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LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

SENATE 19th June 2024

PRESENT: Professor C Ozanne (in the Chair), Dr P Haughan (Vice Chair), Associate Professor G Anderson, Prof P Bamber, Ms S Beecroft, Dr W Bignold, Professor D Bolt, Dr C Boyle, Professor M Brennan, Ms C Brownlie, Dr N Buckley, Professor M Carey, Associate Professor J Clear, Professor G Cuthbertson, Professor S Davismoon, Professor N Donnelly, Professor B Evans, Professor N Ferguson, Dr A Foulkes, Professor A Hodgkinson, Ms S Kelly, Professor S Kelly, Professor O Khaiyat, Professor A Nagar, Professor P McGrail, Ms S Murray, Professor C Penketh, Dr F Pogson, Professor N Rao, Professor D Reid, Associate Professor D Roche, Ms N Rosser, Mr D Sennett, Professor S Shakespeare, Associate Prof F Su, Ms Ella Taylor, Mr N Thorley, Professor C Wakefield, Dr C Walsh, Dr Richard Webb, Associate Professor P Xenitidis (41 Members)

By Invitation: Mr D Dykins (Secretary), Ms J Stevens (SU President Designate), Ms A Toomath (SU Vice-President Education Designate)

APOLOGIES: Associate Professor M Baxendale, Mr M Beecroft, Prof C Carroll-Meehan, Mr A Catterall, Mr J Ellison, Prof R Cousins, Ms S Haimes, Dr J Hogan, Dr C Marsh, Prof S Marwood, Prof F Rizzuto,

The Chair welcomed the new Sabbatical Officers for 2024-25: Ms Jemma Stevens (SU President Designate) and Ms Alex Toomath (SU Vice-President Education Designate)

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Senate held 20th March 2024 were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Vice-Chair's Report

The Chair invited the Vice-Chair, Dr Haughan, to report on management decisions taken between meetings of Senate.

Student Applications: Indications are that we are in a better position than this time last year. However, given the turbulence in the HE landscape, it is likely that clearing will be more competitive than in previous years, though the University is well-prepared for clearing activity.

Project 2028 and Finances: The Position at the end of April 2024 is that we have met the Project 2028 target for 2023/24 of £1.625 million, helping to reduce this year's budget deficit. Work continues to see if the Project can deliver further benefits over the remaining months of the year and to prepare for target setting and activities for 2024/25. The financial situation remains

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challenging with increasing costs and a stagnant student fee.

Open Days 2024/25: There will be Open Days on Saturday 29th June 2024, Saturday 19th October 2024, Saturday 16th November 2024, Wednesday 4th December 2024, Wednesday 8th January 2025. All these will be “in person” events except for January, which will be a virtual event. The remit of these events has been extended to include PGT and NOH recruitment.

Faculty Structure: The University has agreed the structures within the Schools and the Deans are working with the Heads of Schools to fill roles, including Academic Leads.

The Purpose coalition: Justine Greening visited the University on 1st May to Launch the Liverpool Hope Purpose Coalition Impact report. Dr Haughan has been invited to join the Purpose Coalition University Leadership Advisory Council.

New Appointments: Ms Jenny Wilkinson will start her role as PVC Marketing, Recruitment and Admissions on 12th August; Mr John Cross will be the interim Head of IT following the departure of Mike Beecroft.

Policies and Strategies: The University has achieved Level 1 of the Disability Confidence Scheme and has signed up to the Defence Employee Recognition Scheme which ensures that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are supported and treated fairly. Following consultation, the People Strategy will be presented to Council in July for ratification. From 1st September, Personnel will become People Services.

Partnerships: Bellmont College and The Ambition Institute. will start to deliver LHU courses from September 2024. Work continues on developing partnerships which are all at various stage of discussion: UniVerse in the Punjab; Kazakhstan/Bolashak Internship Programme; Spectreco Transition Academy; and Oxford International.

MoUs have been agreed with the following organisations:

- A co-operative relationship with a core group of vested organisations for the general purpose of establishing, supporting and maintaining a Sand Dune and Shingle Network
- The Embrace SCITT Partnership: this has been established to create an income stream using the LearnUpon App that the University subscribes to. A pilot will be run in September using the app and the University's e-Profile module.
- An MoU is being developed with Taras Shevchenko National University (Ukraine) for a generic partnership with conferences and staff visiting Ukraine, with possible mutual opportunities as the partnership develops.

