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LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

SENATE 20th March 2024

PRESENT: Dr P Haughan (in the Chair), Professor A Nagar (Vice Chair), Mr M Beecroft, Ms S Beecroft, Dr W Bignold, Professor D Bolt, Dr C Boyle, Ms C Brownlie, Dr N Buckley, Professor Carroll-Meehan, Mr A Catterall, Dr J Clear, Professor Rosanna Cousins, Professor G Cuthbertson, Professor S Davismoon, Professor N Donnelly, Mr J Ellison, Professor B Evans, Professor N Ferguson, Dr A Foulkes, Ms S Haimes, Dr J Hogan, Ms S Kelly, Professor O Khaiyat, Professor M Lavalette, Dr C Marsh, Professor S Marwood, Professor P McGrail, Dr D Merryweather, Ms S Murray, Professor C Penketh, Professor N Rao, Ms T Ramsey, Professor D Reid, 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 (43 Members)

By Invitation: Mr D Dykins (Secretary)

APOLOGIES: Professor C Ozanne, Professor M Brennan, Associate Professor M Baxendale, Professor A Hodgkinson, Professor S Kelly, Professor G Paramei, Dr F Pogson, Associate Professor D Roche

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of Senate held 8th November 2023 and 20th November 2023 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, Prof Atulya Nagar, to report on management decisions taken between meetings of Senate.

Student Applications: The University is doing well in a difficult market. Student Futures is currently implementing the conversion plan. It was noted that some subjects have substantive increases against a backdrop of year-on-year decline in 18-year-olds applying to university.

Project 2028: We have identified £1.533 million of additional income/savings against the £1.625 million target for 2023/24. This is excluding the impact of the VS scheme and has been achieved without cutting budgets, primarily through a higher revenue of student fees than had been predicted.

Foundation Hour: The structure and format of the Wednesday Foundation Hour has now changed, with a monthly formal session and informal wellbeing sessions on other Wednesdays.

Open and Applicant Days 2024/25: There will be an Applicant Day on Saturday 20th April, and Open Days on 29th June, 19th October, 16th November, 4th December and 8th January 2025.

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Book Launch and Conference: Prof Simon Lee has written a book called the Serendipity of Hope with ex-colleagues and there is going to be a book launch tied in with a conference on 26th April.

Faculty Structure: The four titles have been agreed as:

- Faculty of Human and Digital Sciences
- Faculty of Creative Arts and Humanities
- Faculty of Education and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Business, Law and Criminology

Heads of School have now been appointed. Note that there will be no academic departments going forward.

Governance Review: Advance HE conducted a review last term which has culminated in a detailed action plan. This will have implications for Committee structures going forward, as it includes the establishment of a University Executive Board which will in due course report to Senate.

Networking Events: There was a successful networking event last week on Health and Social Care with a number of organisations visiting the University.

The Purpose coalition: Rt Hon Justine Greening is visiting the University on 1st May as part of the launch of the Liverpool Hope / Purpose Coalition report.

Liverpool City Council: LCC have created a Strategic Plan for the city and LHU have been asked to identify leads to be part of two working groups. Prof Donnelly agreed to sit on the North Liverpool Prototype and Prof Carroll-Meehan on the New Liverpool City Plan.

Appointments of Visiting Academics and Fellowships: Mrs Jo Gibson is to be Honorary Senior Research Fellow attached to Health Sciences.

Strategic Plan: The University Strategic Plan has been launched internally, and will be launched externally in June. The People Strategy is currently being developed which will underpin elements of the Five Pillars of the University strategy by aligning it with other enabling strategies. The initial scoping has taken place. The development of the Digital Strategy is also underway with an external consultant advising.

Policies: A revised Email Policy has been released which clarifies how long accounts can be held for by both staff (after leaving) and students (after graduating). The Freedom of Speech Policy has been reviewed and will be published in due course, though further changes will be required when the OfS Complaints process comes into force at the beginning of August.

Promotions: The next round of Lecturer to Senior Lecturer will take place as originally scheduled as will Professional tutor to Senior Professional Tutor.

