

# THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

## COUNCIL – EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

12 December 2022

### CONFIRMED MINUTES

An extraordinary meeting of the Council was held at 19:00 on Monday 12 December 2022 by electronic platform.

**Present:** Dr Susan Liautaud (Chair – until item 3), Ali Nikpay (Vice-Chair & Senior Independent Director and Chair from item 3), Professor Pauline Barrieu (Vice-Chair of Academic Board), Dr Julia Biggane (Professional Services Staff nominee), Sarah Gerwens (Students’ Union nominee), Sir David Higgins (Independent Member), Johannes Huth (Independent Member), Dr Musimbi Kanyoro (Independent Member), Professor David Kershaw (Academic Board nominee), Stuart Roden (Independent Member), Dr Angela Spatharou (Independent Member), Elisabeth Stheeman (Independent Member).

**In attendance:** Louise Nadal (School Secretary).

**Apologies:** Baroness Shafik (Director), Dr Donald Kaberuka (Independent Member), Tilly Mason (General Secretary of the Students’ Union), Professor Niamh Moloney (Academic Board nominee), Gavin Patterson (Independent Member), Professor Wim Van der Stede (Academic Board nominee).

#### 1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 1.1. The Chair noted that there were no conflicts of interest regarding the matters discussed below. The Chair left the meeting after item 2 when her reappointment was under consideration and the Senior Independent Director took the Chair.

#### 2. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

- 2.1 **Restricted and Confidential** The item concerned the Chair confirming that the Director would be leaving her post in the summer to take up another appointment.

#### 3. COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

- 3.1. Council approved the proposed amendments to its Standing Orders as set out in the document. This followed agreement at Council’s closed session on 22 November 2022 that the Standing Orders should be amended to include an ‘exceptional justification’ provision to enable Council to reappoint the Chair as an Independent member beyond nine years.

#### 4. REAPPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

- 4.1 Council considered the paper proposing the reappointment of the Chair of Council for a further three-year term, following its agreement in principle at the meeting on 22 November 2022.
- 4.2 Council noted that:
  - a) the decision to reappoint the current Chair for a further term was dependent upon

the inclusion of an 'exceptional justification' provision in the Standing Orders to enable the reappointment of the Chair on the basis proposed; this had now been approved by Council;

- b) the 'exceptional justification' provision existed to permit such a reappointment and was deployed on the basis that a change in the two most senior officers of the institution in quick succession would risk creating significant uncertainty and instability. The risks were heightened by the current turbulence in the higher education sector and the difficult economic climate. Moreover, it was recognised that the process to appoint a new Director would be rigorous and potentially lengthy.

- 4.3 Council agreed that there was exceptional justification for the current Chair to be reappointed for a further three years when her current term concluded in July 2023.
- 4.4 Council approved the reappointment of the Chair of Council for a further three-year term from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2026.