

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2014

- Present:** Rt Hon Estelle Morris (in the Chair), Mr Nick Barron, Dr Rupert Evenett, Mr James Grierson, Professor Mark D’Inverno, Mr Dan Lambeth, Mr Howard Littler, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Mr Brian Lymbery, Mr Patrick Loughrey, Mr Dick Melly, Ms Jackie Morgan, Dr Richard Noble, Professor Jane Powell, Dr Barry Quirk, Ms Vivienne Rose, Ms Cathy Runciman, Mr Yan Szafranski, Dr Derval Tubridy, Ms Jessica Wanamaker, Mr Tom Wilson,
- Apologies:** Professor Roger Burrows, Mr David Richards, Ms Vanessa Sharp, Ms Jessica Wanamaker, Mr Philip Wright.
- In attendance:** Registrar and Secretary (Secretary), Director of Finance, Director of Human Resources, Executive Officer
- Observers:** Ms Catriona Boulton, Ms Melanie Rimmer, Trades Union representation (UCU only).

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MEMBERSHIP, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was noted that the following new members had joined Council this term, and the Chair welcomed them to the meeting:

Students

Mr Yan Szafranski

2 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Noted:

No additional items were starred by members

3 APPROVAL OF ITEMS FOR FORMAL DISCUSSION

Noted:

That all formal decisions proposed in the circulated papers for Open, Confidential and Reserved Business were confirmed by members.

4 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2014 be approved.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

that a consultant had been appointed to continue progress on the Community Engagement Strategy and its implementation following the decision made at the last meeting of Council.

6 REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR

Noted:

that Mr Kevin Jones had been appointed as the next Head of STACs from January 2015 to August 2018.

***7 WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Warden gave an oral report on matters of interest to Goldsmiths.

Noted:

- (i) that the annual meeting with HEFCE had gone well. HEFCE had discussed the possibility of the reintroducing of student number controls if fees were reduced to £6000 to limit the fiscal liability of the government in meeting the difference between the actual cost of teaching students and the fees charged;
- (iii) the Warden outlined the need for growth in the short term but assured members that this did not represent a push towards international students, that this would not impact on our staff student numbers and that it would not impact on our student experience. Instead this would be an opportunity for Goldsmiths to attract new talent;
- (iv) that the new Sustaining Goldsmiths programme, led by Professor Mark d'Inverno would ensure every part of Goldsmiths was invested in changing the culture of the institution and embedding accountability. It was envisaged that the programme would deliver a contribution of £5 Million to our reserves in the longer term;
- (v) that the outcomes of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) were expected on the 16 December 2014 and that Goldsmiths had made 14 submissions including those from individual departments and some group submissions. There were three key elements in the framework. Research output and research environment had been part of the previous exercise, but the assessment of the impact of research was new this time round. An analysis of the results would be completed in time for the next (informal) Council Supper. Once announced the results would set Goldsmiths position until the next exercise in 6 years time;
- (vi) that in relation to the USS Pensions dispute, UCU had suspended their industrial action until 15 January 2015. It was reported that the impact to date had not been severe but that the suspension of action had been instigated in good time to avoid more serious impact to both study abroad students and PGCE assessments. The suspension of action was warmly

welcomed as a constructive step in the on going resolution of the dispute;

- (vii) that the Warden and Gerald Lidstone had recently attended a meeting of the Creative Industries Federation as Goldsmiths was a founder member and would be leading on the research going forward;
- (viii) that there had been a number of high profile and very successful events since the last meeting including the Richard Hoggart celebratory event and the Goldsmiths Prize and that Angela Davis would be a key part of the Professor Stuart Hall celebratory events on Friday 28 November 2014.

