

# THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

## COUNCIL

21 February 2023

### CONFIRMED MINUTES

A meeting of the Council was held at 15:00 on Tuesday 21 February 2023 in hybrid format (in person and by electronic platform).

**Present:** Dr Susan Liautaud (Chair), Ali Nikpay (Vice-Chair and Senior Independent Director), Baroness Shafik (President & Vice Chancellor) (*until item 8*), Professor Pauline Barrieu (Vice-Chair of Academic Board), Dr Julia Biggane (Professional Services Staff nominee), Sonali De Rycker (Independent Member), Sarah Gerwens (Students' Union nominee), Sir David Higgins (Independent Member), Johannes Huth (Independent Member) (*until item 4*), Dr Musimbi Kanyoro (Independent Member), Professor David Kershaw (Academic Board nominee), Tilly Mason (General Secretary of the Students' Union), Professor Niamh Moloney (Academic Board nominee), Stuart Roden (Independent Member), Dr Angela Spatharou (Independent Member), Elisabeth Stheeman (Independent Member), and Professor Wim Van der Stede (Academic Board nominee).

**In attendance:** James Aitken (Designate Head of Directorate and Strategy Delivery), Mike Ferguson (Chief Financial Officer), Joanne Hay (Deputy Chief Operating Officer), Professor Emma McCoy (Vice President & Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education)), Professor Susana Mourato (Vice President & Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research)), Louise Nadal (School Secretary), Professor Eric Neumayer (Vice President & Pro-Vice Chancellor (Planning & Resources)), Ben Plummer-Powell (Chief Philanthropy & Global Engagement Officer), Professor Charles Stafford (Vice President & Pro-Vice Chancellor (Faculty Development)), Dr Andrew Young (Chief Operating Officer), Hilary Hunter (Head of Governance Services, committee secretary), and, for item 4, Fiona Metcalfe (Director of Communications) and Greg Taylor (Head of Public Affairs), and, for item 8, Indi Seehra (Director of Human Resources). (*Only the School Secretary and Director of Human Resources were attendees present for item 8.*)

**Apologies:** Dr Donald Kaberuka (Independent Member), Gavin Patterson (Independent Member).

#### 1. PRELIMINARY

The Chair welcomed Sonali De Rycker to her first meeting.

##### 1.1 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

1.1.1 The Chair noted that there were no conflicts of interest regarding the matters discussed below except concerning the appointment decision as indicated at item 5.4.

##### 1.2 MINUTES

**PAPER A**

1.2.1 Council approved the minutes of the meetings held on 22 November and 12 December 2022.

##### 1.3 MATTERS ARISING

1.3.1 There were no matters arising to report.

#### 2. LSE 2030 REPORTING

##### 2.1 PRESIDENT & VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT AND LSE 2030 UPDATE

**PAPER B**

- 2.1.1 Council noted the paper and the oral report of the President & Vice Chancellor, which provided an update on strategic progress and sector updates. This was the first meeting since the public announcement that she would be stepping down from her role and the oral report included reflections on the significant progress and challenges faced by the School since her first report as Director in 2017.
- 2.1.2 The Chief Operating Officer reported on a recent cyber incident, which was now in the recovery phase.
- 2.1.3 Key points of discussion included:
- a) that the University and College Union had announced it was pausing strike action for two weeks to allow for intensive talks on pay, pensions and working conditions;
  - b) the School's recent decision to not renew its membership of Stonewall, noting there were divided views in the School community about this. The School remained committed to ensuring an inclusive environment for all, including LGBTQ+ staff and students. Following the decision a focused set of initiatives was being established drawing on the knowledge and experience of the School's staff and student networks, as well as external advice and monitoring to provide assurance and accountability. There would be a meeting with LGBTQ+ student representatives in the coming weeks to discuss the priorities of the ten point plan.

## **2.2 PRIORITY 1: EDUCATE FOR GLOBAL IMPACT**

### **2.2.1 EARLY REFLECTIONS FROM THE NEW VICE PRESIDENT & PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR (EDUCATION)**

The Vice President & Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) provided an oral report covering the range of activities she had undertaken since joining the School and subsequent reflections, including the strengths and quality of the education offer and broader student experience, the important role of academic departments in successful delivery, and current and future strategic projects and considerations, including assessment and feedback, diversification of assessment, digital education futures, evolution and implications of AI/ ChatGPT, role of educational research informing practice, and departmental workloads.

