidents' Forum meetings throughout the year.

The meeting adjourned.

This was the last meeting of the School Presidents' Forum for the 2017/18 academic year.