

# THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

## COUNCIL

23 February 2021

### CONFIRMED MINUTES

A meeting of the Council was held at 15:00 on Tuesday 23 February 2021 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), Dr Musimbi Kanyoro (Independent Member), Helly Mehta (Students' Union nominee), 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:** Dr Donald Kaberuka (Independent Member).

**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), Louise Nadal (School Secretary), Professor Eric Neumayer (Pro-Director Planning & Resources), Ben Plummer-Powell (Chief Philanthropy and Global Engagement Officer), Professor Charles Stafford (Pro-Director Faculty Development), Paul Sullivan (Interim Head of Strategy Delivery), Dr Andrew Young (Chief Operating Officer), Hilary Hunter (Head of Governance Services, committee secretary) and, Fiona Metcalfe (Co-Director of Communications) (for item 2.4) and Ian Spencer (Director of Residential Services) (for item 2.5).

*The Chair welcomed Dr Musimbi Kanyoro to her first meeting of Council.*

#### **1. FORMAL BUSINESS**

##### **1.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1.1.1 There were items concerning proposals to amend the Students' Union Articles of Association (item 3.1) and the appointment of the Senior Independent Director (item 3.2), which concerned the General Secretary of the Students' Union and Vice-Chair of Council respectively. There were no further declarations of interest.

##### **1.2 MINUTES**

**PAPER A**

1.2.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2020.

##### **1.3 MATTERS ARISING**

**PAPER Aii**

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

#### **2. LSE 2030 REPORTING**

##### **2.1 DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND LSE 2030 UPDATE**

**PAPER B**

- 2.1.1 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.
- 2.1.2 Council noted an overview of the dashboard provided by John Hughes.
- 2.1.3 Key points of discussion were:
  - a) following the Government's announcement on the easing of lockdown restrictions, guidance would be issued to staff and students about School plans, which would be supplemented as further Government guidance was issued over the coming weeks;
  - b) the School hoped that it could provide some face-to-face education and social activities from May;
  - c) **Restricted and Confidential**;
  - d) work being undertaken by the School to mitigate adverse EDI impacts of the pandemic on staff;
  - e) work being undertaken by the Future Ways of Working Group to provide for future agile working opportunities;
  - f) there would be a report on Student Mental Health and Wellbeing at the next meeting.

**2.2 OVERSEAS UNDERGRADUATE FEE FOR 2022 ENTRY PAPER C**

- 2.2.1 Council approved the fee for Overseas undergraduate students for 2022 entrants as set out in the paper.

**2.3 REVISED 2020 FINANCIAL PLAN AND OFS ANNUAL RETURNS PAPER D**

- 2.3.1 Council noted the paper setting out the updated 2020 Financial Plan from that approved by Council in June 2020, which provided revisions responding to the evolving COVID context.
- 2.3.2 **Restricted and Confidential**
- 2.3.3 Council noted the report and approved:
  - a) the revised Financial Plan;
  - b) the 2020 workbook tables and commentary for submission to OfS as part of the Annual Financial Return.

**2.4 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: DEVELOP LSE FOR EVERYONE PAPER E**  
**EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT**

- 2.4.1 Council noted the report, which provided a progress update on external engagement activity with regard to LSE 2030 strategic priorities, in particular focussing on the *Shaping the World* Campaign and Brand. Council also noted a presentation from the Chief Philanthropy and Global Engagement Officer providing an overview of the Campaign, covering progress to date, adaptation to the COVID-19 context and future plans.
- 2.4.2 **Restricted and Confidential**

**2.5 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: DEVELOP LSE FOR EVERYONE PAPER F**  
**RESIDENCES **Restricted and Confidential****

**3. GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL**

**3.1 LSE STUDENTS' UNION ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION PAPER H**

3.1.1 Council approved the proposed changes to the LSE Students' Union Articles of Association.

### **3.2 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT** **PAPER I**

3.2.1 Council noted the report from the Governance Committee meeting held on 2 February 2021 and approved the recommendations:

- a) in principle the addition of two Independent Council members to the membership composition (which will be subject to formal amendment of the Articles of Association);
- b) the appointment of Ali Nikpay as a Senior Independent Director, coterminous with his current term of office and appointment as Vice Chair, with the responsibilities as set out in the role description at Annex A of the paper; *(Ali Nikpay did not participate in this decision)*
- c) the revised terms of reference for Ethics Committee and the amendment to the terms of reference for Audit Committee as set out at Annexes B and C of the paper respectively;
- d) the membership appointments to Investments Sub-committee as set out at paragraph 10:
  - i. Christine Downton as an external member from 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2024;
  - ii. Adam Levinson as an external member from 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2024;
  - iii. Girish Reddy as an external member from 1 February 2021 until 31 January 2024, and;
  - iv. the ex officio appointment of the Chief Financial Officer;
- e) the revised Council Standing Orders as set out at Annex E for implementation with immediate effect.

### **3.3 APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR** **PAPER J**

3.3.1 Council approved that BDO LLP be appointed as the external auditor for five years commencing with the audit of the 2020/2021 accounts.

### **3.4 CHANGES TO LSE RESEARCH UNITS** **PAPER K**

3.4.1 Council approved:

- a) the establishment of the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa;
- b) the dissolution of the Centre for the Analysis of Time Series.

### **3.5 NAMING PROPOSAL** **PAPER L** **Restricted and Confidential**

### **3.6 LSE INDIA** **PAPER M**

3.6.1 Council approved the use of the legal entity in India for the additional purposes as set out in the paper.

### **3.7 HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT** **PAPER N**

3.7.1 Council noted the Health and Safety Annual Report 2019/20.

3.7.2 Council thanked the Health and Safety team for their outstanding work to support the School during the pandemic.

**3.8 SECRETARY'S REPORT PAPER O**

3.8.1 Council noted the report, including the annex report following a request by the OfS for institutions to review compliance during the pandemic with ongoing condition of registration C1 concerning consumer protection law.

3.8.2 **Restricted and Confidential**

**4. REPORTS FOR NOTING**

**4.1 CHAIR'S ACTION GROUP REPORT PAPER P**

4.1.1 Council noted the report.

**4.2 COUNCIL COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC BOARD REPORTS PAPER Q**

4.2.1 Council noted the reports.

**4.3 EDUCATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT PAPER R**

4.3.1 Council noted the report.

**4.4 RESEARCH GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT PAPER S**

4.4.1 Council noted the report.

**5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

5.1 There was no further business.

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

6.1 11 May 2021, 15:00.

**BRITISH LIBRARY OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCE: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRUSTEE**

Council is required to meet annually as the trustee of the British Library of Political and Economic Science (BLPES) and discharged its responsibility under this item.

**PAPER BLPES**

**The British Library of Political and Economic Science: Annual Report 2019-20**

Council noted the report and confirmed it was satisfied that the BLPES fulfils its obligations under the Trust.

Council thanked the Director of LSE Library and the Library team for their outstanding work to keep the Library open during the pandemic.