Partnerships:

- Strategic Lead Delivery Partners agreements have all been signed.
- Ambition Institute has been approved as a partner following the validation event on 29th February.
- Cormac Consultancy Group Partnership for referrals for international partners in the future has been completed.

There is a Suite of new partnerships currently being developed by the Business School and

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Education, including Bellmont College, UniVerse in the Punjab, Kazakhstan/Bolashak Internship Programme, Spectreco Transition Academy, and Oxford International; The Liverpool Swimming Club MoU has been signed and is now moving forward to the next stage.

Accreditations:

Update on Re-accreditations:

- BCS: A Project Group has been established with a weekly follow-up.
- BASRaT: the submission deadline for reaccreditation is 25th March 2024.
- ITT Accreditation: this was fully signed off last Friday and it now moves to operational with the Group's focus on Ofsted readiness.
- AfN: Standards have changed and LHM 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 has started for the submission
- British Dyslexia Association: re-accreditation for SPLD PG Cert is underway with the co-design event last week.
- CMI: Mapping has been undertaken with the legal agreement and site visit as the next steps.

Applications for New Accreditations submitted and awaiting outcomes:

- MACP (Musculoskeletal Association of Chartered Physiotherapists): Initial scoping is underway.
- HCPC/CSP: initial scoping for MSc Physiotherapy is underway with a co-design event on 29th May
- Apprenticeship Scheme: The University is reviewing viability and is working with an external consultant. A project team has been established comprising senior staff which will prepare for an OfS bid for substantial funding alongside registration onto the Apprenticeship Register.

4. Secretary's Business

- (i) Members had received the revised Data Protection Policy. As there was clarification needed on responsibilities within the Data Protection Policy, it was agreed that this would be reviewed at the next Senate meeting.
- (ii) Members had received the revised Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and Management of Events on Campus. Revisions were cosmetic around a flowchart and a better ordering of categories.

Senate **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL TO COUNCIL** the revised Code of Practice.

Committee Reports

5. Research Committee

- (i) Members had received the minutes of the meeting of Research Committee held on 7th February 2024. With regard to REF 2029, Prof Nagar noted that the timeline has been published by the funding bodies and is now available online. External advisor appointments are underway for mock REF and internal stocktake. Symplectic Elements has been awarded to supply the University's CRIS; this will be a substantial investment in the infrastructure for research and will, amongst other things, assist with Knowledge Exchange initiatives in Schools.

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The report on research centres was received following a comprehensive review by Visiting Professor Nick de Leon which advised three key outcomes and identifies key thematic. In addition to an exercise to identify key research themes, a taskforce is being established to develop a taxonomy to define attributes. and a governance model will be implemented to oversee research entities. CEPA has now been dissolved with a view to a new modern and wider theme for a research centre to be proposed in the future. It was agreed that the report can be distributed to Senators.

Action: Mr Dykins to distribute Prof de Leon's report.

Prof Nagar also noted that UKRI funded researchers will need to publish a data management statement. Grant applications are increasing and training is available for those who require it. The University's HEBCIS submission took place in December and the HEIF annual monitoring report was also submitted successfully. There were 13 reports from Schools and Departments covering a wide range of activities.

Other items highlighted included Honorary Visiting roles, which have been reviewed and streamlined and categories simplified, and Springer Nature which is now available with colleagues already benefiting from the facility. The Summer Scholarships have been launched for academic staff.

(ii) PGR/Professional Doctoral Regulations

Interruptions for part time students: currently the one-year interruption rule applies to both full-time and part-time students so the change is to make this proportional for PT students. There will be consideration of the student's situation. and more supportive mechanisms will be put in place at end of 6 months. Interruptions are tightly controlled but the University is keen to ensure the best possible opportunities for students to complete their studies.

Senate **APPROVED** the amendment to interruptions.

Continuation Requirements Part 1 to Part 2: An amendment is suggested to bring regulations in line with entry requirements for PhDs. The Distinction requirement is now amended to Merit in the research proposal and the usual reassessment opportunities have been reintroduced. This is **NOTED** as Chair's action as already been taken to approve the change.

