

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

COUNCIL

23 November 2021

MINUTES

A meeting of the Council was held at 15:00 on Tuesday 23 November 2021 by electronic platform (in accordance with article 4.8).

Present: Dr Susan Liautaud (Chair), Ali Nikpay (Vice-Chair and Senior Independent Director), Baroness Shafik (Director), Professor Martin Anthony (Vice-Chair of Academic Board), Professor Pauline Barrieu (Academic Board nominee), Alastair Da Costa (Independent Member), Sarah Gerwens (Students' Union nominee), Sir David Higgins (Independent Member), Johannes Huth (Independent Member) (*except for the end of item 4*), Dr Musimbi Kanyoro (Independent Member), Gavin Patterson (Independent Member), Dr Claudine Provencher (Professional Services Staff nominee), Professor Terhi Rantanen (Academic Board nominee), Stuart Roden (Independent Member), Josie Stephens (General Secretary of the Students' Union), Elisabeth Stheeman (Independent Member), and Professor Wim Van der Stede (Academic Board nominee).

Apologies: Dr Donald Kaberuka (Independent Member).

In attendance: Mike Ferguson (Chief Financial Officer), Professor Dilly Fung (Pro-Director Education), Professor Susana Mourato (Pro-Director Research), Louise Nadal (School Secretary), Professor Eric Neumayer (Pro-Director Planning & Resources), Ben Plummer-Powell (Chief Philanthropy and Global Engagement Officer), Julia Roberts (Head of Directorate and Strategy Delivery), Professor Charles Stafford (Pro-Director Faculty Development), Dr Andrew Young (Chief Operating Officer) (*for item 2*), Hilary Hunter (Head of Governance Services, committee secretary).

1. PRELIMINARY

1.1 QUORUM

1.1.1 The Chair noted that a quorum of the Council was present and accordingly that the Meeting was duly convened.

1.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

1.2.1 The Chair noted there were no conflicts of interest regarding the matters discussed below.

1.3 MINUTES

PAPER A

1.3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2021.

1.4 MATTERS ARISING

1.4.1 There were no matters arising to report.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT AND LSE 2030 UPDATE

PAPER B

2.1 Council noted the paper and the oral report of the Director, which provided an update on strategic progress and issues, including the School's ongoing response to COVID-19 and the first weeks of the 2021/22 academic year.

- 2.2 Council discussed the recent Israeli Ambassador visit to LSE, noting:
- a) the student-led event was a largely successful example of the exchange of ideas and the purposes of a university – the Ambassador was able to share her views and take questions from the audience, the protestors outside had their voices heard, and according to the police, everyone went home safely without incident or arrests;
 - b) with regards to the threats of violence made on social media, the School had reported the account to Instagram and it had been removed. The School had previously stated that if it had any clear evidence that LSE students were involved in anything that broke the law or our own ethics code, they would face disciplinary action, but it had received no evidence that this was the case and no action had been taken by the police in response to complaints. The School had also sought legal advice on whether there was anything that could be done in terms of identifying who was behind the social media posts;
 - c) the School was working with the Students’ Union to convene a meeting with those students seeking assurance about LSE’s commitment to allowing peaceful protest and was reinforcing its commitment to ongoing support for students via the online ‘Report it, Stop it’ tool, Safe Contacts Network, Faith Centre and Wellbeing Services. The School was also developing an updated statement on its commitment to freedom of speech and considering appropriate fora to engage with LSE staff and students on this.
- 2.3 Council also discussed teaching arrangements during the Michaelmas Term and plans for the Lent Term, forthcoming industrial action, 2021/22 student numbers and the financial position.

3. UPDATE ON EDUCATE FOR GLOBAL IMPACT PAPER C

- 3.1 Council noted the paper and oral report from the Pro-Director (Education) providing a high-level introduction to the Educate for Global Impact 2-year Plan, 2021-2023. (A report summarising academic quality assurance and enhancement activity during 2020/21 was appended to the report.)

4. LIFT OUR GAZE: RESEARCH AT LSE PAPER D

- 4.1. Council received a presentation from the Pro-Director (Research) and Pro-Director (Faculty Development) on research at LSE in relation to current standing, risks, recruitment and retention and the LSE ‘offer’.
- 4.2 Council discussed in particular the competitive environment and challenges to attract and retain the best staff, the advantages offered by LSE and/or competitors, work in progress and options to continue enhancing the LSE ‘offer’. Council also discussed work to showcase the local and regional impact of LSE work.

5. ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTING/ YEAR-END RETURNS

5.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT PAPER E

- 5.1.1 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.

5.2 FINANCIAL SITUATION UPDATE PAPER F

- 5.2.1 Council noted the report.

- 5.3 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND LETTER OF REPRESENTATION PAPER G**
- 5.3.1 Council noted the report, including the recommendations of Audit Committee and Finance & Estates Committee and approved:
- a) the annual financial statements for the School and its associated bodies for the year ending 31 July 2021, including an assessment of the School as a going concern;
 - b) the contents of the Letter of Representation for the external auditors.
- 5.4 ANNUAL PREVENT RETURN PAPER H**
- 5.4.1 Council approved the annual Prevent return for 2020/21 for submission to the Office for Students.
- 6. GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL**
- 6.1 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR**
- This item was approved by Council as Company Members in General Meeting in accordance with requirements of Companies Act 2006. Separate meeting minutes are provided which confirm that Council approved that BDO LLP be appointed as external auditor of the London School of Economics and Political Science in accordance with Section 485 (4) (a) of the Companies Act 2006.*
- 6.2 STATEMENT ON SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PAPER I**
- 6.2.1 Council approved the Statement on Slavery and Human Trafficking for Financial Year 2020/21 at Annex A of the paper.
- 6.3 SECRETARY'S REPORT PAPER J**
- 6.3.1 Council noted the report.
- 6.4 CHAIR'S ACTION AND WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS PAPER K**
- 6.4.1 Council noted the report.
- 7. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 7.1 FINANCE & ESTATES COMMITTEE PAPER Li**
- 7.1.1 Council noted the report of the meeting held on 8 November 2021 and approved the recommendations set out in the paper.
- 7.2 TRANSITION FROM LIBOR TO SONIA PAPER Lii**
Restricted and Confidential
- 7.3 HONORARY AWARDS COMMITTEE PAPER M**
- 7.3.1 Council approved the recommendations for the conferral of Honorary Doctorates and Honorary Fellowships as set out in the paper.
- 7.4 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE PAPER N**

7.4.1 Council noted the report of the meeting held on 1 November 2021, including a summary of Council's proposed objectives, and approved minor governance administrative matters set out in the paper, which primarily related to updates arising from the annual review of Council committees' terms of reference, membership and standing orders.

7.5 GLENGALL ROAD SUBCOMMITTEE PAPER O

7.5.1 Council noted the report.

7.6 REMUNERATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT PAPER P

7.6.1 Council noted the report.

7.7 AUDIT COMMITTEE PAPER Q

7.7.1 Council noted the reports of the meetings held on 21 September and 9 November 2021.

7.8 ACADEMIC BOARD PAPER R

7.8.1 Council noted the report of the meeting held on 27 October 2021.

7.9 ETHICS COMMITTEE PAPER S

7.9.1 Council noted the report on the proposed areas of focus of the Ethics Committee for 2021/2022.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 There was no further business.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9.1 Tuesday 22 February 2022, 15:00-18:00.