

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

COUNCIL

21 November 2023

CONFIRMED MINUTES

A meeting of the Council was held at 15:00 on Tuesday 21 November 2023 by electronic platform.

Present: Dr Susan Liautaud (Chair), Ali Nikpay (Vice-Chair and Senior Independent Director), Sir Masood Ahmed (Independent Member), Professor Pauline Barrieu (Vice-Chair of Academic Board), Dr Julia Biggane (Professional Services Staff nominee), Sonali De Rycker (Independent Member), Marie Fuchs (Students' Union nominee), Sir David Higgins (Independent Member), Johannes Huth (Independent Member) (*from item 5*), Dr Musimbi Kanyoro (Independent Member), Professor David Kershaw (Academic Board nominee), Professor Niamh Moloney (Academic Board nominee), Professor Eric Neumayer (Interim President & Vice Chancellor), James Relf (General Secretary of the Students' Union), Stuart Roden (Independent Member), Dr Angela Spatharou (Independent Member), and Professor Wim Van der Stede (Academic Board nominee).

In attendance: James Aitken (Head of Executive Office 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), 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, Dr Brendan Smith, Director, Global Academic Engagement.

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

1. PRELIMINARY

1.1 QUORUM

- 1.1.1 The Chair noted that the meeting was inquorate as there was not a majority of Independent Council members present at the start of the meeting. However, the meeting would proceed to allow for the matters on the agenda to be discussed, but it would not be able to transact business. If the meeting became quorate it would then be able to formally transact business. If it did not become quorate written resolutions would be circulated to all members following the meeting in order to pass the necessary resolutions.

Secretary's note: the meeting became quorate at item 5. Previous items requiring decision were then also formally transacted so that all decisions were taken by a quorate meeting.

1.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 1.2.1 In relation to item 7.1 regarding membership re/appointments, for those proposals concerning members. There were no further declarations of interest.

1.3 MINUTES

PAPER A

- 1.3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meetings held on 27 June, 20 July and 17 October 2023.

1.4 MATTERS ARISING

1.4.1 There were no matters arising to report.

2. LSE 2030 REPORTING AND OTHER UPDATES

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 Interim President & Vice Chancellor, which provided an update on strategic progress and sector updates.

2.1.2 Council noted and discussed:

- a) the School's approach to supporting the School community in response to the Israel-Palestine conflict and its global ramifications, with a particular focus on safety and wellbeing and cohesion;
- b) an update on industrial action and that the Universities and Colleges Union (UCU) had not been successful in their recent ballot to extend their mandate for strike action into 2024. However, the School Management Committee remained committed to addressing the concerns of staff and continuing to engage productively with local union branches.

2.2 PRIORITY 1: EDUCATE FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

Council noted the following reports:

2.2.1 Educate for Global Impact (EGI) Annual Report PAPER C

2.2.2 Student Recruitment Update PAPER D

2.2.3 Annual Report on Extended Education PAPER E

2.2.4 **Restricted and Confidential**

3. FINANCE & ESTATES COMMITTEE: REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 BANKSIDE HALL PAPER F
Restricted and Confidential

3.2 PROPERTY MATTERS PAPER G
Restricted and Confidential

4. LIFT OUR GAZE: INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY PAPER H

4.1 Council noted the paper and presentation from the Chief Philanthropy & Global Engagement Officer, which covered the rationale, benefits, development process and recommendations and deliverables of an international strategy, noting that the School had not previously developed an international strategy, and it was an opportunity to better co-ordinate and leverage prioritised activities across the School in order to maximise impact. The approach drew from best practice and the foci were informed by and would be fully integrated into the School's overall and sub-strategies and risk management priorities. Council members could contact the Director of Global Academic Engagement for further information.