### **2.2.2 TEACHING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK PAPER C**

Council noted the report providing an overview of the Teaching Excellence Framework and reporting on the School's recent submission.

### **2.2.3 DEGREE OUTCOMES STATEMENT PAPER D**

Council noted the report and approved the Degree Outcomes Statement as set out at Annex A of the paper prior to publication.

## **2.3 PRIORITY 2: RESEARCH FOR THE WORLD - ANNUAL REPORT ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PAPER E**

- 2.3.1 Council noted the paper and presentation from the Vice President & Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) covering: Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021 performance; research income and gifts during 2021/22; highlights across research, impact, public and policy engagement, LSE Library and LSE Press activity; key challenges including the substantial reduction in QR funding (despite the strong REF performance and being the only Russell Group institution to receive a reduction); and an overview of the regional foci of LSE research following a recent review.

- 2.3.2 Council noted in discussion: the development of the research strategy which would include objectives to enable improved research impact, and; while the School remained a global institution that it was important to communicate and showcase its regional work.
- 2.4 PRIORITY 3: DEVELOP LSE FOR EVERYONE: ANNUAL REPORT FROM PAGE AND CAMPAIGN UPDATE PAPER F**
- 2.4.1 Council noted the paper and presentation from the Chief Philanthropy & Global Engagement Officer, which covered work across the Division of Philanthropy & Global Engagement with particular focus on the Campaign, providing an update on progress for the previous year and planning for the forthcoming year.
- 3. LIFT OUR GAZE: EXTENDED EDUCATION PAPER G**
- 3.1 Council noted and discussed the presentation from Professor Wim Van der Stede in his capacity as Dean of Extended Education covering the School's Extended Education portfolio, plans and priorities for its development, global positioning, and the contribution to and relationship with overall School strategic priorities.
- 4. EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT PAPER H**  
**Restricted and Confidential**
- 5. GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL**
- 5.1 INSURANCE REVIEW PAPER I**  
**Restricted and Confidential**
- 5.2 HEALTH & SAFETY ANNUAL ASSURANCE REPORT PAPER J**
- 5.2.1 Council noted the Health and Safety Annual Report 2021/22.
- 5.3 SECRETARY'S REPORT PAPER K**
- 5.3.1 Council noted the report and approved delegated authority arrangements for Office for Students' reportable events as set out in the paper and annex.
- 5.4 COMMITTEE REPORTS PAPER L**
- 5.4.1 Council noted the reports and approved:
- a) the appointment of Musimbi Kanyoro as Chair of Ethics Committee coterminous with her appointment as an Independent member of Council\*;
  - b) minor amendments to the School's Bye-laws as shown in tracked changes in the paper annex.
- \*Musimbi Kanyoro did not participate in this decision.*
- 5.5 RESEARCH CONDUCT ANNUAL REPORT PAPER M**
- 5.5.1 Council noted the report.
- 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 6.1 There was no further business.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7.1 9 May 2023, 15:00-18:00.

**8. CLOSED SESSION**

*This was a closed session for Council members only with the School Secretary and Director of Human Resources in attendance.*

8.1 Council confirmed all decisions under item 5. This was with the meeting quorate again having an Independent majority (following an Independent member leaving the meeting after item 3 and the President & Vice Chancellor leaving after item 7).

8.2 During the session, Council:

RECEIVED: a paper setting out the recommendation of the Interim President Selection Committee of Council for the appointment of the Interim President and Vice-Chancellor.

APPROVED: unanimously the recommendations of the Interim President Selection Committee to appoint:

- a) Professor Eric Neumayer, currently Vice-President and Pro Vice-Chancellor Planning and Resources, as Interim President and Vice-Chancellor; and
- b) Professor Charles Stafford, Vice-President and Pro Vice-Chancellor Faculty Development, as Interim Deputy to the Interim President and Vice-Chancellor.