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From: Dr Sionade Robinson, VP EEE

Subject: **Proposal to appoint recent Rectors as Honorary Visiting Professors of the President's Office**

Status: For discussion/approval

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Sponsor: Professor Sir Anthony Finkelstein, President

Executive Summary

City's strategy is to be "open and outward facing" and highlights we are "proud of our deep connections with the City of London".

Currently City installs its Rector, the Lord Mayor (with accompanying Liveries) during a January Graduation ceremony and awards an Honorary Doctorate at this event. At the annual Lord Mayors Show in November, the Lord Mayor hands over the office to the incoming Lord Mayor, and then retreats for a period of "purdah". They emerge as "Late Lord Mayors", continuing to represent the office when the Lord Mayor is indisposed, to advance and bring profile to their mayoral themes and serve on various Councils of the Corporation.

This paper seeks approval to appoint "Late Lord Mayors" as Honorary Visiting Professors to the President's Office for a period of 3 years, after their term of office, to capture the soft power and influence of these high-profile individuals among their extensive professional networks, in the service of the university.

It is proposed the Honorary Visiting Professor is appointed to the President's Office so they may be asked for support across the institution and that they accept responsibilities of this honorary title.

Action(s) required from the Committee:

1. To **approve**

The table below outlines which committees/groups have already seen the report and the resulting outcome/action from discussions.

Committee date	Committee title	Outcome/action	Action date	Paper version number
16.04.24	SLT	Supported		

Briefing Paper for discussion at Senate

26 June 2024

Author: Dr Sionade Robinson VP EEE

Proposal: Advance City St. George's, University of London (CSG)'s relationship with the City of London by appointing "Late Lord Mayors" as Honorary Visiting Professors of the President's Office for 3 years, following their term of office.

Background

This proposal derives from a paper endorsed by SLT in April 2024 which made recommendations to activate City strategy - to be open and outward facing, *embedded in London, a world capital and proud of our deep connections with the City of London* via three engagement strands – the Lord Mayor (and Liveries) as Rector, the Corporation, and employers.

Relationships are based on the mutual exchange of value, and the University is making increased investments, as signified by the recent creation of the Finsbury Institute, the "Lord Mayor's Fellow and the Lord Mayor & Liveries Future Professionals Summer School. Benefits of strengthening the relationship with the City of London are to raise university profile and create opportunities for students and staff and to increase access to resources, and influence. The University is also now proposing a template for what the Rector's duties might be during their term of office to future Rectors.

Currently the University installs its Rector (with Liveries) during a January Graduation ceremony and awards an Honorary Doctorate at this event. At the annual Lord Mayors Show in November, the Lord Mayor hands over the office to the incoming Lord Mayor, and then retreats to a period of "purdah" until Spring the following year. Late Lord Mayors continue to represent the office when the Lord Mayor is indisposed, to advocate and bring profile to their mayoral themes and continue to serve on various Councils of the Corporation.

Proposal

It is proposed that, as ex Lord Mayors re-emerge from Purdah, the University appoints Late Lord Mayors to **Honorary Visiting Professorships of the President's Office of City St Georges, University of London** for a period of 3 years (renewable), as per usual Honorary - re- appointment processes.

To safeguard the Professorial status, the University takes particular care upon whom it grants the title of Honorary Visiting Professor. Namely, Honorary Visiting Professors should be of equivalent national/international standing in their field as University Professors are in theirs. Such individuals may not be academics and thus not have the academic credentials normally associated with a Professorship at City, University of London (e.g., research publications/grants, teaching qualifications), yet are of such standing that an Honorary Professorship is an appropriate title to reflect their national and international achievements in business, society.

As Late Lord Mayors of the City of London, it is anticipated individuals would possess the credentials of an Honorary Visiting Professor.

Honorary Visiting Professors are expected to demonstrate contribution in education, research, or community (non-exhaustively) by engaging in such activities as:

- Guest lectures/speeches/panels (at least two per year)
- Assisting with policy matters, e.g., by being part of an advisory board and providing expert advice

- Advising on courses' curricula and modules' outlines to be in line with the current and future educational and industry needs
- Acting as a bridge between the university and industry (e.g., bringing expertise and/or connections into the university)
- Promoting the university in the wider business and professional community

In addition to the above, as Honorary Visiting Professors of the President's Office, the following support would be requested:

- Introducing and advocating for CGS within their professional networks
- Using the Honorary Professorship in professional profiles
- Attending, by occasional request, CGS's Council to share insights and networks
- Being informed about the University strategy and its execution.

Benefits to CSG:

- Lengthening period of engagement with senior figures in the City of London increases capacity to influence in pursuit of strategic goals and new institutional identity.
- Maintaining a formal relationship with ex Rectors allows the university to ask for ongoing support, e.g. for Finsbury Institute, alumni (potential donors) and Schools.
- Locating the Honorary Visiting Professorship within the President's Office creates the opportunity for broad institutional engagement although individuals may also have affinities to particular themes and professional networks.
- Confirms and signals the special relationship between CSG and its Rector.
- Three year appointments creates a pool of high profile relationships which could be leveraged for influence and network, although individuals may be reappointed subject to success.
- Captures ongoing relationships with influential and well networked senior leaders *at low/negligible cost.*

Risks to CSG:

- Alignment and profile of Late Lord Mayors may be variable.
- Is this honour needed to underpin asking for support?
- Will late Lord Mayor's be willing to accept the honour?

Recommendation for approval:

Appoint "Late Lord Mayors" as Honorary Visiting Professors to the President's Office for 3 years after their term of office. The relationship will be principally stewarded by the President and the VP EEE.

Next Steps

If agreed, it is proposed the President invite the following recent Lord Mayors to accept this appointment:

- **Sir William Russell**
Alderman William Russell took office as the 692nd Lord Mayor of the City of London on 8th November 2019 and, due to the extraordinary circumstances arising from the global health pandemic COVID-19, served two consecutive years in office, becoming the first Lord Mayor to do so since 1861. Sir William chairs the Board of the Barbican.
- **Vincent Keaveny**
Served as Lord Mayor of the City of London in 2021/22, having held the office of Sheriff in 2018/19. He is a partner at international law firm, DLA Piper LLP. He advises banks and companies throughout the UK and Europe on banking and finance matters.

- **Nick Lyons**

Alderman Lyons has worked in the City of London for over 35 years. He has extensive experience in commercial, investment and international banking, as well as the insurance and reinsurance industry. He served as 694th Lord Mayor, promoting the theme Financing our Future- promoting a resilient, resourceful, and responsible City of London.

End.