Accreditations:

Update on re-accreditations:

- AACSB: The Project Group is established and meeting monthly.
- BCS: Accreditation has been paused subject to re-accreditation in March 2025.
- BASRaT have confirmed re-accreditation.
- BPS re-accreditation has been moved to 2025/26.
- British Dyslexia Association: Re-accreditation for SPLD PG Cert review has been pushed to July 2024. and the ALSA award is now accredited to August 2027.
- Ofsted: There will possibly be a visit in Spring 2025. The Ofsted readiness group has been established.
- AfN: This is currently going through full re-accreditation under new AfN standards of which LHU is an early adopted.
- CIM: full accreditation for UG Business Management has been awarded.

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- NYA/ESB: The Accreditation visit was last week for Youth Work and Comm Development with the outcome pending.

Applications for New Accreditations submitted and awaiting outcomes:

- HCPC/CSP: accreditation for new physiotherapy courses progressing.
- MACP: accreditation has been awarded for MSc in MSK Physiotherapy
- Apprenticeship Scheme: A project team has been established comprising of senior staff working alongside consultants which will prepare for an OfS bid for substantial funding alongside registration onto the Apprenticeship Register. The bid will be considered by UEB in early July.

Graduation: Graduation ceremonies will be held at the Anglican cathedral on 23, 24 and 25 July.

Strategic Plan: The University will launch its Strategic Plan on Friday 21 June at 8.30am in the i3 Building. Senators are welcome to attend.

In relation to the University's finances, Prof Shakespeare queried the decision to postpone the promotions process for Lecturer to Senior Lecturer, as this had caused some distress to certain staff. The Chair explained the rationale for the decision, which included the challenging environment for student recruitment this summer alongside rising costs and a second, and possibly third, year of a deficit budget.

4. Secretary's Business

- (i) Members had received the proposed terms of reference and membership 2024-25 for Committees of Senate. On the membership of Senate, Prof Wakefield suggested that under (d), Principal Lecturers be included alongside Associate Professors. Dr Haughan noted that we will need to revisit the Academic Committee ToR in light of the new Quality Code; additional members of academic staff may also be included to ensure comprehensive input. She also said that, although there appeared to be a greater number of sub-committees feeding into Research Committee compared to Academic Committee, the latter had a number of committees/groups such as Partnerships and Accreditations, Library Steering Group, Student Experience, as well as working groups for on the NSS, TEF and ARE which regularly report to Academic Committee. There was discussion about the reporting line for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group; further consideration is needed on how the Group reports on staff and student matters.

The title for Research Committee was also discussed, and it was suggested that Knowledge Exchange could be added to reflect its remit. For Research Degrees and Research Ethics Sub-committees, Senators suggested that the Associate Deans for External Engagement could be members but there were concerns that this could become burdensome and they might more effectively contribute by working together and reporting to these committees. The postgraduate student voice comes through representation on the Research Degrees Sub-committee; PGR coordinators will be reviewed once the University has settled into the new faculty structure. It was felt that the Chair as a member of Senate was not a requirement for the Research Ethics Sub-committee.

As we will no longer have a Council Committee on Health & Safety, we will change how we report from the Consultative Committee, which could report, for example to UEB.

Action: where possible, to amend ToR in light of the comments above; and to review all Senate ToR in March 2025

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- (ii) Members had received the proposed Terms of Reference and membership 2024-25 for Faculty Committees. Several suggestions with regard to memberships of the Faculty Academic Committee were made and will be taken into consideration when the committees are reviewed. Dr Haughan said that there could be flexibility in academics who attend but they can be invited for individual items so their time is not taken up attending all meetings. For the Faculty Research Committee, it was proposed that the Associate Dean External Engagement be included in membership, but there were concerns these Associate Deans would be attending too many committees. It was agreed that, in discussion with Deans, further consideration would be given as to where the roles would have appropriate emphasis to ensure that this does not become burdensome.

Action: to review all Faculty ToR in March 2025;

- (iii) Members had received the Calendar of Committees, other meetings and events. Mr Dykins asked that any clashes or further amendments should be sent to him.

