

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

COUNCIL

20 October 2020

CONFIRMED MINUTES

A meeting of the Council was held at 15:15 on Tuesday 20 October 2020 by electronic platform.

Present: Dr Susan Liautaud (Chair), Ali Nikpay (Vice-Chair), Baroness Shafik (Director), Professor Martin Anthony (Vice-Chair of Academic Board), Alastair Da Costa (Independent Member), David Gordon (General Secretary of the Students' Union), Sir David Higgins (Independent Member), John Hughes (Independent Member), Johannes Huth (Independent Member), Donald Kaberuka (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: None.

In attendance: Dan Bennett (Interim Head of Directorate) (*until item 5*), Professor Julia Black (Strategic Director of Innovation), Mike Ferguson (Chief Financial Officer) (*until item 3*), Professor Dilly Fung (Pro-Director Education), Louise Nadal (School Secretary), Professor Eric Neumayer (Pro-Director Planning & Resources), Professor Charles Stafford (Pro-Director Faculty Development), Paul Sullivan (Interim Head of Strategy Delivery), Thomas Watson (Education Strategic Officer) (*for item 3*), Dr Andrew Young (Chief Operating Officer) (*until item 4*), Hilary Hunter (Head of Governance Services, committee secretary), Dr Jake Richards and Dr Seeta Peña Gangadharan (*for item 6*). In addition, Deborah de Haes observed the meeting as part of KPMG's governance review.

1. FORMAL BUSINESS

1.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1.1.1 The Chair confirmed that she was a member of the Global Supervisory Board of Care International as was Musimbi Kanyoro, which was relevant to the membership approval item 5.2. There were no further declarations of interest.

1.2 MINUTES

PAPER A

1.2.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2020.

1.3 MATTERS ARISING

1.3.1 There were no matters arising.

2. LSE 2030 DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND LSE 2030 UPDATE

PAPER B

2.1 Council noted the paper and the oral report of the Director, which provided, in particular, an overview of the School's ongoing response to COVID-19 together with an update on progress with regard to LSE 2030 strategic priorities. In addition, the Chief Operating Officer, the Chief Financial Officer and the Pro-Director (Planning & Resources) provided oral reports on campus reopening, and the current financial and student numbers position.

2.2 The Director reported that SMC's foci for the current academic year, through responding to COVID, were delivering the best possible educational experience and keeping staff and

students safe, as well as restoring the School's financial position. In addition, the Director also drew attention to matters set out in the report with regard to key achievements, ongoing progress and challenges, including noting the School's exceptional NSS and postgraduate survey results.

2.3 The Chief Operating Officer provided a detailed overview of the School's campus reopening, including the LSE testing and tracing systems, numbers of infections and those self-isolating, the support available to students as well as future plans. The outstanding work of the School's tracing volunteer team was also noted.

2.4 **Restricted and Confidential**

2.5 **Restricted and Confidential**

3. LSE 2030: STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: EDUCATE FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

3.1 Council noted the following reports, which formed part of annual LSE 2030 progress reporting on the delivery of Strategic Priority 1, together with an oral report from the Pro-Director (Education) providing an overview of progress and key foci, issues and challenges, particularly in the context of responding to COVID 19:

Pro-Director for Education Update on Education & Student Experience	PAPER C
LSE Offer (and LSE Opportunities) Annual Report	PAPER D
Student Engagement and Partnership Annual Report	PAPER E
Access and Participation Plan Update	PAPER F
Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Annual Report	PAPER G

3.2 Key points arising from discussion:

- a) development of academic course surveys would allow tracking of online education experience;
- b) access and participation activity sought to support students from a diverse range of disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds;
- c) the School was seeking to be flexible through its delivery of education and assessment, in order to effectively respond to the circumstances of the pandemic and ensure that students were not disadvantaged.

3.3 Council approved the Access and Participation Plan variation for submission to OfS (as set out in paragraph 2.9 of Paper F).

4 LSE 2030: STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: DEVELOP LSE FOR EVERYONE EDI AND RACE EQUITY FRAMEWORK

4.1 The Pro-Director (Faculty Development) gave a presentation on the School's Race Equity Framework highlighting progress to date and areas for development.

4.2 The importance of making tangible progress was noted in discussion as well as potential challenges, including the lead time to achieve diversity objectives given the School's current profile (e.g. the time for early career staff to achieve professorial status) as well as some challenges due to the current COVID environment (e.g. limits on staff hiring).

5. GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL

5.1 **CHAIR'S ACTION GROUP REPORT**

PAPER H

5.1.1 Council noted the report.

5.2 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

PAPER I

5.2.1 Following the recommendation of Governance Committee, Council approved the proposed memberships appointments for Council committees:

- a) Alastair Da Costa as Chair of Ethics Committee and Remuneration Committee from 1 August 2020-31 July 2023;
- b) Jim Walters as a Staff member of Ethics Committee from 1 August 2020-31 July 2023;
- c) Musimbi Kanyoro as an external member of Ethics Committee from 1 August 2020-31 July 2023;
- d) Bob Murley as an external member of Finance & Estates Committee from 1 August 2020-31 July 2023.

5.2.2 Council noted the other matters set out in the paper concerning memberships and the governance review

5.3 REMUNERATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

PAPER J

5.3.1 Council noted the report.

5.4 AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

PAPER K

5.4.1 Council:

- a) noted the report, including the Internal Audit Strategic Plan (2017-2022) and Operational Plan (2020-2021); and
- b) agreed to formally adopt the CUC HE Audit Committees Code of Practice and endorsed the plans set out to ensure that the School moves towards full compliance with the Code.

5.5 ANNUAL REPORT ON DATA PROTECTION & FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

PAPER L

5.5.1 Council noted the report.

5.6 COUNCIL CHAIR'S ACTION REPORT

PAPER M

5.6.1 Council noted the report.

5.7 SECRETARY'S REPORT

5.7.1 There were no updates.

6 'LIFT OUR GAZE': ACADEMIC WORK ON EDI AND RACE EQUITY

6.1 Dr Jake Richards (Assistant Professor in Dept of International History) and Dr Seeta Peña Gangadharan (Associate Professor in Dept of Media & Communications) provided oral reports on their academic work concerning race equity.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 There was no further business.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8.1 24 November 2020, 15:00.