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## LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

### SENATE 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**PRESENT:** Professor G Pillay (in the Chair), Professor K Newport (Vice-Chair), Dr M Baxendale, Mr M Beecroft, Ms S Beecroft, Dr J Bennett, Dr W Bignold, Professor D Bolt, Dr C Boyle, Associate Professor M Brennan, Ms J Burgess, Mr A Catterall, Associate Professor G Cuthbertson, Professor S Davismoon, Professor N Donnelly, Mr J Ellison, Professor N Ferguson, Dr S Harrop, Ms C Harvey, Dr P Haughan, Mr M Hill, Dr J Hogan, Rev Professor D Jeyaraj, Ms S Kelly, Associate Professor S Kelly, Professor O Khaiyat, Professor M Lavalette, Ms Z Marshall, Associate Professor P McGrail, Mr I McKenna, Dr D Merryweather, Dr D Moloney, Ms S Murray, Professor A Nagar, Professor G Paramei, Mr H Pearce, Ms M Pearson, Associate Professor C Penketh, Associate Professor D Reid, Mr B Ricketts, Rev P Rooney, Dr L Siry, Mr O Smith, Dr L Stevenson, Ms C Vitti, Associate Professor C Wakefield, Dr C Walsh (47 members)

By Invitation: Ms L Gittins, Mr H Pearce, Mr O Smith

Mr D Dykins (Secretary and Minutes)

**APOLOGIES:** Ms E Best, Mr S Massie, Dr S Corbett, Ms S Wills

The Chair welcomed academic staff Dr Leo Stevenson and Dr Lawrence Siry, and the new Principal of Holy Cross College, Ms Carina Vitti. He also welcomed two of the new Students' Union Sabbatical Officers, Mr Harry Pearce, and Mr Ollie Smith.

#### **1. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 24th June 2020 were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

#### **2. Matters arising**

All matters arising were covered in the main agenda.

#### **3. Vice-Chair's Report**

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

#### **COVID-19**

Professor Newport noted that since the last Senate meeting, the University has continued to respond to challenges that have been presented by the pandemic. A number of task groups have been set up to ensure the safety of both staff and students, while at the same time ensuring that all students are able to engage with their course. Risk assessments at different levels have been undertaken and continue to develop in

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accordance with local and national intelligence, and taking into account government directives. USET has been meeting virtually every Monday since the initial lockdown, and this term there has been a regular weekly briefing with all Heads of Schools, the purpose of which is to share information and explain the latest decisions being taken.

Dr Haughan gave an update on the current rate of infections locally. In the context of Liverpool, infections at one point reached 600 cases per 100k of population, though this has significantly reduced to today's figure of 259. The University is involved in the pilot to perform mass testing of asymptomatic inhabitants of the city and so far this has shown a 0.7% infection rate. Within the student population, the number of positive cases had reduced to just two students but all teams within the University were remaining vigilant.

## Appointments

Professor Newport reported that the following visiting academics had been appointed:

- Professor Prof Nick de Leon will be attached to Sciences though he will do work with the Business School and be a member of the Science & Technology task force.
- Professor Stefan Ramaekers and Dr Adam Carter will join the Centre for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA)

## Appointment of Professor Emeritus

Professor Newport proposed that Senate award the title of "Professor Emeritus" to Professor David Chester following his retirement in August 2020. He noted that Professor Chester has made a significant academic contribution to Liverpool Hope and to the broader academic community, especially in the area of pure and applied Volcanology and seismology, and the impact of natural disasters on societies. Professor Chester will continue to support the University through his ongoing research and contribution to the discipline.

Members unanimously **APPROVED** the appointment of Professor Chester as Professor Emeritus.

## Open Days

- Saturday 21st November 2020
- Wednesday 9th December 2020

## Applicant Days

- Saturday 27th February 2021
- Wednesday 10th March 2021
- Friday 12th March 2021
- Saturday 17th April 2021
- Saturday 24th April 2021

## PARTNERSHIPS

Professor Newport gave an update on the following partnerships:

- The Spurgeon's agreement has not yet been finalised due to delays caused by Covid but this will be significant once finalised.

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- Best Practice Network agreement has not progressed due to COVID; they are now seeking an agreement for September 2021.
- All current School Direct contracts were extended for one year with the full renewal of contracts to take place around Easter time for the start of the 2021/22 academic year.
- A new agreement is planned with Lille for the IMBA and the International Marketing MA.
- There is one new School Direct Partner, St James in Bolton.
- School Direct contracts were not renewed with St Andrews C of E Primary Teaching School and St Mary and St Thomas Primary School C of E Primary Alliance

## Accreditations

Professor Newport gave an update on the following accreditations:

- BCS has extended the accreditation date to 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2020 for submission of evidence to show the University has satisfied the conditions.
- Full accreditation was awarded by BASRAT
- ESB accreditation is currently being reviewed
- SASC accreditation is not being pursued
- KHDA has been removed from the accreditations register
- TMI accreditation is currently being scoped with the aim to submit in the next few months
- a number of accreditations have been submitted for the Foundation year courses; several are still pending and are being pursued.

