

Meeting: Academic Assembly Accountability and Transparency Working Group

Date and Time: Thursday 14 November 2019, 12.15-13.30

Venue: 8 W 2.12

Chair: Robert Kelsh

Present: Sabina Gheduzzi (SG)
Hartmut Logemann (HL)
Elke Pawlowski (EP)
Theo Papadopoulos (TP)

Apologies: None

Secretary: Sarah White (SW)

1.	OPENING None	ACTION
2.	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING These were agreed with no amendments	
3.	MATTERS ARISING As below.	
4.	ENGAGING WITH VC AND 'OUR UNIVERSITY OUR FUTURE' PROCESS We discussed the disappointment that we and other colleagues have felt on the publication of the 'visual minutes'. When will the full report be forthcoming? We are concerned that the exercise could look like just a piece of PR unless controversial issues are allowed to surface and some action taken as a result. Our next meeting on 'Imagining a Democratic University' will be the opportunity to identify some specific, positive proposals, and bring these to the VC for discussion.	RK/SW
5.	COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS STEERING GROUP (CESG) We agreed that we all need to review the latest (and final) grid, dated October 2019, and exchange emails on it by 21 November. On 22 November Robert can then write to the Chair of Council, to convey any comments we have, and to ask her if there is to be a final report, or if the grid is it. In view of her comments to us earlier that the CESG was only the start of the reform of governance at the UoB, we will also ask her what the next steps will be.	All
6.	HEAD OF STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE Theo spoke with Emily Commander at Academic Assembly and she welcomed the opportunity to talk further with us. An immediate issue is to discuss the diagram of the governance of the University to ensure it is as accurate as possible. Also, it would be useful to ask her whether the issue of (non)representation within governance processes is statutorily determined or does it vary by institution? We recognise that a diagram of the University governance is to some degree a political instrument, which may serve to highlight important areas of difference of view – e.g. regarding Convocation representation – rather than being something that all stakeholders can necessarily agree upon in all respects.	

7.	<p>IMAGINING A DEMOCRATIC UNIVERSITY</p> <p>We discussed how to take this forward, especially in view of the UCU strike affecting out proposed follow up meeting start date of December 4. We decided to change the date to Friday 13th December, 12.30-14.00. CB 4.1 has been booked. SW to design an Eventbrite page and notify Academic Assembly of the change of date.</p>	TP/SW
9.	<p>SENATE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW</p> <p>This is ongoing. Sub-groups have been assigned and questionnaires have been sent out to senate members and members of its committees. These are in and preliminary analysis is being done. Interviews are being set up with chairs of sub-committees and a sub-set of members. Focus groups will be held on 29th November.</p>	RK
10.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>None</p>	