

# THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

## COUNCIL

6 May 2025

### CONFIRMED MINUTES

A meeting was held on Tuesday 6 May 2025 by electronic platform.

**Present:** Dr Susan Liautaud (Chair), Ali Nikpay (Vice-Chair and Senior Independent Director), Sir Masood Ahmed (Independent Member), Professor Pauline Barriau (Vice-Chair of Academic Board), Dr Julia Biggane (Professional Services Staff nominee), 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 Larry Kramer (President & Vice Chancellor), Tito Molokwu (General Secretary of the Students' Union), Professor Niamh Moloney (Academic Board nominee), 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), Professor Emma McCoy (Vice President & Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education)), Louise Nadal (School Secretary), Elizabeth Messud (General Counsel), 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), Lyndsay Galpin (Governance Officer, meeting secretary), and Andrew Browning (Interim Head of Governance Services, committee secretary), Jack Stapleton (KPMG), Elizabeth Aitken (Associate Vice President for Extended Education) (*for item 3*), Dr Francesco Nava (*for item 3*), Professor Lee Bollinger (*for item 4*), Julian Robinson (Director of Estates) (*for item 5.1*), Stephen Riddell (Interim Director of Capital Development) (*for item 5.1*).

**Apologies:** Gavin Patterson (Independent Member), Sonali De Rycker (Independent Member), Professor Susana Mourato (Vice President & Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research)), who was normally in attendance.

#### **1. PRELIMINARY**

##### **1.1 QUORUM**

1.1.1 The Chair confirmed the meeting was quorate.

##### **1.2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

1.2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

##### **1.3 MINUTES**

**PAPER A**

1.3.1 Council approved the minutes of the meetings held on 11 February 2025.

##### **1.4 MATTERS ARISING**

1.4.1 There were no matters arising to report.

#### **2. PRESIDENT & VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

**PAPER B**

- 2.1 Council noted and discussed the paper and the oral report of the President & Vice Chancellor, which provided an update on School matters, strategic progress and developments, and sector updates.

**3. DEEP DIVE: EXTENDED EDUCATION PAPER C**

- 3.1 Council received a presentation from Elizabeth Aitken, Associate Vice President for Extended Education, and Dr Francesco Nava, Assistant Professor in Economics, setting out the challenges and plans for LSE extended degree programmes.

- 3.2 Council discussed the following points:

- a) the structural barriers preventing the School from achieving its ambitions for the extended degree programmes under the current arrangements;
- b) the nature of the online offering in particular whether a distinction should be made between the LSE on-campus and online educational offerings;
- c) how the proposals to expand LSE's educational offering online fits into the School's strategic vision;
- d) how much the School wants to grow this activity from both a financial and branding perspective.

3.3 **Restricted and Confidential**

**4. LIFT OUR GAZE: US HIGHER EDUCATION PAPER D**

- 4.1 Council received a presentation from Professor Lee Bollinger, President Emeritus of Columbia University, providing an overview of what was happening in the US to Higher Education, what it could mean for HE more broadly and for LSE.

**5. FORMAL BUSINESS: APPROVAL ITEMS**

**5.1 35 LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS PAPER E**  
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**5.2 COMMITTEE REPORTS PAPER F**

- 5.2.1 Council noted the reports from recent meetings of Audit Committee, Governance Committee, Honorary Awards Committee, Academic Board, and Finance & Estates Committee.

- 5.2.2 Council approved:

*recommendations from Governance Committee:*

- a) the formal dissolution of Ethics Committee
- b) the appointment of Tamar Gendler to Audit Committee as an Independent Council member from 6 May 2025 – 31 December 2026
- c) the appointment of Musimbi Kanyoro to Honorary Awards Committee as an Independent Council Member from 1 August 2025 – 31 December 2026
- d) the appointment of David Kershaw to Honorary Awards Committee as an Academic Council Member from 1 August 2025 – 31 July 2028
- e) the appointment of Jose Vinals as an Independent Council member from 24 June 2025 until 23 June 2028, subject to full due diligence being completed

- f) the appointment of Suchad Chiaranussati as an Independent Council member from 1 August 2025 until 31 July 2028, subject to full due diligence being completed

*recommendations from Honorary Awards Committee:*

- g) The conferral of an Honorary Fellowship is conferred on Chris Oechsli.

### **5.3 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**PAPER G**

- 5.3.1 Council received a paper requesting approval for changes to the Alumni Association Executive Committee's constitution. Primarily, this includes a change of reporting line from Council to Philanthropy and Global Engagement (PAGE).
- 5.3.2 Council approved the following changes:
- a) change of the name of the Executive Committee to Global Alumni Board.
  - b) refined objectives and the addition of a Statement of Purpose.
  - c) altering the annual reporting line from Court to Philanthropy and Global Engagement.
  - d) altering the reporting body for constitutional changes from Council to the School Management Committee via the Chief Philanthropy and Global Engagement Officer as sponsor.

### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 6.1 There was no further business.

### **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 7.1 24 June 2025.

### **8. CLOSED SESSION OF COUNCIL**

- 8.1 There was a closed session of Council members only.