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LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

SENATE 8th November 2023

PRESENT: Professor C Ozanne (in the Chair), Dr P Haughan (Vice-Chair), Associate Professor G Anderson, Prof P Bamber, Associate Professor M Baxendale, Mr M Beecroft, Ms S Beecroft, Dr W Bignold, Professor D Bolt, Dr C Boyle, Professor M Brennan, Ms C Brownlie, Dr N Buckley, Associate Professor M Carey, Professor Carroll-Meehan, Mr A Catterall, Dr J Clear, Professor R Cousins, Professor G Cuthbertson, Professor S Davismoon, Professor N Donnelly, Mr J Ellison, Professor B Evans, Professor N Ferguson, Dr A Foulkes, Ms S Haines, Professor A Hodgkinson, Professor S Kelly, Professor O Khaiyat, Professor M Lavalette, Associate Professor M Littler, Dr C Marsh, Professor S Marwood, Professor P McGrail, Dr D Merryweather, Ms S Murray, Professor A Nagar, Professor G Paramei, Professor C Penketh, Dr F Pogson, Professor N Rao, Professor F Rizzuto, Ms N Rosser, Professor S Shakespeare, Dr F Su, Ms Ella Taylor, Professor C Wakefield, Dr C Walsh, Dr Richard Webb, Associate Professor P Xenitidis (50 Members)

By Invitation: Mr D Dykins (Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Dr J Hogan, Ms S Kelly, Mr I McKenna, Ms T Ramsey, Associate Professor D Roche, Mr D Sennett, Mr N Thorley, Ms C Vitti,

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 21st June 2023 were **APPROVED** as a correct record.

2. Schedule of Business

Members had received the Schedule of Business which is provided to give details of business expected to be discussed over the coming year

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Business

The Chair noted that the final version of the University strategic plan, discussed under item 9 had a number of key supporting strategies already developed, such as the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy (already approved) and the Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange (RSKE) Strategy which will be discussed under item 7ii. In early spring, the People Strategy will be launched, with the Estates Strategy and Digital Strategy following later in the year. Project 2028 steered by Ms Beecroft is already generating a high level of engagement with workstreams being developed which will support the strategic plan focussing on tuition fee income, income diversification and growing other sources of income.

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Work on developing the portfolio of courses is well underway, spearheaded by Dr Haughan involving a range of initiatives including new course areas e.g. physiotherapy.

On external engagement, the Chair reported that she had recently visited three international partners in China and the Philippines. In September she also had meetings with external partners feeding back on the draft of the Strategic Plan. She has also been appointed to the Executive Committee of the Cathedrals Group of Universities.

During the Labour party conference, Prof Ozanne attended events related to HE to engage in conversations that might influence government policy in future. She has had also meetings with a number of key people within the region to forge possible links such as involvement in careers events and input in the curriculum. These included Katherine Fairclough (the new Chief Executive of Liverpool City Combined Authority), Chief Constable Serena Kennedy and Alison Stuart from the Bank of England. She will also be meeting the Lord Lieutenant, Mark Blundell, to discuss way in which the University can work with the Lieutenancy.

5. Vice-Chair's Report

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

Student Matters: Student Recruitment is down for 2023/4 with issues from clearing. There are plans for recruitment drives in January and September, including an increased focus on International numbers and a substantial focus on continuation. Open Days have so far been very successful.

Budget: Budgets will be very tight this year due to the fall in student numbers but there are plans to address this, including *Project 2028: Sustainable University*. As part of this initiative projects are currently being coordinated in a number of areas to focus on income generation activities. The lease on Hopkins Hall has now been purchased by the University, making a significant saving for the University over the coming year.

Appointments of Visiting Academics and Fellowships:

- Dr Gurnam Singh to be a Visiting Professor of Social Work
- Prof Urs Hauenstein to be a Visiting Professor of Practice attached to the Business School

Policies: Agile working is currently being rolled out across professional services and the policy seems to be working well

Industrial Action: As the threshold in the UCU ballot was not reached, there is no industrial action scheduled this term.

IQ Building: There have been further delays to the project and the expected opening date is in February 2024.

Curriculum: All Schools/departments have submitted curriculum plans for 24/25 and beyond. These are being collated and a process is being developed to facilitate a quality assured process for approval of a substantive collection of new provision. A full curriculum review will take place over the coming weeks which identifies any existing provision which requires further consideration.