6. Academic Committee

- (i) Members had received the minutes of the Academic Committee meetings held on 14th December 2023 and 21st February 2024 which were presented by the Registrar, Dr Walsh. Dr Walsh noted the large number of new and existing courses which were recommended to proceed to co-design and highlighted the title change from *Major Contemporary Performance* to *Major Stage Design & Scenography*, and *BSc Nutrition* to *BSc Food and Nutritional Sciences*. A number of courses were recommended for final approval to Senate including the following non-accredited course: BSc (Hons) Computing; BSc (Maj) Computing; BSc (Hons) Computing (Artificial Intelligence); and BSc (Maj) Computing (Information Technology). These courses will enable the University to manage students who not meet the criteria for the equivalent accredited courses, though they are not new courses but have differentiated titles to their equivalents. Dr Walsh also noted the updates on accreditations, which included this suite of courses. She clarified that although the University's accreditation for BCS expired, we can continue with the equivalent accredited courses as we have an intention to renew. There will be a submission to BCS in the very near future with a full accreditation visit in 2025.

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The BSc Sports Rehabilitation was also recommended for approval via Chair's action and a title change was also recommended to Senate: the *BA Early primary Education with SEND (3-7) with QTS* to change to *BA Early Primary Education (3-7) with QTS* to better reflect the overall content of the course.

Senate **APPROVED** the above recommendations for final approval of courses.

Dr Walsh highlighted that all TEF results are now published and available online. She also noted work undertaken via Level H student evaluations towards assessing student mood prior to NSS 2024. Generally, the evaluations suggested that issues relating to "Feedback on Work" needed attention, although it was noted that many Level H students had not yet been assessed which may explain the less successful result in this section. The Graduate Outcomes Report was generally positive though this remains an ongoing issue in league table outcomes as sector averages are also improving.

Monitoring for the APP continues with three areas of concern in relation to the attainment rate for students from the poorest backgrounds, the attainment rates for BAME students and movement to further study or employment for students with mental health issues. Dr Walsh and her team are currently preparing the new APP which will come into force in 2025. The APP has been included as a designated part of the role of the new Associate Deans (Student Experience).

Dr Walsh proposed an amendment to the *Universal Conventions and Procedures 2023/24 Dissertations and Research Projects* which has arisen out of the PGT continuation award board where a number of students who had failed their proposal (or preliminary task) performed well in their dissertation. If the proposal is failed then this will be condoned if the dissertation passes except where there has been academic misconduct. A student who fails the preliminary task should be offered a resubmission capped at a bare pass.

Senate **APPROVED** the amendment to the Conventions on Dissertations and Research Projects.

Dr Walsh also noted that the release of results from the reassessment window in August will be 24th September not 23rd September 2024.

- (ii) Timeline for the introduction of the Single Algorithm: Members had received the proposal to move to a single algorithm which is intended to be implemented for all new entrants from September 2024. Current Foundation Students will be on slightly different rules and vigilance will be needed for students in mixed cohorts and those who have interrupted.

Senate **APPROVED** the introduction of the Single Algorithm.

- (iii) Recognition of Prior Learning Handbook, QH11: Dr Walsh noted the title name to align with the sector. The significant change is that the standard currency of learning is now normally 5 years rather than 10, though up to 10 years can be considered for special cases. Advanced standing is also clarified.

Senate **APPROVED** the Recognition of Prior Learning Handbook, QH11

- (iv) Programme Design and Approval Handbooks, QH1 (Principles), QH2 (new provision more than 50%), QH3 (new provision less than 50%): Members had received the three handbooks which had been updated with cosmetic changes; the need for two external reviewers has also been amended to one external reviewed.

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Senate **APPROVED** the Programme Design and Approval Handbooks, QH1 QH2 and QH3.

- (v) Fitness to Study Policy: Members had received the updated Fitness to Study Policy which had minor amendments to allow for Stage 2 panels to be chaired by an Associate Dean (Student Experience) so that appeals could be submitted to the Deputy Vice Chancellor.

Senate **APPROVED** the Fitness to Study Policy.

