

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

COUNCIL

12 November 2019

MINUTES

Present: Dr Susan Liautaud (Interim Chair) (excluding item 4.1, when not present), Ali Nikpay (Vice-Chair) (Chair for item 4.1), Dame Minouche Shafik (Director), Professor Martin Anthony (Vice-Chair of Academic Board), Alastair Da Costa (Independent Member), Zulum Elumogo (General Secretary of the Students' Union), Sir David Higgins (Independent Member), John Hughes (Independent Member), Nigel Hugill (Independent Member), Professor Simona Iammarino (Academic Board nominee), Roger Mountford (Independent Member), Dr Claudine Provencher (Professional Services Staff member), Professor Terhi Rantanen (Academic Board nominee), Elisabeth Stheeman (Independent Member) and Professor Alex Voorhoeve (Academic Board nominee).

Apologies: Donald Kaberuka (Independent Member), Isha Sharma (Students' Union nominee).

In attendance: Professor Julia Black (Strategic Director of Innovation), Mike Ferguson (Director of Finance), Professor Dilly Fung (Pro-Director Education), Professor Simon Hix (Pro-Director Research) (by phone for items 1-2.3), Dr Brigid McClure (Head of Directorate and Strategy Delivery), Louise Nadal (School Secretary), Professor Eric Neumayer (Pro-Director Faculty Development), Professor David Webb (Pro-Director Planning & Resources), and Hilary Hunter (Head of Governance Services, committee secretary).

The Chair welcomed Sir David Higgins to his first meeting of Council.

1. FORMAL BUSINESS

1.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1.1.1 There were no declaration of interest.

1.2 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

PAPER Z

1.2.1 Council approved the appointment of Isha Sharma as a member of Council following her nomination as the student member.

1.3 MINUTES

PAPER A

1.3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meetings held on 3, 15 and 25 October 2019.

1.4 MATTERS ARISING

1.4.1 There were no matters arising.

1.5 CHAIR'S ACTION

PAPER B

1.5.1 Council noted the report.

2. STRATEGIC BUSINESS

2.1 LSE 2030 DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND DASHBOARD

PAPER C

2.1.1 Council noted the paper and the oral report of the Director, including that:

- a) there was no current mandate for industrial action at the School, as the required threshold turnouts had not been reached in the recent Universities and Colleges Union ballots for industrial action on pensions and pay and the Unison ballot on pay;
- b) the timing for the publication of the Pearce Review of the Teaching Excellence Framework had been delayed due to the forthcoming general election;
- c) Professor Julia Black was working with other members of the Russell Group to review how the Office for Students (OfS) was functioning as a new regulator;
- d) **Restricted and Confidential**
- e) **Restricted and Confidential**

2.1.2 Further noted: discussion about the risk register and in particular some of the ratings, noting that the risk register was dynamic and that the scoring was kept under regular review by the School Management Committee.

2.2 LSE 2030 REPORT ON ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

PAPER D

2.2.1 Council noted the paper and the presentation by the Director of Recruitment and Admissions which provided an overview of the School's 2020-25 Access and Participation Plan (APP) within the context of the School Strategy.

2.2.2 Further information on annual targets underpinning the APP would be provided to Council.

2.3 LSE 2030 PRO-DIRECTOR FOR RESEARCH UPDATE ON RESEARCH FOR THE WORLD PAPER E

2.3.1 Council noted the paper and the oral report of the Pro-Director for Research.

2.3.2 Discussion included how international work was integrated into the report, the current position regarding the potential impact of Brexit on research and mitigations, and the important role of the School in developing future generations of social scientists.

3. ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY/YEAR-END RETURNS

3.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

PAPER F

3.1.1 Council approved the Audit Committee Annual Report and noted the Internal Audit Annual Report, which would be submitted to OfS. Council also noted the improved performance overall since the previous year.

3.2 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 JULY 2019

PAPER G

3.2.1 The Financial Statements had been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Finance and Estates Committee and the Audit Committee. In particular, the provision for the USS pension was noted, and that this approach was adopted across the sector.