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International Success and Liverpool Hope University: Dr Bignold is leading on the International Strategy and associated action plan. This has a wide range of strands aimed at attracting international students to the University and also addresses some of the operational challenges with new approaches.

Fossil Free Declaration: Following the withdrawal of investments funds, the University will be able to sign the declaration and is in the process of doing so.

Partnerships:

- Catholic Diocese of Liverpool: an agreement is currently being pursued for a PG Certificate in Pastoral Leadership in Ministry.
- Strategic Lead Delivery Partners (SLDPs – previously School Direct): agreements have been sent to all partners.
- Ambition Institute: work is ongoing with a validation event on 29th Feb 2024.

A Suite of new partnerships is currently being developed by the Business School and Education, including Bellmont College, UniVerse in Dubai, Kazakhstan Internship Programme, Spectreco Transition Academy, Cormac Consultancy Group, and the American Creative Academic in Kuwait.

Accreditations:

Update on Re-accreditations:

- **AACSB:** A project group has been established and is meeting monthly.
- **BCS** and **BASRaT:** Issues have surfaced which are currently being managed by the University.
- Royal Geographical Society (**RGS**) Accreditation: There was a successful reaccreditation exercise over the summer which is valid for the next 3 years.
- ITT Accreditation: The project team will be meeting with the DfE associate on 17th November to discuss approval of partnerships.
- AfN: Standards have changed and LHU is going to be an early adopter of the new standards. Work is underway to map the curriculum.
- BPS: the visit will be due November 2024 and work will start February 2024.
- British Dyslexia Association: accreditation for ALSA (30-credit level 4 Micro-credential) was awarded in August, effective from September.

Applications for new accreditations submitted and awaiting outcomes:

- CMI: Accreditation is being sought for BA Business Management with contract work underway.
- MACP (Musculoskeletal Association of Chartered Physiotherapists): Initial scoping is underway.

Faculties: The university is in the process of a consultation regarding a move to a Faculty structure

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI): The University underwent a UKVI Audit in August. Although we will not receive the outcome for a few more weeks the indications are that this was successful.

Foundation Day and Graduation: These are scheduled for 24th and 25th January 2024.

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6. Secretary's Business

Members had received the report on Student Appeals, Complaints and Discipline 2022-23 for information.

Committee Reports

7. Research Committee

- (i) Members had received the minutes of the meeting of Research Committee held on 25th October 2023. Prof Nagar noted that the University had submitted its response to the consultation on REF2028. The response welcomed the shift to a broader approach and a decoupling of staff from their submission, though it expressed concerns over the proposed method using HESA data, which could impact on researchers especially those on short-term contracts. Additionally, the reduced weighting on output will adversely affect smaller HEIs such as Hope, and the new tariff on impact case studies and the revised threshold will increase staff workload. Overall, there remain some uncertainties around regulations and the fairness of the exercise though suggestions were made on possible ways to mitigate some of these challenges.

Prof Nagar highlighted the plan designed to support colleagues with Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange, underpinned by the planning process for individuals Promoting Recognition of Staff Engagement in Research (PROSPER) which links directly to the RSKE Strategy (item 7ii). He also noted that there was good progress in the implementation of the electronic submission of doctoral theses that was launched last academic year, including plans to link it with the British Library's Electronic Theses Online Service (EThOS).

Following updated regulations for PGR in June, the associated Code of Practice has been updated, but amendments are mainly cosmetic. Schools/Departments also provided updates to the Committee detailing an excellent range of activities being undertaken. Prof Nagar confirmed that the guidelines for the annual HEBCIS Return is due early in the New Year. As this is a mandatory submission and directly impacts on HEIF income and the KEF, he is running Staff Development sessions to ensure staff understand its importance. The Chair added that she was aware that colleagues were involved in a wide range of activities which could usefully feed into the Return, so it was important that they were aware of this for the Return.

Prof Nagar also highlighted the current situation in regard to the Vice Chancellor's Scholarships, as well as the Level I research engagement project, which has attracted a high level of interest.

Senators requested that dates, rather than approximate timings, be included in the Action Log.

