

# **CONFIRMED**

LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

## **PARTNERSHIPS AND ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**PRESENT:** Dr W. Bignold (in the Chair), Ms J. Blackmore, Dr L. Burkert, Ms G. Fairclough, Dr D. Maguire, Ms S. Meir, Dr L. Palumbo, Professor A. Ridge-Newman, Dr C. Walsh

**Secretariat:** Mr M. Jones

Ms Fairclough suggested that a colleague from the Apprenticeships team be invited to join the committee. The Chair agreed with this suggestion and undertook to discuss with Dr Haughan and Mr Leyshon.

**ACTION: Chair to discuss with Dr Haughan and Mr Leyshon, as above.**

Dr Palumbo informed members that Academic Committee and Faculty Executive Boards have a standing agenda item on partnerships and accreditations.

Members had received the Chair's annual assurance report for Academic Committee.

The Chair informed members that Dr Walsh has been asked by the DVC to ensure that accreditations and partnerships remain compliant through their lifespan. Dr Walsh informed members that Ms Marshall and Ms Fairclough will be working on this.

Dr Burkert reminded members that a number of departments have programme-level accreditations and emphasised the importance of programme leaders providing assurance to associate deans in relation to these accreditations.

Ms Fairclough informed members that the University has taken a decision not to seek BCS reaccreditation, adding that the University is not looking to replace this accreditation at the present time. Ms Fairclough assured members that all affected students have been notified, and all required action taken.

Ms Fairclough informed members that the University has been successful in obtaining British Dyslexia Association accreditation. Dr Maguire informed members that Dr Penketh's department is seeking level four British Dyslexia Association. Ms Fairclough undertook to contact Dr Penketh re this.

**ACTION: Ms Fairclough to contact Dr Penketh, as above.**

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Ms Fairclough informed members that Ofsted has postponed the start to its next initial teacher education (ITE) inspection cycle until the 2025/26 academic year, following a request by the Secretary of State for Education.

Re AACSB, Ms Fairclough informed members that the final version of the Continuous Improvement Review report is due to be completed by the 14th February 2025, giving a four-week window in which it will be subjected to internal editing, scrutiny and VC sign off prior to submission on or before the 15th March.

Ms Fairclough informed members that Trinity Teaching Alliance have given notice and will not be continuing the partnership as of 2025/26. This is due to changes in leadership.

Ms Fairclough informed members that Spurgeon College London has had a quality assurance visit by the University in January 2025 in accordance with the contractual agreement. Dr Walsh informed members that no significant issues were identified during the visit.

Ms Fairclough informed members that UEB has confirmed the UniVerse partnership is going ahead.

Dr Burkert asked whether a list of current MoUs is held centrally within the University. Ms Fairclough confirmed that she holds the list and undertook to share it with Dr Burkert.

**ACTION: Ms Fairclough to share list with Dr Burkert, as above.**

Dr Maguire raised the issue of commercial partnerships, asking whether they came within the remit of the committee. Professor Ridge-Newman informed members that any partnerships which fall outside the remit of PAC go to the VC via VCAG.

Re Bellmont College, the Chair informed members that four areas causing concern have been identified, outlined in her report to Academic Committee, namely: (i) Admission processes - problems with verification of ID checks, entry requirements, applications from HMO's, (ii) withdrawals directed by the College due to possible ID fraud, (iii) Use of Agents without prior approval, and (iv) Student finance linked to student loan release.

The Chair added that The Business School has confirmed that it has mitigations in place to address these concerns. The establishment of a Strategic Oversight Group and an Academic Oversight Group with agreed terms of reference will keep these issues and the mitigations under review and monitor progress to address them. PAC will ask to see the minutes of these groups along with the notes from the Faculty academic board regarding the partnership at its meetings. Dr Walsh informed members that the Academic Oversight Group has met five times to date. Dr Walsh added that she is in discussion with the University's Legal Officer in relation to the terms of the contract with Bellmont, given the increasing numbers of students studying under the partnership. Ms

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Meir confirmed that 320 students are currently on-course, with a further March intake due.

Ms Meir requested that handbook QH13 be updated to reflect partnerships such as the one with Belmont. The Chair undertook to look into this.

**ACTION: Chair to look into possibility of updating QH13, as above.**

Re Apprenticeships, Ms Fairclough informed members that the University has received core funding to progress the development of four L6 Degree Apprenticeship programmes for delivery commencing in 2025/26 (Social Work, Teaching, Physiotherapy and Youth Work). Ms Fairclough added that two programmes require full PSRB accreditation, social work and physiotherapy, with one being added to existing approved accreditations (Teaching) and one through major change process (Youth Work). Members noted that the Apprenticeship Hub is being led by Ms Cronin (Director of Apprenticeships).

The Chair informed members that short three-week courses are being created for study abroad students visiting the University during the summer. The Chair invited members of academic staff to contact her with any suggestions for such courses for summer 2026.

The Chair informed members that the call for Turing Scheme funding applications has opened, adding that the minimum length of trips has been reduced from 28 to 14. The Chair asked any colleagues who have student internships or research opportunities which could benefit from Turing funding to contact her by the end of February.