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LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF SENATE 25TH September 2024

PRESENT: Professor C Ozanne (in the Chair), Dr P Haughan (Vice Chair), Associate Professor G Anderson, Ms S Beecroft, Professor M Brennan, Professor Carroll-Meehan, Mr A Catterall, Associate Prof J Clear, Professor S Davismoon, Professor N Donnelly, Professor N Ferguson, Dr M Flynn, Mr S Fowler, Assoc Prof Asad Ghalib, Ms S Haines, Professor S Kelly, Professor O Khaiyat, Dr D Khan, Ms J Lewis, Dr C Marsh, Assoc Prof O Mashjari, Assoc Prof C Montoya Londono, Mr M Moran, Ms S Murray, Professor N Rao, Dr F Su, Dr L Waite, Professor C Wakefield, Dr C Walsh, Ms J Whittingham, Ms J Wilkinson, Dr L Bourke

By Invitation: Mr D Dykins (Secretary), Ms H McGarry

APOLOGIES: Dr W Bignold, Professor A Nagar, Mr D Sennett, Ms J Stevens, Ms E Taylor, Ms A Toomath

The meeting was convened to consider documentation relating to the University's APP submission, and matters arising from the minutes of the Academic Committee.

1. Access and Participation Plan

Members had received and considered the University's proposed APP submission. Dr Walsh gave an overview of the new Plan, noting that we are currently in the middle of the previous plan which stays in place for the remainder of current year. This new submission has involved a great deal of work and data analysis and gives an honest statement of where we are and where we can get to. It includes a detailed plan of the objectives and how this will be evaluated. A group will be set up to monitor this. The submission has had to follow a strict template and the 3-page summary once approved will be on the University's web pages as reference to what the University has committed to.

Dr Walsh drew attention to Annex A as her starting point, assessing performance in relation to access, continuation, completion, attainment and progression to graduate level employment or further study. Ms McGarry advised that the team had analysed a large amount of UG data in order to work out what we look like as a university and see what differences we had compared with the rest of the sector. It is these differences that the team have chosen to focus on. Following a thorough analysis, the most noticeable differences concerned participation (low participation and high deprivation and free school meals) as well as students from BAME categories and mature students. The Team reviewed the different life choices and how these affect outcomes, for example non-traditional qualifications and lower tariff points compared to lifestyle metrics. Dr Walsh highlighted these on the table, which are flagged accordingly; where 3 or more flags were present, this area would be the main focus of the Team's attention. There was a great deal of intersectional analysis of data and it became clear that when more than one characteristic interacted, the gap in metric was significantly magnified. The Team recognise that we will not be able to create interventions for all categories so they have concentrated on ones that could have an impact. They have focussed on BAME for the

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attainment gap, progression with mental health concerns, and BTEC also had a bearing. Interventions aim to close the gap for these students and this would also feed into other OfS metrics e.g., TEF and B3, as well as improvements in continuation and attainment.

Dr Walsh noted that interventions are expressed as measurable objectives and some gaps will be closed rather than eliminated. For the OfS, evaluation is critical and LHM will need to become skilled at this, with the evaluation being published. The OfS are committed to a whole-institution approach and the document is written from this stance. It will need to be driven by Schools/Faculties and all interventions should be contributing to added value.

Dr Anderson felt that this is was an opportunity that we can fully support and which speaks to the ethos of the University. The current plan and targets are based on a trajectory as well as doing the good for the greatest number of students. Where there wasn't a positive trajectory, these were concentrated on. The Students' Union have been fully involved in the development of the Plan.

Members queried whether the Plan will be more costly than can be funded. It was agreed that this would be a question of identifying what we are already doing that meet the target of interventions, and costing other interventions. This would mean the University could demonstrate to the OfS that some of the student fee is going towards the Plan; there is an expectation that we would spend a particular percentage of fee that would be used to support such students.

The diversity of the workforce was mentioned; it was noted that this was discussed at EDSC and there is work going on in People Services. This will be monitored regularly though it is a perennial problem. Attempts have been made to liaise locally with the City Council though it was noted that Liverpool University and JMU have a similar problem. It is possible to have a bespoke advertisement where demographic profile is not representative of student base.

The next step is to wait to see whether the Plan is accepted by the OfS.

Members **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL TO COUNCIL** the University's APP submission.

2. Matters arising from Academic Committee

Minutes of Academic Committee held on 23rd September 2024 were received. Members noted the *following*:

- the withdrawal of BAC Stage Design and Scenography
- the approval of: CAPA Foundation Programme; BA Education; and PGCE Suite

3. Date for Next Meeting: 6th November 2024