- (ii) RSKE Strategy: Members had received the Strategy. Prof Nagar said that there had been a good level of consultation and the feedback had been largely positive. The Strategy covered five key objectives: to promote excellence in research and knowledge exchange; to foster interdisciplinary approaches and research hubs; to secure external funding and investment; to support researchers at different career stages; and to collaborate with researchers including external organisations (including the involvement of students) to enhance research and capacity building. The Strategy identifies a number of KPIs, including those relating to REF and KEF, as well as linking

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to elements of the TEF.

Senators queried the calculations under KPI 1, with the increase from £200k to £1m in 5 years. The GPA target of 3 in KPI 3 was also questioned as being unrealistic. Prof Nagar acknowledged that the strategies underpinning the KPI may be a challenge but this is the same benchmark as competitor HEIs. He noted that the University allocates a substantial amount of workload to research which should mean that the University aspires to this level. There will be annual objectives which will help to ensure that building blocks are in place, with an annual stocktake exercise to monitor progress. PROSPER also feeds into the plan and there is staff development and investment in infrastructure to support this. Schools/Departments will need to create business plans to support the overall Strategy. Some Senators felt that although the target was very ambitious, it was an important starting point. It will be important that different types of research spaces are created for more interdisciplinarity to ensure that research is not siloed.

Senate **APPROVED** the RSKE Strategy.

8. Academic Committee

- (i) Members had received the minutes of the Academic Committee held on 18th October 2023. Dr Haughan noted that the meeting had involved a very full agenda and thanked Academic Committee members for their preparation for the meeting. She highlighted the discussion that members had concerning the ARE reports and was reassured that most reports received provided a high level of reflection. The process will be reviewed for next year. She also noted the School External Examiner reports and responses. In the TEF, the outcome for the University was Silver for both Student Experience and Student Outcomes and later this month the full report will be published on the OfS website. The TEF Working Group is already planning for the University's next TEF submission.

The NSS action plans were also reviewed by the Committee and they were reassured by the quality of most of the plans, though there remained some work to be undertaken in some areas. The External Examiners included in Appendix 1 were approved; Dr Haughan noted that the query over Prof Jason Powell had been resolved. There was also an issue with an examiner in CAPA who was removed and replaced with another examiner. In addition to the course approvals, reapprovals, proposals, suspensions and withdrawals listed in Appendix 2, she noted that the MA Contemporary Performance is not withdrawn or suspended and remains in the portfolio.

Although the Partnerships and Accreditations Committee Minutes were not available, Dr Bignold had submitted a summary of the recent meeting. Dr Haughan said that concerns over certain accreditations have led to a change in the operation of committee.

Prof Lavalette noted that he would be doing a review of the new Foundation Year structure but that so far indications are that this has been successful with lower drop-out rate than last year.

- (ii) Revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for School/Department Academic Committees: Members had received the revised ToR.

Senate **APPROVED** the revised ToR for School/Department Academic Committees

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- (iii) Student Achievement and the degree classification algorithm: Members had received the report which summarised student achievement in 2022-23. Good degree outcomes comprise approximately 72% which is likely to be below the national award standards which will be published by HESA later in the year. Prof Rao noted that the number of PGT distinctions had fallen which could be a result of changed entrance requirements and increased applications from professional routes. Dr Walsh was not sure if this is a trend but she will review this.

There were three recommendations arising from the paper, all arising from best practice within the sector. The first concerned a move to a single 0/25/75 algorithm for degree classification. Currently, both algorithms in use by the University (10/30/60 and 0/25/75) are utilised and this has been discussed at various stages at Senate previously. The second recommendation is that the University does not adopt discounting as this would be difficult with the size of our modules, and discounting at Level H is not good practice.

The third recommendation is to begin rounding at the award mark level which is included in the allowed practice guidance; currently the University does not round at the award mark but at the classification borderlines. Since the use of a rounded 2-point borderline is not good practice the University should adopt a hard 2-point borderline but round at the award mark level. This will be neutral in terms of student outcomes but will align the University with best practice. Additionally, it was proposed that borderline rules are amended so that borderline students' assessment outcomes at Level I and H would be scrutinised. If 50% of their credits at Level H, or 50% of their credits at I and H are in the higher band then their classification would be uplifted.

Senate **APPROVED** the three recommendations.

- (iv) Amendments to the 2023/24 Assessment Calendar: Members had received the proposed amendments which Dr Haughan explained included minor changes as previous dates impinged on the clearing period. Senators queried whether the September date would work for students looking for accommodation. Dr Haughan said that assessments are processed as quickly as possible to avoid any such issues.