- (vi) Programme Regulations for Foundation Degrees: Members had received this set of regulations for new courses that are currently in development. Outcomes include Pass or Fail options, but Senate agreed that a classification of Distinction could also be included. It was agreed that the Registrar would review the regulations to include a range of different outcomes before resubmitting to Senate.
- (vii) Framework of Qualifications: Members had received the revised Framework, which required additions to include Foundation Degrees and the Professional Graduate Certificate (PgCE) in Education. Dr Marsh requested that the iMBA be changed to MBA.

Senate **APPROVED** the Framework of Qualifications, subject to the amendment to the iMBA entry.

- (viii) Programme Regulations for PGCE for both Standard and Non-Standard Courses: Members had received both regulations which are being introduced to allow for the QTS element to be awarded by a partner organisation and gives students the opportunity to exit at Level 6.

Senate **APPROVED** Programme Regulations for PGCE for both Standard and Non-Standard Courses

- (ix) Academic Calendars: Members had received the Calendars for information. It was suggested that Reflective Weeks be renamed, particularly the Week before Christmas as it was felt that student continuation was adversely affected. However, it was noted that this year continuation has improved. Dr Haughan said that we will continue with the published academic year structure and the inclusion of Reflective Weeks for 2024-25 but that there will be a review before 2025-26.

7. Proposals for Professor Emeritus/Emerita

Members had received the proposals for Professors Emerita/Emeritus for Prof Michael Lavelette and Prof Galina Paramei. Dr Haughan and Prof Nagar respectively gave an overview of their careers, highlighting their research and esteemed service at the University. Not only could their research have relevance to REF 2028, the status would be rewarding both for their service to the University and its community.

Senate **APPROVED** the proposals for both Prof Michael Lavalette and Prof Galina Paramei to be Professor Emeritus/Emerita at the University.

8. Chair's Business

The Chair highlighted upcoming events. For the visit by Rt Hon Justine Greening, any organisations that Senators think would be appropriate can be invited. There will be the external launch of the University's Strategic Plan in the morning of 21st June and all staff are invited to attend. The 13

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building is almost complete, and we should have access in April. Interviews for Associate Deans will commence shortly. Dr Haughan advised that today she had reconvened the Student Sounding Board with a positive initial meeting.

Dr Haughan congratulated the team of staff who have been working on ITT accreditation and Prof Carroll-Meehan gave particular thanks to Ms Jo Cross and Ms Ursula Boote for their diligence in making the accreditation a success. The University is one of only a very few ITT providers in the country who have got to this stage. Will give time to prepare for next Ofsted inspection.

Finally, Dr Haughan thanked Prof Lavalette on behalf of Senate for his service on Senate.

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Appendix: External Examiners

Subject	Name	Institution	Commence	Comments
BA Graphic Design (including legacy Graphic Design provision)	Paul Allen	Sheffield Hallam University.	July 2024	APPROVED
BA Hons Fine Art	Dr Robert Anderson	Open College of The Arts	September 2024	APPROVED
BA History BAC History pathway MA History	Dr Andrew Jackson	Bishop Grosseteste University	January 2024	APPROVED
BA Arts and Wellbeing	Dr Katharine Low	King's College London	September 2024	APPROVED
BA Health and Social Care Health and Wellbeing Major Social Care Major	Jess Mannion	Manchester Metropolitan University	January 2024	APPROVED
PGCE Primary 3-7 PGCE Primary 5-11	Nicola Tierney	St Mary's University	October 2023	APPROVED
Suite of Education Masters programmes	Dr Jess Bishop	Coventry University	September 2024	APPROVED
MA DJ Performance and Broadcast Techniques	Dr Dave Payling	Staffordshire University	September 2024	APPROVED

Subject	Name	Nature of Request
BA Media & Communication	Dr Christopher Pullen	EXTENSION OF TENURE
BA Drama/Theatre BA Drama Major	Dr Matt Smith	REALLOCATION OF DUTIES
BA Music (Single Honours & Major) BA Music Production (Major) BA Digital Creativity	Dr Ewan Stefani	REALLOCATION OF DUTIES
BA Early Childhood	*Dr Glenda Tinney	REALLOCATION OF DUTIES

**Chair Action*