

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

COUNCIL

11 May 2021

CONFIRMED MINUTES

A meeting of the Council was held at 15:00 on Tuesday 11 May 2021 by electronic platform.

Present: Dr Susan Liautaud (Chair), Ali Nikpay (Vice-Chair) (*except items 5 and 6*), Baroness Shafik (Director), Professor Martin Anthony (Vice-Chair of Academic Board), Professor Pauline Barrieu (Academic Board nominee) (*except items 1 and 7.1*), 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), Stuart Roden (Independent Member), 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) (*from item 3.2*), 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, Mark Thomson (Academic Registrar) (*for item 4*), Russell Brooks (Associate Director, Online Programmes) (*for item 5 and 6*), Laura Dawson (Chief Information Officer) (*for items 5 and 6*) and Professor Wim Van der Stede (incoming Academic Board nominee). [*Except for Louise Nadal and Hilary Hunter, no attendees were present for items 1 and 7.1.*]

1. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP: ACADEMIC BOARD NOMINEES PAPER A

- 1.1 Council approved the appointment of two Academic Board nominations for Council membership:
- a) Professor Pauline Barrieu with a term of office from 11 May 2021 – 10 May 2024;
 - b) Professor Wim Van der Stede with a term of office from 1 August 2021 – 31 July 2024.

2. FORMAL BUSINESS

2.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1.1 There were no declarations of interest.

2.2 MINUTES PAPER B

- 2.2.1 Council approved the minutes of the meetings held on 23 February 2021 and 26 March 2021.

2.3 MATTERS ARISING

2.3.1 There were no matters arising to report.

3. LSE 2030 REPORTING

3.1 DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND LSE 2030 UPDATE PAPER C

3.1.1 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 (including the position for 2020/21 and planning for 2021/22) together with an update on progress with regard to LSE 2030 strategic priorities.

3.1.2 Key points of discussion were:

- a) that Lent term course level survey results had been very positive with key indicators scoring above 90% satisfaction rates;
- b) **Restricted and Confidential**
- c) work with departments to support the delivery of education in the coming year.

3.2 ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION PLAN PAPER D

3.2.1 Council noted the paper providing details of the School's Access and Participation Plan (APP), including the full 2019-20 monitoring return.

3.3 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: DEVELOP LSE FOR EVERYONE (STAFF) PAPER E

3.3.1 Council noted the report providing an update on i) work to support and develop staff and ii) academic recruitment and progression in 2020/21.

3.4 LSE2030 CAMPAIGN UPDATE PAPER F

3.4.1 Council noted the report, which provided an update on the LSE 2030 Campaign progress and plans following discussion at 23 February 2021 Council meeting.

4. LIFT OUR GAZE: STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

4.1 Council received and discussed a presentation on Student Mental Health and Wellbeing at LSE, including current position, strategic direction and development and progress with the implementation of the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework.

5. LSE ONLINE PAPER G **Restricted and Confidential**

6. LIFT OUR GAZE: DIGITAL

6.1 Council received and discussed presentations from Professor Dilly Fung and Laura Dawson covering respectively digital education futures and an overview assessment of LSE digital readiness across all activities.

6.2 In discussion Council noted that digital development was of key strategic importance to the School. A strategy would be considered at the October Away Day and updates would be provided at future meetings.

7. GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL

7.1 COUNCIL INDEPENDENT MEMBER APPOINTMENT PAPER H

- 7.1.1 **Restricted and Confidential**
- 7.1.2 Council approved the appointment of Gavin Patterson as an Independent Council member from 1 August 2021 – 31 July 2024.
- 7.2 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR PAPER I**
- 7.2.1 Council approved the appointment of KPMG LLP as the internal auditor as set out in the paper.
- 7.3 APPOINTMENT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR PAPER J**
- 7.3.1 Arising from the resignation of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and acting in the capacity as company directors of the London School of Economics and Political Science, Council appointed BDO LLP to the resulting vacancy as external auditor in accordance with Section 485 (3) (c) of the Companies Act 2006.
- 7.3.2 Council noted that PricewaterhouseCoopers in resigning provided a “statement of reasons” which stated that “There are no reasons or other matters connected with our ceasing to hold office as auditors of the Company that we consider need to be brought to the attention of the Company’s members or creditors”.
- 7.4 HONORARY AWARDS REGULATIONS PAPER K**
- 7.4.1 Council approved:
- a) the revised Honorary Award Regulations;
 - b) the revised Honorary Awards Committee Terms of Reference and Composition.
- 7.4.1 The proposals would be presented to Academic Board for concurrence at its meeting on 9 June 2021.
- 7.5 BANK ACCOUNT PAPER L**
- 7.5.1 Council approved the opening of a bank account as set out in the paper.
- 7.6 SECRETARY’S REPORT PAPER M**
- 7.6.1 Council noted the report.
- 8. REPORTS FOR NOTING PAPER N**
- 8.1 Council noted the committee reports.
- 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 9.1 Council thanked David Gordon for his work and contributions as this would be his last meeting before stepping down from his role. There was no further business.
- 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
- 10.1 6 July 2021, 15:00.