Senate **APPROVED** the amendments to the 2023/24 Assessment Calendar.

9. Liverpool Hope University Strategic Plan

Members had received the latest version of the Strategic Plan, and Prof Ozanne gave an overview of changes from the previous iteration received which she hoped conveyed the Hope "voice" more clearly. Under Ethos and Community, the order of items had changed and a new item added regarding digital resources to ensure readiness for the future. An item in the Pillar on Providing Education has been removed (regarding education in the round) and this is now picked up elsewhere in the Strategy; *resilience* is also now included in the first item, as well as a new item on developing and implementing best practice in the delivery of learning and teaching and student support. The Research Pillar has further been refined with a more focussed reference to externality and an additional item added: "Scale-up external funding for our research and support innovation to increase our capacity to seek solutions to the challenges facing society". The Sustainability Pillar has also been amended following consultations.

Prof Ozanne explained that the Outcomes Section includes general outcomes ("straplines") which will be of interest to external organisations and the KPIs will be held internally for Council to review annually and focus University plans and enabling strategies. Under the

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NSS KPI, Dr Marsh queried why only some subjects were aiming to be in the top 20% of the sector. Prof Ozanne said that this had been discussed in detail at OLT/ALT meetings and it was agreed that the University can be more ambitious with a small group of subjects but it would be significant if all subjects could be in the top 50% of the sector. The REF KPI was discussed under item 7ii. Senators noted the importance of enablers for learning and teaching and for the NSS, such as the Communities of Practice to share best practice. They acknowledged the importance of Athena Swan under EDI but queried whether this was sufficiently ambitious. Prof Ozanne advised that Race Equality Charter had also been discussed but that there was a need to keep clear focus in terms of external awards. However, matters relating to race equality would not be ignored and this would be revisited over the coming years. It was also suggested that PGR students could be reflected in the KPIs, but Dr Haughan said that at this stage the number of students is not viable to create a specific KPI. The use of the word “centre” in “Work in partnership with our students to centre their experience at Hope” might also be reworded. Overall, it was felt that there could be more ambitious positive language employed in some areas.

Senate **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL TO COUNCIL** the Strategic Plan, subject to consideration of the above points.

10. Proposal for Professor Emeritus for Revd Canon Prof Kenneth Newport

Members had received the proposal for Professor Emeritus for Prof Newport. Prof Nagar gave an overview of Prof Newport’s career, particularly his research and his long and esteemed service at the University. He noted that not only might his research have relevance to REF 2028, the status would be rewarding him for his service to the University and its community.

Senate **APPROVED** the proposal for Prof Newport to be Professor Emeritus at the University.

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Appendix 1

Subject	Name	Institution	Commence	Comments
PhD in Communication and media sciences Master of Arts in Digital Media Bachelor Degree in Social Communication – Journalism	Dr Ivana Raquel Ebel	Edinburgh Napier University	September 2023	APPROVED
Creative Writing	Dr Isabel Galleymore	University of Birmingham	September 2023	APPROVED
Professional Development Programme in Learning and Teaching	Dr Anesa Hosein	University of Surrey	January 2023	APPROVED
BA Education	Dr Mark Pulsford	University of Warwick	September 2023	APPROVED
BA Musical Theatre	Dr Ian Sapiro	University of Leeds	October 2023	APPROVED

Subject	Name	Nature of Request
MA English Literature	*Prof Kate McLoughlin	EXTENSION OF TENURE
Master in Creative Industries	*Mr Nikos Stavropoulos	REALLOCATION OF DUTIES
BA Music (Single Honours & Major) BA Music Production (Major) BA Digital Creativity (meant to come into effect in 23/24 but now suspended for 23/24)	*Dr Ewan Stefani	REALLOCATION OF DUTIES
Foundation Year	Mr Jack Bullock	EXTENSION OF TENURE and REALLOCATION OF DUTIES
Contemporary Fashion Design	Mr Jonathan Carson	EXTENSION OF TENURE
MA Education MA Interdisciplinary Studies Early Childhood block Developmental Psychology block	Ms Mary Dyer	EXTENSION OF TENURE
Foundation Year	Mr Gareth Henry	REALLOCATION OF DUTIES
UG and PGT History	Prof Roisín Higgins	EXTENSION OF TENURE
MEd QTS	Dr Ben Screech	EXTENSION OF TENURE