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LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

MISSION AND VALUES GROUP

3rd October 2024

PRESENT: Professor C Ozanne (in the Chair), Ms J Beever, Dr W Bignold, Ms S Haimes Dr P Haughan, Associate Professor P McGrail, Professor A Nagar, Ms J Stevens

Apologies: Ms L Martin-Wright, Fr C McCoy,

Secretariat: Mr M Jones

1. Terms of Reference

Members had received the updated Terms of Reference. The Chair reminded members that the purpose of the group is to provide assurance to University Council that the University is living out the ethos of its mission and ethics across all areas of the institution. The Chair asked members to consider ways in which the group might best give this assurance, and feed back to the next meeting.

ACTION: Members to consider ways in which the group might provide assurance to University Council, as above.

Dr Haughan noted the use of the word 'facilitate' in the document's first bullet point and suggested that this be altered to include the group's additional role of monitoring and reporting upon the interpretation and integration of the University's mission and values. Dr Haughan also requested that Dr Bignold's job title be updated. The Chair asked Mr Jones to make these changes.

ACTION: Mr Jones to update document, as above.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2024 were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Discussion re Palestine

Dr Haughan informed members that a discussion had taken place at the meeting of Staffing Committee in June 2024 relating to the possibility of the University facilitating discussion among staff and students of the ongoing situation in Palestine. Dr Haughan emphasised the importance of such discussions being conducted in a constructive manner and encompassing a range of viewpoints. The Chair noted two separate

aspects to the issue; (i) a debate around the current situation in Palestine, and (ii) support for staff directly affected by the situation. Drs Haughan and Bignold assured members that staff and students directly affected by the situation are being offered support. Dr Bignold reminded members that the University has a partnership with Bethlehem University and undertook to contact colleagues at that institution to offer support.

ACTION: Dr Bignold to contact Bethlehem University, as above.

Ms Stevens undertook to contact members of the Students' Union Palestine Society to ask them for details of the event they attended at University of Liverpool with a view to generating ideas for a potential event at Liverpool Hope.

ACTION: Ms Stevens to contact members of Palestine Society, as above.

The Chair emphasised the importance of a clear decision regarding whether any planned event of this nature was hosted by the University, the Students' Union, or jointly between the two. The Chair asked Dr Haughan, Ms Stevens, Professor McGrail and Rev Dr Said to meet and discuss this issue.

ACTION: Dr Haughan, Ms Stevens, Professor McGrail and Rev Dr Said to meet, as above.

5. Worship Spaces Report

Professor McGrail reminded members of the group's statutory duty under Prevent to oversee monitoring of the University's worship spaces. Professor McGrail informed members that Dr Ghalib had informed him that he had found no material causing concern in the Prayer Room during a recent inspection. Dr Haughan informed members that on a number of recent occasions people from outside the University have asked to use the Prayer Room, adding that these requests have been denied due to concern for the safety of students.

6. Student Life

Ms Haines informed members that she, and colleagues from Student Life, had delivered a number of talks to students as part of Freshers' Week and induction. Ms Haines added that the talks had had a particular emphasis on building community among students. Ms Haines informed members that the talks had been well-attended, adding that students attending had been attentive and engaged. Ms Haines informed members that she had been in touch with Nugent re the best way for the University to support care-leavers joining the student body. Professor Nagar informed members that an induction event for PGR students is taking place on 18th October.

7. Chaplaincy Report

Members had received the Chaplaincy Report. Professor McGrail drew members' attention to the report's final point, relating to the unauthorised presence on campus of representatives of other churches. Members reiterated that the University has two full-time employed chaplains, who are responsible for spiritual ministry on campus and that support with respect to other faiths was provided by particular members of academic staff. Dr Haughan added that the University has an established vetting process for

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external candidates seeking to work in the Chaplaincy. The Chair noted that one representative of an externally-based church had been handing out leaflets at Freshers' Fair and requested that policies relating to admission to that event be reviewed.

ACTION: Dr Haughan to review policies, as above.

Ms Beever requested the chance to meet with the Chaplaincy team in her capacity as Chair of University Council. Professor McGrail undertook to organise this.

ACTION: Professor McGrail to organise meeting, as above.

8. **AOB**

Ms Stevens informed members that Students' Union events to mark the beginning of the academic year had been well-attended, with over two thousand students attending Freshers' Fair. Ms Stevens added that sign-up events for clubs and societies had also been well-attended. Dr Haughan ascribed the success of Freshers' Week to the 'joined up' approach taken by the Students' Union, the Student Life team and others. Dr Haughan informed members that the forthcoming curriculum review will look at the ways in which the University's Mission and Values can be embedded throughout the curriculum. Dr Haughan informed members that the University will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Liverpool Cathedral this month. The Chair raised the issue of the University's Christmas Carol Service, suggesting that steps be taken to improve attendance and extend invitations to partner schools, the local community and other stakeholders. Professor McGrail and Dr Haughan undertook to look into this.

ACTION: Professor McGrail and Dr Haughan to discuss carol service, as above.