Committee Reports

5. Research Committee

Members had received the minutes of the meeting of Research Committee held on 15th May 2024. Prof Nagar noted that there were no recommendations which required Senate approval. He highlighted the Open Access Consultation from UKRI from March; LHU had submitted its response which focussed on excessive costs and the bureaucratic burden. The Committee also noted that UKRI is looking at monographs and trade books issues as well as developing a policy that is less burdensome and provides a fairer assessment of the quality of research. Prof Nagar also highlighted the Annualised KPIs in relation to the RS&KE Strategy and the implementation of Symplectic Elements; this can be rolled out in early in the next academic year. The Associate Deans for Research are now in place and one of their first tasks will be to define a Taxonomy of Research Centres. He also noted the University will require researchers to submit a Data Access Statement as this has been proposed as good practice by UKRI as a way of providing clarity and transparency.

6. Academic Committee

- (i) Members had received the minutes of the Academic Committee meetings held on 23rd May 2024 which were presented by Dr Haughan. She highlighted a number of items, including: the move to a single algorithm in September 2024; the review that will be undertaken in the School of MCSE school; the NSS 2024 rate which was almost identical to last year at 81%; and the Digital Strategy with an online learning session from Neil Morris to be delivered at L&T Day.

There are a number of courses and title changes which were presented for approval (see Appendix 1) as well as minor changes to regulations. The latter included the Framework of Qualifications (which has been amended to allow the development of 30- and 20- credit micro-credentials) and an amendment to UG assessment regulations to explain that students are normally eligible to retake providing they have submitted the majority of their assessments and have had adequate engagement with their course. This is important as we have lost over 50% of retaking students. If any staff are unsure about what constitutes adequate engagement, they can consult the Registrar; it is important that there is clarity at assessment boards to ensure consistency and so we are able to understand the rationale for any subsequent appeals. Dr Haughan also noted a proposed change to Foundation

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Degrees regulations to include merit and distinction classifications.

Senate **APPROVED** the above minor amendments, external examiner appointments, course submissions, suspensions, withdrawals and title changes (see Appendices).

- (ii) Student Engagement Policy: Members had received this new policy, which brings together existing practice and procedures in one document. Once approved, there will be a student-friendly version produced. There is an Engagement Group which meets weekly basis to ensure implementation of the Policy.

Senate **APPROVED** The Student Engagement Policy.

- (iii) Assessment Calendar 2024-25: Members had received the Calendar. There are no major changes. Part B gives a clear timeframe; subjects can request to remove examinations via their Dean and the Academic Committee. Next year there will be a full review of all assessments and it is expected that a number of examinations will be removed. The Calendar will form part of the review and where possible we will make changes in-year. Prof Rao asked whether PGT students who submit their dissertation in May can join graduation in July. Dr Walsh agreed to consider this outside of the meeting and report back to Senate.

Senate **APPROVED** the Assessment Calendar 2024-25

- (iv) Degree Outcomes Statement: Members had received the Statement. Dr Walsh noted a significant achievement gap between students entering with A-levels and those entering with BTEC awards. She noted that there was a wide spread of different kinds of outcomes, and Faculties and Schools should review the data in detail. She noted that Advance HE membership is 70.1% against the sector average of 40%.

Senate **APPROVED** the Degree Outcomes Statement

- (v) Academic Partnerships Handbook: Members had received the draft of the Handbook which has been developed to make the system more robust given the raft of new partnerships that are being proposed. Flowcharts are currently being produced to help clarify processes.

Senate **APPROVED** the Handbook.

- (vi) Student Protection Plan (SPP): Members had received the plan. Dr Haughan noted that further amendments may be needed to cover Belmont College delivering LHU courses. There may also need to be an amendment to 4d (Loss of Accreditation).

Senate **APPROVED** the SPP, but it was agreed that this would be submitted to Academic Committee in October for the above amendments.

- (vii) Information Literacy Framework: Members had received the Framework. Ms Murray said that this replaces the Library Information Skills programme. It is less prescriptive with a move to include levels of competency and outcomes around what students can expect to achieve. It also includes a commitment for professional services staff to enhance their practice.