## Centre for Christian Education and Pastoral Theology

The centre has been suspended to give time for Theology to rethink its future.

## Jamie Murray Book Prize

Following the sad death of Dr Jamie Murray, an award for the Best Performing Single Honours Student in Law will be given at graduation ceremonies.

## **4. Secretary's Business**

Members had received the report on Student Appeals, Complaints and Discipline 2019-20. Dr Walsh noted that the number of academic cases and appeals had declined significantly suggesting that the emergency regulations had been satisfactory. Mr Dykins reported that the large increase in student complaints were mainly connected to the industrial action, Covid-19 and issues with accommodation. The low number of those complaints progressing to Stage 3 (Review) are due to the hard work that was put in by those investigating the cases to ensure that a reasonable outcome was reached.

## **Committee Reports**

### **5. Research Committee**

Members had received the minutes of the meeting of Research Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Professor Nagar drew attention to key highlights. REF deadlines, which had been impacted by Covid meant there would be a great deal of research activity leading up to the new submission date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Addressing queries from Dr Harrop and others about ways creative outcomes may be entered into REF, Professor

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Nagar said that he was waiting for REF and funding bodies to issue guidelines on how to accept outcomes which are practice based.

He noted that SEARCH had amended its title slightly to Social Economic Action Research Centre at Hope. Professor Lavalette said that SEARCH funding was attached to Everton in the community funding and that a full number of bids were currently being evaluated. The move of Disabilities Studies to Social Sciences has now been addressed as part of the process.

Professor Nagar reported that the Teaching Buy-Out Policy had been developed using UKRI guidelines and took into account full costings and was now being used in the University.

Other areas monitored by the Committee included: how research students were being supported during the pandemic; the University's submission for KEF (Knowledge Exchange Framework); and the Public Engagement and Research Integrity statements.

## 6. Academic Committee

Dr Haughan noted that this was the first meeting of the newly constituted Committee which took the place of the previous Academic Committee and the Learning & Teaching Committee. This was now a much smaller committee with a tighter remit and meant the work of the Committee was more efficient and effective. All agenda items are clearly linked to the Quality Code and the University Learning & Teaching Strategy.

- (i) Members had received the update on Recruitment which showed a significant increase in the number both of new students registered in 2020-21 and progressing students.
- (ii) Members had received the minutes of the Academic Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020. Dr Haughan highlighted course suspensions and approvals (Appendix 2). She also noted discussion of the student journey and the University's Access and Participation Plan (APP). The latter had progressed slowly due to the pandemic but was now being reviewed systematically by the Registrar. The Student Protection Plan was discussed and Dr Haughan and Ms Gittins are currently redrafting this. In reviewing registration and retention data, the Committee were satisfied that the Emergency Regulations and No Detriment policy had been received positively by staff and students. She highlighted the External Examiner nominations (Appendix 1).

Professor Nagar noted that the BEng and MEng in Software Engineering had also been approved in BSc and MSci versions.

Professor Lavalette queried the entry point for an integrated masters and how this would be managed if only one student were to register. Dr Baxendale said that it was important to promote the integrated masters as failure to do so could affect recruitment; if recruitment is poor, students who register for an integrated masters can use the existing MSc courses.

Senate **APPROVED** the minutes, including course approvals, new courses and suspensions, and the appointment and extension of external examiners.

- (iii) Members had received three Quality Handbooks: CPD Credit-Bearing Handbook; CPD Non-Credit-Bearing Handbook; and Seeking and Maintaining Professional

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Accreditations. Dr Haughan explained that these were updated versions of existing handbooks.

Senate **APPROVED** all three updated handbooks.

- (iv) Members had received the Registrar's Summary of Amendments to the Universal Regulations. Referring to the Framework of Qualifications, Dr Walsh said that it was important that new awards, such as the Integrated Masters and Professional Doctorates awards, were included so the Framework was accurate. Assessment regulations have received cosmetic updates to replace references to Faculties with Schools. She noted an issue with the No Detriment policy in relation to academic misconduct; a clause has now been added to clarify that if a student is impacted by proven academic misconduct the No Detriment uplift will not apply. She noted that a number of student awards were conferred with the permission of the Vice Chancellor as hard copy certificates were required for job acceptances.

Senate **APPROVED** the Summary of Amendments to the Universal Regulations.

