

CONFIRMED

LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

MISSION AND VALUES GROUP

30th January 2025

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

Apologies: Dr P Haughan, Fr C McCoy,

Secretariat: Mr M Jones

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Members had received minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2024. Re actum five, Professor Nagar pointed out that PGR induction had taken place on 18th October rather than 17th October. Pending this correction, the minutes were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

Re providing assurance to University Council, the Chair informed members that as of the current meeting the group would receive reports from all areas of the University detailing ways in which they are embodying and promoting the mission and values of the institution.

Re Bethlehem University, Dr Bignold informed members that she had contacted colleagues at that institution who had informed her that their links with Liverpool Hope were a source of support for them during the current situation.

Re policies relating to external agencies' presence at Freshers' Fair, the Chair undertook to follow this up with Dr Haughan.

ACTION: Chair to contact Dr Haughan, as above.

Re Ms Beever meeting with Chaplaincy Team, Ms Beever confirmed that this had taken place.

3. Chaplaincy Report

Professor McGrail distributed the Chaplaincy Report. Professor McGrail informed members that, as discussed at the previous meeting, the 2024 carol service had been expanded to include the local schools and community. Members noted that this had been a success. Re Israel, Professor McGrail informed members that extensive discussions had taken place about the best way in which the University could provide space for these issues to be discussed. Professor McGrail informed members that Rev Dr Said had made a number of attempts to hold an event but that due to a number of

reasons (eg reticence on the part of potential attendees, poor attendance) no event had taken place. Professor McGrail added that Rev Dr Said is looking to hold an event after Easter, which will be open to the external community. Ms Martin-Wright informed members that the Lord Lieutenant is looking to strengthen inter-faith dialogue in the region and suggested that the University could play a part in this.

4. Student Life Report

Members had received the Student Life report. Ms Haines informed members that Student Life is currently working with Nugent Care who have a project to convert the vacated living accommodation at St Francis Xavier church (SFX) in Everton into four student apartments. The accommodation will be available all year with specialist 24 hour pastoral support provided by Nugent. Ms Haines added that Nugent had approached the University as they wish to offer the accommodation to students in need, specifically students from a care or estranged family background.

Ms Haines informed members that following initial discussions, the Student Life team have now met with the volunteering and fundraising team at Nugent regarding student volunteers for the Allerton Road charity shop. The project is to assist with the reopening of the shop that is currently closed due to the lack of volunteers available to maintain the viability of the premises. Ms Haines added that the shop will be managed by students for students, promoting sustainability, community, finance and business skills in addition to raising money and awareness of Nugent in Liverpool. Ms Martin-Wright asked whether the University currently logged students' volunteer hours with a view to recognising the work in some official way. Ms Haines undertook to follow this up with the volunteer co-ordinator.

ACTION: Ms Haines to contact volunteer co-ordinator, as above.

Ms Haines raised the issue of national/political flags being displayed in halls, informing members that following a number of issues in relation to this a 'no flags' policy has been established in halls. The Chair requested that the Student Life team and the Students' Union share information and work together in relation to such matters. Dr Bignold emphasised the importance of University buildings remaining welcoming environments, particularly during a time in which the University's international student population is increasing.

5. Global Student and Partnership Centre Report

Members had received the Global Student and Partnership Centre report. Dr Bignold informed members that the centre has launched a short Study Abroad version of SALA which enables semester students to develop their leadership skills through local service projects that we facilitate. Dr Bignold added that students on the programme have volunteered at the Reader Organisation, Strawberry Fields and Scope.

6. Research and Scholarship Report

Members had received the Research and Scholarship Report. Professor Nagar drew members' attention to the section relating to the Level I Summer Research Scholarships. Professor Nagar informed members that the scholarships are now in their third successful run and have provided an invaluable platform for second-year undergraduate students to develop research skills and gain hands-on experience in

preparation for their final-year dissertations. Professor Nagar added that feedback from the 2023/24 batch of scholarship holders has highlighted how the programme has not only enhanced their confidence and academic skills but also positively impacted their overall mental health.

Professor Nagar informed members that he has been running a PGR skills programme entitled 'Tomorrow's Professor Today', designed to prepare students for the dual challenges of academia and industry/knowledge-exchange, providing them with insights and skills to thrive in both environments.

Ms Martin-Wright asked whether digital poverty (ie lack of access to personal IT equipment) was an issue among the University's student body. Ms Haimes added that she was not aware of any issue in this area, adding that hardship funds and laptop-borrowing facilities are available to students.

7. Students' Union Report

Members had received the Students' Union report. Ms Stevens updated members on efforts to stage an event at which the Israel/Palestine situation could be discussed (see item three, above). Ms Stevens informed members that a number of recent student-run society events have been very successful, citing the recent drama students' play as an example.

8. Worship Spaces Report

Professor McGrail informed members that recent inspections of the University's worship spaces had not found any materials which could cause concern. Professor McGrail informed members that following some recent damage to the Prayer Room the room is now access-controlled. Dr Bignold noted the work done to improve the exterior aspect of the area around the Prayer Room and thanked colleagues in Estates for their work on this.

9. AOB

Professor Nagar updated members on the situation re Foundation Hour, informing them that the academic-led sessions of the year to date have been a success, while scheduling sessions led by professional services staff has proved to be more of a challenge. Professor McGrail voiced the opinion that Foundation Hour, in its present form, was no longer an effective way for the University to reflect upon its mission and values.

Ms Martin-Wright voiced the opinion that the Mission & Values Statement on the University's website does not reflect the new Strategic Plan and suggested that Mission & Values Group could be a forum in which this issue could be addressed.

The Chair informed members that the University will soon be undertaking a branding exercise, part of which will ask colleagues and students from across the Hope community what the University means to them. The Chair informed members that this exercise will allow the University to develop common narratives, reflecting the University's mission and values.

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The Chair asked members to consider whether the current meeting format (ie with reports from each area) has proved useful and contact her with any feedback.

ACTION: Members to contact Chair with feedback, as above.