3.2.2 Council approved:

- a) the Financial Statements for the year ending 31 July 2019 for submission to OfS and publication;

b) the contents of the Letter of Representation for the external auditors.

3.3 FINANCIAL AND STUDENT NUMBER TABLES PAPER H

3.3.1 Council approved the Financial and Student Number Tables for submission to OfS.

3.4 FINANCIAL COMMENTARY PAPER I

3.4.1 Council approved the Financial Commentary for submission to OfS.

3.5 FINANCIAL PLAN AND 2019/20 BUDGET PAPER J

3.5.1 Council approved the Financial Plan and 2019/20 Budget for submission to OfS.

3.6 ANNUAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT RETURN PAPER K

3.6.1 Council noted the report summarising quality assurance and enhancement activity during 2018-19 and, agreed that the Director was authorised to sign assurance statements related to academic quality and standards for 2018-19 on behalf of Council, should this be requested by the OfS.

3.7 ANNUAL PREVENT REPORT PAPER L

3.7.1 Council noted the report and approved the data return for submission to OfS.

4. GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL

4.1 UPDATE ON THE CHAIR SEARCH PAPER AA

This item was considered at the end of the meeting with the Vice-Chair in the Chair. The Interim Chair was not present.

4.1.1 Council approved:

- a) the remit and membership composition of the Chair of Council Selection Panel as set out in the paper;
- b) the membership of the Chair of Council Selection Panel as set out in the paper.

4.1.2 Council noted that the role profile for the Chair of Council would be circulated to members when finalised.

4.2 COURT PAPER M

4.2.1 Council approved the proposal that Council members should cease to be members of Court from the end of the calendar year, but they would be able to continue to attend meetings for the current time, particularly to support the development of the revised body.

4.2.2 Council noted that Governance Committee would be asked to review the Court Operational Principles before a proposal was brought to Council.

4.3 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN PAPER N

4.3 Council noted the Internal Audit Plan (comprising the Internal Audit Operational Plan 2019/20 and Audit Strategy 2017-2022).

- 4.4 COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS PAPER O**
- 4.4.1 Council approved the Standing Orders as set out subject to a minor amendment.
- 4.5 COUNCIL COMMITTEES TERMS OF REFERENCE PAPER P**
- 4.5.1 Council approved the amendments to the terms of reference for Audit Committee and Remuneration Committee as set out and noted the terms of reference of Finance and Estates Committee, School Ethics Committee and Governance Committee.
- 4.6 COUNCIL SCHEME OF DELEGATION PAPER Q**
- 4.6.1 Council approved the amendments to the Council Scheme of Delegation, subject to minor amendments, and noted that further amendments would be brought forward for approval in due course.
- 4.7 SECRETARY'S ORAL REPORT**
- 4.7.1 The Secretary reported that:
- a) the School had reviewed its compliance with the Committee of University Chairs Higher Education Code of Governance in order to inform the related confirmation in the Financial Statements;
 - b) there had been no further progress with the application for University Title, which was pending confirmation from the OfS concerning next steps/ timeframe;
 - c) OfS had written to the Chair concerning the School not having paid its QAA subscription by the given deadline. This had been investigated by the School, which found that: the invoice had been sent to an incorrect LSE email (although the change in email had been previously notified to the QAA); the invoice had been paid on 6 August, where the deadline was 1 August. There had been further follow up by the School to ensure the correct contact details were held by relevant parties for invoicing. Council could, therefore, be assured that the situation had been managed and mitigations put in place for future invoicing.
- 4.8 SIGNATORIES FOR THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA CUSTODIAN ACCOUNT PAPER R**
- 4.8.1 Council approved the signatories for the Royal Bank of Canada custodian account as set out in the paper.
- 5. GENERAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL**
- 5.1 REAPPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS PAPER S**
- 5.1.1 Council approved that PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) be reappointed as the School's external auditors to undertake the audit of the School's accounts for 2019/2020.
- 6. REPORTS FOR NOTING PAPERS T-Y**
- 6.1.1 Council noted the committee reports and report from Philanthropy and Global Engagement.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11 February 2020, 15:00.