***8 REPORT FROM AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Received:

the minutes of the meetings of Audit Committee held on 07 October 2014 (B) and 10 November 2014 (C)

***9 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN TO HEFCE**

Received:

- (i) Financial Statements (14-427R1), recommended for approval by Audit Committee (10 November 2014) following prior consideration by Finance and Resources Committee (5 November 2014);
- (ii) Audit Committee Annual Report (14-452);
- (iii) Annual Assurance Return (14-453);
- (iv) Annual Monitoring Statement (14-454);
- (vi) Annual Sustainability Report (13-455);

Noted:

- (i) That a paper had be tabled to the meeting that included final adjustments and changes to the schedules;
- (ii) that the return had been audited and signed off by Deloitte and had followed due process;
- (iii) that a late audit adjustment had reduced the surplus from £7m to £6.6m, and that this related to an error in the depreciation charge;
- (iv) that the outturn for 13-14 was strong because of a one-off write back relating to the provision made for back-payments to visiting tutors being assimilated onto the HERA framework.
- (v) that there was also a one off cost relating to the LPFA Pension scheme which had resulted in the College having to make an additional payment relating to the recovery plan;
- (vi) that details of how income was spent was available on the website to inform students.

The Chair thanked the staff of the College involved in the preparation of Annual Accountability Return.

Resolved:

- (i) to approve the Financial Statements for 2013-14, the Annual Assurance Return, and the Annual Sustainability Assessment;
- (ii) to approve the Annual Monitoring Statement.

10 PENSIONS UPDATE

Received:

an update on Pensions (14-462)

11 KEY INFORMATION SET REPORT

Noted:

the HEFCE audit report about the Key Information Set (14-457).

***12 RISK REGISTER**

Received:

the Strategic Risk Register (14-458).

Noted:

- (i) the following risks where there had been significant movement upwards in the risk rating:

SRR3 Potential in reduction HEFCE funding (specifically QR)

SRR31 Changes to UK Pension policy – this risk had been increased in response to the challenges outlined in paper 14-162.

- (ii) the following risks where the risk rating had been reduced:

SRR41 University group membership –the disbanding of the 1994 group now seemed to be less significant for Goldsmiths because of our position within the University of London.

SRR281 Changes to PGCE Market – the risk had been reduced to reflect the current recruitment levels in the Department of Educational Studies.

- (iii) the following risks had been removed

SRR27 Failure to retain 12/13 UG Cohort

SRR32 Failure to meet the Equality Act 2010 duties – this risk had been removed following the effort put into this area from the new HR team, and recently with the appointment of an Equality and Diversity officer.

SRR23 Loss of collaborative partnership income – this risk had been reduced with the renewing of key contracts with international partners.

(iv) the following risks had been added:

SRR51 Potential for cost increases that are not under our control and where these cost increases cannot be covered by certain income increases – this is in reference to the fact that staff costs are significant and that there are regulatory and market controls on fee levels.

SRR50 University business and our students' progress and experience will be disrupted by prolonged industrial action in relation to the USS pensions dispute.

13 QAA Higher Education Review

Received:

an update on progress in planning for the QAA Higher Education Review (HER) (14-459).

***14 COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW**

Received:

an update on progress with the Committee Effectiveness Review (14-339R).

Noted:

- (i) that there had been some good discussions at Committees about Terms of Reference, remit and membership;
- (ii) that the terms of reference for Audit and Risk Committee had been amended to reflect its remit in relation to risk;
- (iii) that the terms of reference for Finance and Resources Committee had not changed;
- (iv) that although External Relations Committee had met, a discussion on its Terms of Reference was scheduled to take place on the 4 December 2014;
- (v) that although Human Resources Committee had met and discussed the possibility of absorbing the relevant business from Equality and Diversity Committee, no final decision could be taken until the Equality and Diversity Committee had met on the 8 December 2014;
- (vi) that following a discussion on the process for recruiting to identified vacancies across all the committees, the nominations Committee would now be able to review membership proposals and make recommendations to Council for approval;
- (vii) that the composition of a skills matrix of Council would be undertaken in the new year which would then provide the basis of the discussion at Nominations Committee.

Resolved

- (i) that a note on the legal responsibilities of a governor would be circulated to all members;
- (ii) that the induction programme would be circulated to all members of Council.

15 MINUTES FROM THE COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**Received**

The minutes from the following committees of Council were received:
Estates Committee held on 22 October 2014 (O)
Human Resources Committee held on 14 November 2014 (P)

Noted: That all Human Resources policies were approved

External Relations Committee held on 30 October 2014 (Q)
Finance and Resources Committee held on 5 November 2014 (R)

16 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Noted:

The following dates of forthcoming meetings in 2014-15 (at 4.00pm):

23 April 2015;
2 July 2015.