

COUNCIL
Friday 17 July 2020
CONFIRMED MINUTES

Present:

Lord Clement-Jones (Chair)	Ade Adefulu	Megan Annetts
Professor Alison Blunt	Professor Colin Bailey	Monica Chadha
Sarah Cows	Celia Gough	Stella Hall
Isabelle Jenkins	Dr Philippa Lloyd	Bushra Nasir
Professor Mangala Patel	Dr Alix Pryde	Luke Savage
Melissa Tatton	Peter Thompson	Professor Wen Wang
David Willis		

In attendance:

Dr Maggie Leggett	Dr Nadine Lewycky	Jonathan Morgan
Louise Parr-Morley		

Apologies:

Shamima Akter	Professor Colin Grant	Dr Darryn Mitussis
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Welcome and apologies

2019.116 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies. The decision had been taken to hold the meeting via video conference to provide effective governance during the social-distancing measures introduced by government to combat the Covid-19 outbreak.

July financial gateway (QM2019/87)

2019.117 Council noted the July financial gateway paper. The following points were noted in the discussion:

The President and Principal said that:

[a] *Minute 2019.117[a] is confidential.*

[b] The start of term, which would involve moving around 22,000 UK and overseas students into London, was high risk. We were planning to deliver blended learning combining face-to-face and online teaching from September. In the event of a local lockdown, we would return to online delivery. Those students who could not travel to campus would be able to follow their course online.

[c] Parts of campus had been open since March and research facilities started

opening in June. Student study space had recently been opened at Canalside and part of the library would open on Monday. The pace of work to bring people back to campus was starting to accelerate.

The Director of Marketing and Communications said that:

- [d] She was optimistic that the final recruitment picture would land at the top end of the ranges provided in the paper.
- [e] Improvements had been made to clearing and conversion this year which would be undertaken remotely. The Senior Executive Team had discussed the risks and mitigations.
- [f] *Minute 2019.117[f] is confidential.*
- [g] *Minute 2019.117[g] is confidential.*
- [h] *Minute 2019.117[h] is confidential.*
- [i] *Minute 2019.117[i] is confidential.*

The Interim Finance Director said that:

- [j] *Minute 2019.117[j] is confidential.*

The Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary said that:

- [k] *Minute 2019.117[k] is confidential.*

The following points were noted in the discussion:

- [l] *Minute 2019.117[l] is confidential.*
- [m] It was not realistic to keep students in 'social bubbles'. We were preparing to implement 1m+ social distancing on campus with the necessary mitigations. We were in close contact with the local track and trace in Tower Hamlets.
- [n] The Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships) said that the drive-in testing centres were not practical in London. Mobile units were circulating the boroughs twice a week and two boroughs were trialling walk in centres. She had attended a Public Health England briefing which was informative and reassuring. Results from testing centres were being turned around in 24-48 hours and accessibility was improving. Local authorities had access to the Pillar 2 community data which was being monitored for clusters.
- [o] The Director of Marketing and Communications said that prospective students and their parents had expressed concerns about safety. The Vice-Principal (Education) was making a video with student ambassadors to show what the physical arrangements on campus would be like.
- [p] Council asked whether the postgraduate courses starting in January would be condensed. The January courses would be the normal duration, except

in Economics and the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, which would run accelerated programmes for 9 months.

[q] Council asked what assumptions had been made around pay rises and pensions. The pay review was not affected. The pension contribution was consistent with the 2018 valuation since the 2020 valuation would not conclude until 2021. The future increase in pension contributions for employers and employees posed a longer term risk. The downside risk of pensions would be brought back to Council.

Draft agenda for the next meeting (QM2019/88)

2019.118 Council **noted** the agenda for the next meeting on Thursday 27 August 2020.

Dates of Meetings 2019–20

- Thursday 27 August 2020 at 1030 hours via Zoom.