



**Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board
held at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 26 April 2017**

Present

Pat Bailey (Chair)
Temi Ahmadu
Sodiq Akinbade
Stephen Barber
Craig Barker
Janet Bohrer
Kirsteen Coupar
Charles Egbu
Paul Ivey
Gurpreet Jagpal
Janet Jones
Mike Molan
Jenny Owen
Shushma Patel
Lesley Roberts
Tony Roberts
Warren Turner
Shân Wareing

Apologies

Ian Albery
David Mba

In attendance

Michael Broadway
Sally Skillett-Moore
Joe Kelly

1. External policy environment

The Vice Chancellor presented a review of the external policy environment. The meeting noted opportunities and threats, in relation to the following:

- Higher Education Research Bill (HERB), including: TEF and differentiation, Office for Students (OfS), ‘challenger’ institutions, and the impact of increasing fees on LSBU’s demographic.
- Regulatory environment, including: multiple regulators, data protection, Competition and Markets Authority, Institute for Apprenticeships.
- “Brexit”, including: staff and student recruitment, loss of access to Horizon 2020 and European Social Funds.

- Industrial Strategy, including: emphasis on skills and apprenticeships, translational research, devolution and funding drain.
- International, including: threats around policy and process, opportunities for partnerships in Europe, internationalisation potential limits.
- Research, including: low numbers of research active staff, partnerships, increased R&D fund, postdoctoral loans, HERB and REF2021.
- Recruitment, including: increased competition, fees increases, London cost of living, changes to NHS bursaries.

LSBU's response is to:

- Establish LSBU as a leader in professional and technical education; and
- Establish LSBU as 'anchor institution' supporting broad educational and enterprise offer.

The meeting discussed the opportunities in relation to:

- Additional research and enterprise partnerships;
- The range of potential educational pathways and partnerships; and
- Apprenticeships (discussed in more detail in session 3 below).

2. **The student experience in Higher Education**

The Pro Vice Chancellor for Education and Student Experience (PVC(ESE)) outlined a vision of an integrated learning "ecosystem" across both virtual and physical environments.

A short video produced by LSBU students' union was played to the meeting in which students commented on their learning experience at LSBU, identifying pro and cons, and their preferences for development.

The presentation highlighted seven principles to improve the student experience in line with the vision.

- **Adaptable:** The physical and technological environments should be adaptable.
- **Seamless:** an integrated single 'sign on' across LSBU applications, and the integration and exchange of data between systems.
- **Experimental:** digital and physical spaces for exploring digitally enhanced learning, teaching and assessment.
- **Automated:** develop the range of automated tasks to reduce workload, improve consistency, lower training barriers, and focus on important tasks.
- **Collaborative and social:** create digital and physical spaces to enable working across boundaries, and facilitate collaboration between groups of learners, teachers, and employers.

- Device agnostic: environment should be WiFi enabled, mobile friendly, and enable use of a range of devices, both LSBU and privately owned.
- Industry standard: use industry standard tools, e.g. Office 365, to build tools for learning which are intrinsically part of the working environment.

The meeting supported the approach to modernise the digital and physical environments to better meet student expectations and competition from other institutions.

The meeting emphasised that developing the digital environment and infrastructure should be led by the Educational Framework and teaching and learning strategies, and not by a focus on any one particular tool, e.g. lecture capture.

The Chair of the Board of Governors requested a report to the Board in autumn 2017 on initial developments and early wins.

3. **Apprenticeships**

The Director of Corporate Affairs gave a presentation on the development of LSBU's Apprenticeship programmes.

The meeting noted that LSBU is making progress in developing programmes, and that apprenticeships:

- support LSBU strategic objectives: student success, real world impact, and access to opportunity.
- offer access to significant new income streams.
- offer the opportunity for LSBU to become a leader in professional and technical education, and gain government, sector and industry acknowledgement for quality provision.

The important difference for the educational approach is that apprenticeships are driven by employers, who are stakeholders as well as the student. In addition, the students may have considerable professional experience and knowledge in their field.

Date of next meeting
10.00 am, on Wednesday, 7 June 2017