

# THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

## COUNCIL

10 May 2022

### CONFIRMED MINUTES

A meeting of the Council was held at 15:00 on Tuesday 10 May 2022 in hybrid format (in person and by electronic platform).

**Present:** Dr Susan Liautaud (Chair), Ali Nikpay (Vice-Chair and Senior Independent Director), Baroness Shafik (Director) (*until item 7*), 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), Dr Musimbi Kanyoro (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) and Gavin Patterson (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), Hilary Hunter (Head of Governance Services, committee secretary), and *for item 4* Reverend Canon Professor Jim Walters (Director Faith Centre, Chaplain and Professor in Practice).

#### **1. PRELIMINARY**

##### **1.1 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

##### **1.2 MINUTES**

**PAPER A**

1.2.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2022.

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

1.3.1 Final proposed amendments to the Articles of Association and the revised Standing Orders would now be reported to July Council. There were no further matters arising to report.

#### **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 an update on strategic progress and issues, including the School's ongoing response to COVID-19 as well as School and sector updates. The revised dashboard format was also presented, which provided high-level indicators; this would be provided for each meeting with more detailed information incorporated into the focussed LSE 2030 progress reports.

2.1.2 The Pro-Director (Research) provided an overview of the School's 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) results, which were embargoed until 12 May. Council noted the School had performed strongly and in particular that it was ranked first for percentage of 4\* (world-leading) outputs. Council congratulated staff on the outcome.

**2.2 PRIORITY 3 UPDATE: DEVELOP LSE FOR EVERYONE (STAFF) PAPER C**

2.2.1 Council noted the paper and oral reports from the Chief Operating Officer and Pro-Director Faculty Development providing updates on progress against two areas of LSE 2030 Strategic Priority 3: a) Support and Develop Staff and b) Faculty Recruitment and Progression.

2.2.2 Key points of discussion included ongoing work to ensure gender parity in relation to recruitment and progression, and the School's resources, systems and approaches to respond to allegations of sexual harassment and misconduct.

**3. PRIVATE PLACEMENT AND FINANCIAL POSITION UPDATE PAPER D**

3.1. Council noted the paper providing a summary of the outcome of the private placement debt raising exercise and update on the latest forecast financial position for 2021/22 and projections.

**4. LIFT OUR GAZE: FREE SPEECH PAPER E**

4.1. Council received a presentation from the Pro-Director Faculty Development and Reverend Canon Professor Jim Walters, which provided an overview of some of the cultural challenges faced by the School in supporting and enabling free speech from two perspectives, including initial findings of a project researching experience of staff on aspects of free speech and the culture of the School and on the modes of engagement being used to address difficult questions.

4.2 Council discussion covered the challenges of the broader context and how this negatively impacted on staff experiences, but there was no evidence of School curricula being changed as a result of censorship, although it continued to evolve to ensure inclusivity for a global student body.

**5. EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI) CHALLENGES IN UK UNIVERSITIES PAPER F**

5.1 Council received a presentation from the Pro-Director Faculty Development covering universities legal obligations with respect to equality, the challenges and opportunities of EDI work in UK universities, as well as general sector approaches to EDI.

5.2 **Restricted and Confidential.**

**6. STUDENT EXPERIENCE PAPER G**

6.1 Council received a presentation from the General Secretary of the Students' Union and the Students' Union nominee member on the student experience covering strengths and areas of concern and/or for improvement.

6.2 Key points discussed included:

- a) the ongoing need to continually and proactively improve and communicate the range of student mental health and wellbeing support available, and ensure a holistic approach

- was taken so that appropriate considerations were integrated fully within relevant decision-making (e.g. assessment approaches);
- b) the need to better account for diverse experiences and perspectives as there was not a single LSE student identity;
  - c) that more impactful outcomes were achieved when the Students' Union and School worked in partnership on specific objectives.

## **7. GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL**

### **7.1 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE PROPOSALS:**

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE/ ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**PAPER Hi**

- 7.1.1 Council approved the proposals to make changes to the responsibilities of Audit Committee and Ethics Committee in relation to the formal oversight of ethical matters as set out in the paper, with the changes to take effect from 1 August 2022.

#### **MEMBERSHIP APPOINTMENTS**

**PAPER Hii**

- 7.1.2 Council approved:

- a) the appointment of Angela Spatharou as an Independent Council member from 1 August 2022 – 31 July 2025;
- b) the appointment of Tim Frost as Chair of Investments Sub-committee from 1 June 2022 - 31 July 2025;
- c) that the membership composition of Finance & Estates Committee was revised to include the Chair of Investments Sub-committee as an ex-officio member;
- d) the appointment term of Stuart Roden as Chair of Remuneration Committee was amended to 1 June 2022 – 25 March 2024 (from 1 August 2022 – 25 March 2024). (*Mr Roden did not participate in this decision-making.*)

### **7.2 SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**PAPER I**

- 7.2.1 Council approved the proposals set out in the paper to simplify the School's approach to international company registration where this was permissible, particularly to minimise the requirements to register Council members as directors for the purposes of company registration of the School in other countries. Council also requested that the School Secretary report to Council on actions taken under delegated authority to approve such board memberships.

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PAPER J**

- 8.1 Council noted the reports from recent meetings of Ethics Committee, Finance & Estates Committee and Academic Board.

## **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 9.1 There was no further business.

## **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 Tuesday 5 July 2022, 15:00-18:00.