Senate **APPROVED** the Information Literacy Framework

7. Chair's Business

The Chair thanked a number of Senators who were leaving the University this term for their service to Senate, including Mr Mike Beecroft, Dr Fiona Pogson, Prof Franco Rizzuto, Prof Galina Paramei

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(who has become Professor Emerita), Mr Ian McKenna, Ms Neve Rosser (SU President) and Mr Noah Thorley (SU Vice President).

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Appendix 1: Course Approval

New courses approved to be taken to Co-Design

- MA Dance Professional Practice
- MA Critical Disability Studies
- MA Disability and Interdisciplinary Professional Practice
- MA Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Studies
- MA Education
- MA Education Leadership and Management
- MA Early Childhood
- MA Early Childhood Leadership with GPCs
- MA Creative Approaches to Children's Wellbeing
- MA Advanced Mentoring and Coaching
- MA Disability Studies
- MA Professional Practice
- BAC Childhood & Youth

New Courses approved to be included in the University's Portfolio

- MA Safeguarding Children and Families
- MA International Criminology and Security Studies
- MRes Green Criminology and Environmental Crime
- MRes International Terrorism and Extremism Studies
- MRes Transnational Crime
- MSc Digital Marketing Management

Existing Courses approved to be included in the University's Portfolio

- BAC Computer Science
- MSc Advanced Computer Science
- MSc Data Science
- MSc Musculoskeletal Practice
- MSc Robotics Engineering
- BAC Human Geography
- BAC Creative Industries Business Management

Titles changes for new students in 2024

- BSc Nutrition is to become BSc Food and Nutritional Sciences
- Postgraduate Certificate in Leadership in Pastoral Ministry is to become Postgraduate Certificate in Catholic Pastoral Leadership.
- MA in Business and Sustainability to become MSc in Business Sustainability

Withdrawals

The following courses are being withdrawn from September 2024

- MSci Artificial Intelligence (with a Year in Industry)
- MSci Artificial Intelligence
- MEng Electronic & Computer Engineering (with a Year in Industry)
- MEng Electronic & Computer
- MEng Robotics (with a Year in Industry)

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- MEng Robotics
- MEng Software Engineering (with a year in industry)
- MEng Software Engineering
- MSci Software Engineering (with a year in industry)
- MSci Software Engineering
- BAC Social Policy
- PG Cert Professional Writing
- MA Criminology (replaced by MA International Criminology & Security Studies)
- iMBA (Replaced by MSc International Business and MBA)

Suspensions

The following courses are suspended until September 2025

- BAC Contemporary Craft (Major)
- BASH Arts and Wellbeing
- BASH Early Childhood
- BASH Special Educational Needs and Disability Studies
- PGCE Classics
- PGCE Music
- BASH Music Production
- BAC Stage Design and Scenography
- BASH English Language
- BAC Theology
- BAC Creative Industries Business Management
- BASH Psychology in Education
- BASH English Literature
- MRes Sport & Exercise Science

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Appendix 2: External Examiners

Subject	Name	Institution	Commence	Comments
Youth Work and Community Development	Ms Joanne Hoban-McGlynn	LCC Targeted Services for Young People	Sept 2023	See comment above
Youth Work and Community Development	Ms Christine Smith	University of Hull	May 2024	See comment above
BAC Media and Communication (Major)	Dr Anita Howarth	Brunel University	Sept 2024	APPROVED
Marketing	Dr Mark Ojeme	De Montfort University	Sept 2024	APPROVED
All Computer Science related degrees at Level C and I	*Dr Vasos Pavlika	University of Oxford	June 2024	APPROVED
All Computer Science related degrees at Level H and M	*Dr Ben Sanders	University of Winchester	June 2024	APPROVED
BAC Art History BASH Fine Art	Ms Helen Potkin	Kingston University	Sept 2024	APPROVED
PGCE Primary and Secondary (for Ambition Institute)	Dr Tracy Wallis	University of Worcester	Sept 2024	APPROVED

Subject	Name	Nature of Request
BA Marketing	Dr Seamus Allison	REALLOCATION OF DUTIES
Psychology postgraduate courses (MSc conversion; Applied Developmental Psychology).	Dr Hazel Blythe	EXTENSION OF TENURE