

# THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

## COUNCIL

24 November 2020

### CONFIRMED MINUTES

A meeting of the Council was held at 15:00 on Tuesday 24 November 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), Helly Mehta (Students' Union nominee) (*from item 1.3*), Dr Claudine Provencher (Professional Services Staff member), Professor Terhi Rantanen (Academic Board nominee) and Elisabeth Stheeman (Independent Member) (*for items 3 and 7-11*).

**Apologies:** Donald Kaberuka (Independent Member) and Professor Alex Voorhoeve (Academic Board nominee).

**In attendance:** Dan Bennett (Interim Head of Directorate), Professor Julia Black (Strategic Director of Innovation), Mike Ferguson (Chief Financial Officer), Professor Dilly Fung (Pro-Director Education), Professor Simon Hix (Pro-Director Research) (*from item 2*), Louise Nadal (School Secretary), Professor Eric Neumayer (Pro-Director Planning & Resources), Ben Plummer-Powell (Chief Philanthropy and Global Engagement Officer) (*until item 7*), Professor Charles Stafford (Pro-Director Faculty Development), Paul Sullivan (Interim Head of Strategy Delivery), Dr Andrew Young (Chief Operating Officer) (*until item 3*), Hilary Hunter (Head of Governance Services, committee secretary) and, from KPMG, Neil Thomas, Claire Warnes and Jack Stapleton (for item 4).

*The Chair welcomed Helly Mehta to her first meeting of Council following her admittance to the meeting after item 1.2 approving her appointment.*

#### **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 Dr Musimbi Kanyoro, which was relevant to the membership approval item 8.1. There were no further declarations of interest.

##### **1.2 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP: LSESU NOMINATION**

**PAPER A**

1.2.1 Council approved the appointment of Helly Mehta as a member of Council following nomination by the Students' Union, noting Helly's term of office would be from 16 November 2020 - 15 November 2021.

##### **1.3 MINUTES**

**PAPER B**

1.3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2020.

##### **1.4 MATTERS ARISING**

**PAPER Bii**

1.4.1 Council noted the report. There were no further matters arising.

**2. LSE 2030 DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND LSE 2030 UPDATE** **PAPER C**

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, the Pro-Director (Planning & Resources) and the Pro-Director (Education) provided supplementary oral reports, including on campus management, the current financial position and education provision and developments.

2.2 Council noted an overview of the dashboard provided by John Hughes.

2.3 Key points from presentation and discussion were:

- a) an update on the LSE testing and tracing systems, numbers of infections and those self-isolating, as well as current planning to support students returning home and those remaining in London over the Christmas break;
- b) the School was awaiting further Government guidance concerning the holiday period to inform its planning and support for students during this time. There would be a significant number of students remaining in London, mainly in halls;
- c) **Restricted and Confidential**
- d) **Restricted and Confidential**
- e) student feedback and course choices showed the majority favoured and valued a continuation of face to face teaching during the Lent Term where this was possible;
- f) staff were being consulted about future educational delivery from 2021/22 to gauge where changes to delivery could be retained or should revert to previous practice with a view to offer the best possible educational experience;
- g) an update on preparations and planning for the 2021 Summer School and Extended Education;
- h) **Restricted and Confidential**

**3. EU STUDENT FEE CLASSIFICATION CHANGES** **PAPER D**  
**RESTRICTED AND CONFIDENTIAL**

**4. GOVERNANCE REVIEW** **PAPER E**

4.1 Neil Thomas from KPMG introduced the review report of LSE governance and Council effectiveness, providing an overview of the review methodology, areas of good practice and recommendations for enhancement.

4.2 Council discussed the report and agreed the recommendations. Council noted that there would be progress updates in due course on implementation of the recommendations. In particular, the need to prioritise addressing the Council composition in relation to quoracy challenges was noted as well as the importance of ensuring excellent recruitment and succession planning for Council membership.

**5. LSE 2030: STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: EDUCATE FOR GLOBAL IMPACT**

5.1 The oral update had been provided under the Director's report in the earlier item.

**6. LSE 2030: STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: RESEARCH FOR THE WORLD** **PAPER F**

6.1 Council noted the annual progress report and presentation from the Pro-Director (Research).

## **7. ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING/YEAR-END RETURNS**

### **7.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT PAPER G**

7.1.1 Council noted the Audit Committee Annual Report and the Internal Audit Annual Report, including the opinions of the Head of Internal Audit and of the Audit Committee.

### **7.2 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PAPER H**

7.2.1 The Chair of Audit Committee confirmed that following review of the final draft of the financial statements and the external audit management letter that the Committee recommended it:

- a) was content with the assertion in the Financial Statements that “the School is operating in a financially sustainable manner and that it is appropriate that the financial statements are prepared based on the School being a going concern”;
- b) accepted the representations proposed in the management letter, including those in respect of any uncorrected misstatements;
- c) was content to recommend to Council approval of the annual financial statements for the School and its associated bodies.

#### **7.2.2 Restricted and Confidential**

7.2.3 Council:

- a) noted the recommendations from Audit Committee and Finance & Estates Committee;
- b) noted the summary of the final changes made to the accounts since the initial circulation of the papers, which had been incorporated into the final version for signature;
- c) noted the external audit management letter;
- d) approved the contents of the Letter of Representation for the external auditors;
- e) approved the annual financial statements for the School and its associated bodies for the year ending 31 July 2020, including an assessment of the School as a going concern.

### **7.3 ANNUAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT REPORT PAPER I**

7.3.1 Council noted the report summarising quality assurance and enhancement activity during 2019/20.

### **7.4 ANNUAL PREVENT REPORT PAPER J**

7.4.1 Council approved the annual Prevent report for 2019/20 for submission to the Office for Students.

## **8. GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL**

### **8.1 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT PAPER K**

8.1.1 Following recommendation from Governance Committee, Council:

- a) approved the appointment of Dr Musimbi Kanyoro as an Independent Council member from 1 January 2021- 31 December 2023 and the related revision to her terms of appointment on Ethics Committee as set out in the paper;
- b) agreed the formal adoption of the new CUC Higher Education Code of Governance.

**8.2 ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE OVERSIGHT PAPER L**

8.2.1 Council noted the proposals to enhance Council’s oversight of academic governance arrangements at the School.

**8.3 MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT PAPER M**

8.3.1 Council approved the Statement on Slavery and Human Trafficking for Financial Year 2019/20.

**8.4 SECRETARY’S REPORT**

8.4.1 There were no updates.

**9. REPORTS FOR NOTING**

**9.1 COMMITTEE REPORTS PAPER N**

9.1.1 Council noted the reports.

**9.2 RESEARCH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT PAPER O**

9.2.1 Council noted the report.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

10.1 There was no further business.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

11.1 23 February 2021, 15:00.