

Minutes of a Meeting of the Educational Character Committee
held at 4pm on Monday 27 January 2015
in Room 1B27, Technopark, London Road, London SE1

Present

Douglas Denham St Pinnock	Chair
Ilham Abdishakur	SU President
Professor Hilary McCallion	
Mee Ling Ng	

Prof David Phoenix	Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive
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In attendance

Prof Pat Bailey	Deputy Vice Chancellor
Prof Phil Cardew	Pro Vice Chancellor (Students & Education)
Stephen Hackett	Director of Student Services
Prof Paul Ivey	Pro Vice Chancellor (Research & External Engagement)
Ian Mehrtens	Chief Operating Officer
James Stevenson	University Secretary and Clerk to the Board of Governors
Ruth Sutton	Governance Assistant

Welcome and Apologies

1. No apologies had been received.

Minutes of the last meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting of 4 June 2014 were confirmed as a correct record (paper **EC.01(15)**).
3. The meeting noted that the December 2014 and February 2015 meetings had been combined into this meeting.

Matters Arising

4. There were no matters arising.

Overseas development update

5. The committee received an update from the Vice Chancellor about overseas development of academic partnerships in Bahrain and India. The update focused on how LSBU is going to develop its international partnerships as part of its corporate strategy.
6. The committee discussed the importance of building sustainable and flexible relationships overseas. The committee noted the reputational risks of some of the overseas territories discussed.
7. The committee noted the report and that a more detailed paper would go to the Policy and Resources Committee and the Board of Governors.

REF Outcome and Research Strategy (paper EC.02(15))

8. The Pro Vice Chancellor (Research and External Engagement) presented the results of the Research Excellence Framework 2014 UK-wide audit of UK university research outputs.
9. The committee noted that LSBU had received an excellent overall score of 2.52, meaning that the compound score of LSBU's research is excellent and recognised internationally. Planning for REF2020 had started and aims to increase the number of academics submitted and increase the total number of PhDs over the next few years.

Student Equality, Diversity and Inclusion statistics (paper EC.03(15))

10. The committee noted the statistics on student equality, diversity and inclusion (paper **EC.03(15)**).
11. The committee discussed the appointment of an external consultant who would be able to contextualise LSBU's data to give better information and enable benchmarking about student equality, diversity and inclusion at LSBU.
12. The committee approved the executive's recommendation that an external consultant is appointed. A further report would be done by May 2015.

Development of School structure (paper EC.04(15))

13. The Deputy Vice Chancellor presented the new structure for the School executive teams (paper **EC.04(15)**). The committee discussed the finalisation of the divisions within Schools.

14. The committee welcomed the position.

Change Programme update (paper EC.05(15))

15. The committee noted the update on the projects within the Developing the Academic Environment and Support for the Academic Environment themes of the change programme (paper **EC.05(15)**). Progress was noted in relation to the Learning Pathway and Student Administration projects.

Sports Provision (paper EC.06(15))

16. The Chief Operating Officer updated the committee about sports provision at the university London Road Sports Centre (paper **EC.06(15)**). The committee noted the paper.

Any Other Business

17. The Chief Operating Officer informed the committee that LSBU has been ranked 17 out of 194 UK universities on the People & Planet Green League sustainability table.

Next Meeting

18. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 3 June 2015 at 4pm.

Confirmed as a correct record

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Chair

{Secretary's note: this is the final meeting of the committee. The Board closed the committee on 14 May 2015 as part of the governance effectiveness review}