

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

COUNCIL

20 February 2024

CONFIRMED MINUTES

A meeting of the Council was held at 15:00 on Tuesday 20 February 2024 in hybrid format (in person and 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), Professor Tamar Gendler (Independent Member), Sir David Higgins (Independent Member), Johannes Huth (Independent Member), Dr Musimbi Kanyoro (Independent Member), Professor David Kershaw (Academic Board nominee), Professor Niamh Moloney (Academic Board nominee) (*from item 4*), Professor Eric Neumayer (Interim President & Vice Chancellor), Gavin Patterson (Independent Member), 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 Larry Kramer (incoming President & Vice Chancellor), 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 3, Reverend Canon Professor Jim Walters (Director Faith Centre, Chaplain and Professor in Practice).

Apologies: None.

1. PRELIMINARY

1.1 WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

1.1.1 The Chair welcomed Professor Gendler and Professor Kramer to their first meeting.

1.2 QUORUM

1.2.1 The Chair confirmed the meeting was quorate.

1.3 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

1.3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

1.4 MINUTES

PAPER A

1.4.1 Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2023.

1.5 MATTERS ARISING

1.5.1 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 School matters, strategic progress and sector updates.
- 2.2 RESEARCH & INNOVATION ANNUAL REPORT PAPER C**
- 2.2.1 Council noted the presentation and annual report on research and innovation.
- 2.3 SHAPING THE WORLD: CAMPAIGN UPDATE PAPER D**
- 2.3.1 Council noted the progress report on performance and information on recalibration to the next phase of the Campaign.
- 3. FREE SPEECH AND THE SCHOOL CODE OF PRACTICE PAPER E**
- 3.1 Council noted the paper providing an overview of the Code and related considerations, as well as reporting developments since the November meeting where Council had approved the School’s revised Code of Practice on Free Speech. There was wide-ranging discussion about the key points raised in the paper.
- 3.2 Council agreed there should be a dedicated briefing session on free speech and to defer consideration of further proposed amendments to the Code.
- 4. LIFT OUR GAZE: LEAGUE TABLES PAPER F**
- 4.1 Council noted and discussed the presentation from the Vice President & Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research), which provided an overview of league tables rankings, their influences and challenges, and the School’s performance, as well as work being undertaken to enhance this.
- 5. INCOMING PRESIDENT & VICE CHANCELLOR REFLECTIONS**
- 5.1 Council noted and discussed a presentation from the Incoming President & Vice Chancellor concerning his reflections since arriving at the School in early January and ahead of formally taking up the role in April. The presentation included an initial assessment of the strengths, opportunities and issues for the School both due to existing internal arrangements and the external environment. He noted that key foci would be: increasing the School’s resources focussing on the School’s fundraising Campaign and the Extended Education offer; seeking to establish a life-long community for alumni; to ensure the School strategy sought to address the challenges of a global society, which the School, as a leading social sciences institution, was well-positioned to lead and convene; the appointment of a General Counsel; addressing key operational challenges, particularly in relations to systems and bureaucracy to ensure greater efficiency and effectiveness.
- 6. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**
- 6.1 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS PAPER G**
- 6.1.1 Council noted the paper and approved:
- a) the increase of External member positions in the Investments Sub-committee’s membership composition from four to five;

- b) the reappointments of Cato Stonex and Robert Rubin for second terms as External Advisors to the Investments Sub-committee from 1 February 2024 to 31 January 2027.

6.1.2 Restricted and Confidential

- 6.1.3 The Chair noted that Dr Donald Kaberuka had stood down from his positions as an Independent Council member and a member of the Finance & Estates Committee from 15 January 2024. He took the decision due to his ongoing substantial commitments elsewhere, which meant that he was unable to devote the time he would have wished to his LSE roles. The Chair was grateful to his considerations in endeavouring to support the School over the years, but recognised his need to prioritise other important commitments. The Chair was also very grateful to Dr Kaberuka for graciously offering to continue to advise the School on an informal basis in the future.

6.2 HONORARY AWARDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS PAPER H

- 6.2.1 Council approved the proposal as set out in the paper.

6.3 DEGREE OUTCOMES STATEMENT PAPER I

- 6.3.1 Council noted the report and approved the Degree Outcomes Statement as set out in the paper, prior to publication on the School website.

7. REPORTS FOR NOTING

Council noted the following reports:

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| 7.1 | Health & Safety Annual Report | PAPER J |
| 7.2 | Remuneration Committee Annual Report | PAPER K |
| 7.3 | Secretary's Report | PAPER L |
| 7.4 | Committee Reports | PAPER M |
| 7.5 | Research Misconduct Annual Report | PAPER N |
| 7.6 | Chair's Action Report | PAPER O |

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 There was no further business.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 7 May 2024.