- (v) Members had received the Supplement to the Emergency Regulations which explains how the University will transition from Emergency Regulations back to standard regulations. In the transition year, degree algorithms will return to those of standard regulations. Dr Walsh said that the mechanisms used in Year 2 had been very fair and there was no need to revisit the Emergency Regulations or the algorithm again. Dr Cuthbertson cautioned that the use of the word "subject" had different connotations.

Senate **APPROVED** the Supplement to the Emergency Regulations.

- (vi) Members had received the Assessment Calendar. The Registrar said it was important to note this was part of the transition.

Senate **APPROVED** the Assessment Calendar.

### 7. Chair's Business

The Chair thanked all Senators and the wider community for all their hard work during the pandemic. The vast majority of University students have observed Covid regulations and the campus operatives, and staff in domestic services, catering and residential life have worked exceptionally hard to ensure that students were supported and kept as safe as possible. Current measures have reduced the R value locally and there are the first signs of hope for an end to the crisis. Unlike other institutions, the University has not made any staff redundant and has recruited 30 new academic staff. Student recruitment has been excellent and has surpassed University targets by a large margin. He cautioned that a recent WONKHE survey suggested that attrition could be very high this year, and this could also have an impact on residential accommodation revenue. Key for the rest of the academic year will be focussing on supporting all students to retain as many as possible.

Dr Haughan thanked staff for doing everything they can to help during what has been a very difficult time for every member of staff and student body. She stressed that the main priority remains the health and safety of staff and students, but it will be necessary to ensure that this does not come at too high a price. Students are finding online learning difficult, and the social and support elements of University life under Covid provide a less than ideal experience for many students. Mental health issues arising out of

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boredom and loneliness have been a particular challenge and the University has a moral imperative to look after all its students. She asked that we keep students engaged in a positive way, and where necessary explain that there are virtually no options if a student chooses to leave their course in search of a job or to go travelling.

Dr Haughan reported that the Government have realised that there will be an issue with student movement around the country and at a seminar she attended yesterday Minister Donelan's team explained how they were going to support universities to facilitate this. Asymptomatic testing is to be offered to universities to allow two tests in the weeks before a student leaves for Christmas. Each student must have two negative tests before they can leave for home. Dr Haughan will draft a University plan once details are received. It is expected that the vast majority of students will be able to go home. Students will also be tested when they return. Staggering the exit is already in place at the University prior to UUK recommendations. The Vice Chancellor said he was in discussion with the Vice Chancellors at the universities of Liverpool and John Moores and they have a commitment to have common protocols including a staggered return, though as Liverpool Hope dates do not coincide with those of the other two universities, this should not be an issue. As previously agreed and advised to students, the University will be making a decision on face-to-face teaching during the w/c 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. It is likely the first four weeks of Term 2 will be online, but thereafter a mixture of online and face-to-face sessions should be possible. Liverpool City's Campus Shield is working with HEIs in Merseyside and the University is meeting weekly with the group.

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## Appendix 1

### Appointment of External Examiners

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Nature of Request</b>
UG History programmes (Levels, C, I and H) & MA History programme	Dr Roisín Higgins	Reallocation of Duties
BA Music (Single Hons & Major) and BA Popular Music	Dr Rob Wilsmore	Reallocation of Duties
BA SH Theology & Religious Studies (Religious Studies Component) BA Major Religious Studies MA Theology & Philosophy of Religion	*Professor Melissa Raphael	Reallocation of Duties

*\*Approved via Chair's Action between meetings*

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## Appendix 2

### Curriculum Matters

#### Course Approvals (Validations/Revalidations)

- BA Early Childhood & Master of Education
- Doctor of Education (EdD), Doctor of Social Work (DSW) and Doctor of Health & Social Care (DHS)
- PGCert Education Leadership & Management

#### New course proposals

- MEng/BEng/MSci/BSc in Software Engineering
- Major in Conservation Biology
- MA by Research - English Literature
- PGCert Data Science
- PGCert Sport Management

#### Suspensions

The following suspensions have been approved by Rectorate Team for 2020/21; there were no withdrawals at this stage:

- BSc SH Biomedical
- BA Applied Social Sciences
- BSc Psychology in Education
- BSc Environmental Geography
- BSc Physical Geography
- BSc Biogeography
- BSc Environmental Change and Tourism
- Interact. Performance (Major)
- Musical Theatre (Major)
- MMath
- MRes Food and Nutritional Sciences

#### Foundation Years:

- Applied Social Science
- English Language
- Environmental Science
- Physical Geography
- SEN and Disability

#### Network of Hope, Holy Cross:

- History
- Philosophy & Religion
- English Literature

#### Network of Hope: St Mary's

- Business Management
- Early Childhood
- Education
- Information Technology

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- Special Educational Needs

Network of Hope: Carmel

- Sport and Exercise Science (Foundation Year)
- Physical Education and Sport Science (BSc - evening provision)