5 STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING PAPER I

5.1 Council noted the paper and presentation from the Vice President & Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) and Chief Operating Officer, which covered the School's approach to the ongoing

enhancement of its provision through the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing (SMHW) Framework and an overview of sector-wide challenges. SMHW was a significant priority for the School, and the approach was a highly interconnected and interdependent part of the wider Student Community, Inclusion and Wellbeing work. The Framework focussed on prevention initiatives and investments together with promotion work and investment in support provision. The activity was within a wider context where there were significant challenges across the sector to support increasing and complex demand.

- 5.2 Council also noted and discussed: that the School had not scored well in the National Student Survey (NSS) question concerning communication of its SMHW support services, despite there having been significant and increasing activity in this area, and work was being undertaken to better understand this and to consider more effective communication methods; staffing arrangements and training provision to better support students, including within academic departments; opportunities to incorporate innovative approaches such as digital therapeutics, and; approaches to data collection to fully understand the scale and nature of the challenges.

6. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT PAPER J

- 6.1.1 Council noted the 2022/23 Audit Committee Annual Report and the Internal Audit Annual Report.

6.2 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND LETTER OF REPRESENTATION PAPER K

Secretary's note: As requested by the Audit Committee, the external auditors (BDO) had confirmed that they had completed their review without any adverse findings by the 21 November 2023.

- 6.2.1 Council noted the report and approved:
- a) the annual financial statements for the School and its associated bodies for the year ending 31 July 2023, including an assessment of the School as a going concern;
 - b) the contents of the Letter of Representation for the external auditors.

7. GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL: ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

7.1 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS PAPER L

- 7.1.1 Council approved:
- a) the appointment of Professor Tamar Gendler as an Independent Council member for a first term of office from 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2026;
 - b) the reappointment of Stuart Roden for a second term of office on Council as an Independent member, together with reappointments to Remuneration Committee (Chair), Finance & Estates Committee and Governance Committee: 26 March 2024 – 25 March 2027;
 - c) the reappointment of Dr Musimbi Kanyoro for a second term of office on Council as an Independent member and as Chair of Ethics Committee: 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2026;
 - d) the appointment of Sonali De Rycker for a first term of office on Remuneration Committee as an Independent Council member from 1 April 2024 - 31 December 2025 (coterminous with her Council appointment);
 - e) Council committees' terms of reference, including the proposed amendments; and
 - f) proposed amendments to Council and Council committee standing orders.

7.1.2 Council noted its sincere thanks to Ed Richards for his service on Remuneration Committee ahead of his stepping down as an External member.

7.2 HONORARY AWARDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS PAPER M

7.2.1 Council approved the proposal as set out in the paper.

7.3 CODE OF PRACTICE ON FREE SPEECH PAPER N

7.3.1 Council approved the revised Code of Practice on Free Speech for immediate implementation.

7.3.2 Council requested an item at the February meeting on the School's approach to free speech.

7.4 ANNUAL PREVENT RETURN PAPER O

7.4.1 Council approved the annual Prevent return and declaration for 2022/23 for submission to the Office for Students.

7.5 STATEMENT OF SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PAPER P

7.5.1 Council approved the Statement on Slavery and Human Trafficking for Financial Year 2022/23 at Annex A of the paper.

7.6 SUBSIDIARIES AND BANK ACCOUNTS PAPER Q

7.6.1 Council approved the proposals as set out in the paper.

7.7 RESEARCH CENTRE PROPOSAL PAPER R

7.7.1 Council approved the proposal for the Hellenic Observatory to become a Research Centre.

7.8 BRITISH LIBRARY OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCE ANNUAL REPORT PAPER S
Council is required to meet annually as the trustee of the British Library of Political and Economic Science (BLPES) and discharged its responsibility under this item.

7.8.1 Council noted the 2022/23 annual report and confirmed it was satisfied that the BLPES fulfils its obligations under the Trust.

8. REPORTS FOR NOTING

Council noted the following reports:

8.1 Remuneration Committee Annual Report
Deferred until the February meeting.

8.2 Secretary's Report PAPER U

8.3 Committee Reports PAPER V

8.4 Academic Governance Review PAPER W

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 There was no further business.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 20 February 2024.