

**GOLDSMITHS  
University of London**

**COUNCIL**

**ACADEMIC BOARD**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2014**

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**Present:** Mr Patrick Loughrey (in the Chair), Dr Michael Banissy, Ms Rebecca Bittner, Professor Lucia Boldrini, Dr Chris Brauer, Professor Gavin Butt, Professor Jim Campbell, Professor Sean Cubitt, Professor Michael Dutton, Ms Sarah El-alfy, Dr Matthew Fuller, Professor Anna Furse, Dr Marco Gillies, Dr Monica Greco, Ms Annie Guo, Dr Ariel Hessayon, Professor Elisabeth Hill, Mr Kevin Jones, Dr Gholam Khiabany, Professor Scott Lash, Dr Ben Levitas, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Mr Howard Littler, Dr Mao Mollona, Professor Saul Newman, Dr Richard Noble, Professor Stephen Nugent, Professor David Oswell, Ms Jacqueline Pennell, Dr Tom Perchard, Professor Jane Powell, Ms Sian Prime, Dr Vivienne Richmond, Dr Juliet Sprake, Dr Anna Traianou, Dr Derval Tubridy, Ms Joan Turner, Mr Matthew Ward.

**Apologies:** Professor Frank Bond, Professor Roger Burrows, Mr Tim Chapman, Professor Mark D'Inverno, Professor Adam Dinham, Dr Berta Joncus, Dr Pdraig Kirwan, Ms Julia Lockheart, Ms Claire MacLean, Professor Carrie Paechter, Professor Robert Zimmer.

**In attendance:** Ms Lynda Agili, Mrs Liz Bromley, Ms Sue Dixon, Ms Caroline Lloyd, Dr Veronica Lawrence, Mrs Lucinda Parr, Miss Emma Price (Secretary).

**1 MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2014 be approved.

**2 WARDEN'S REPORT**

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

Departments are continuing to consider opportunities to increase the portfolio of programmes, with developments being considered at the Academic Development Committee. The recent annual visit by HEFCE highlighted that opportunities for student growth may be limited, it is expected that uncapped student numbers will not continue in the longer term. The impending general election could also see changes to the funding arrangements for higher education. Goldsmiths would balance growth in student numbers with improvements to the estate and IT infrastructure to continually improve the student experience.

Work is continuing on the sustaining Goldsmiths project led by the Pro Warden Research and Enterprise. The project would consider more effective and efficient ways of working including use of the estate for the full working day and week.

The Research Excellence Framework results would be released during the last week of term, it was disappointing that the Times Higher Education would receive the results before the academic community. All staff involved in the REF submissions were thanked for their work. A meeting to analyse the results and celebrate our successes would be held at the end of term. It is expected that in the future there would be increased competition for research funding.

The Warden attended the launch event for the Creative Industries Federation, of which Goldsmiths is a founding member. The federation is likely to become a powerful lobbying force and Goldsmiths is likely to be involved in research for them.

Goldsmiths would be auditing its art collection and appraise it for conservation. In addition, where appropriate more creative pieces would be commissioned to enhance spaces around campus.

A number of successful celebratory events had been held including the Goldsmiths Prize which attracted huge media attention and the celebratory weeks for the work of Richard Hoggart and Professor Stuart Hall.

The introduction of postgraduate taught student loans for those under 30 was welcome news. These will be offered from 2015-16 on a match funded basis with more details from HEFCE to follow.

### **3 ANNUAL REPORTS OF ACADEMIC BOARD COMMITTEES**

#### **Received:**

- B1** Academic Development Committee (14-492)
- B2** Research and Enterprise Committee (14-493)
- B3** Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee (14-494)
- B4** Equality and Diversity Committee (14-495)
- B5** Information Management and Systems Committee (14-496)

#### **Noted:**

- (i) that the Board welcomed the reports which outlined activities undertaken by Academic Board committees in 2013-14;
- (ii) that Council had agreed at its September 2014 meeting that the work of Information Systems and Management Committee would now be included in the work of the newly named Estates and Infrastructure Committee, which is responsible for both the physical and virtual estate. The Information Systems and Management committee would therefore be disbanded;
- (iii) that the Equality and Diversity committee had agreed that its remit would be better considered at the Human Resources Committee for staff matters, the Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee for learning and teaching matters and the Student Experience Sub-Committee for student matters. The committee would be disbanded and its current members would join the committees outlined above. An

Equality and Diversity Forum would be established to allow staff and student networks to be brought together to discuss equality and diversity matters outside of the committee structure, feeding back into the governance system through the appropriate channels.

#### **4 DIGEST OF ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENTAL BOARDS 2013-14**

**Received:**

a paper on the activities of Departmental Boards in 2013-14 (14-497).

**Noted:**

- (i) that during 2013-14 Departmental Boards had considered matters related to student and resource planning, student recruitment, student support activities, programme development, quality assurance activities and student feedback among others;
- (ii) that Departmental Boards received minutes of departmental sub-committees and engaged in further discussion of these items where required.

#### **5 REGULATIONS**

**Received:**

guidance notes for the Assessment Regulations (14-499).

**Noted:**

- (i) that the Board had requested guidance and procedural notes to accompany the Assessment Regulations approved at the September 2014 meeting. The guidance notes have been updated to reflect the changes approved in the Assessment Regulations and any changes to procedures as a result of improvements to IT related to the student record system;
- (ii) that the language in the guidance notes should reflect the updated language in the regulations.

**Resolved:**

- (i) that the language would be updated to reflect the language in the regulations;
- (ii) that the guidance notes should be shared with Senior Tutors with an accompanying overview of the changes for 2014-15.

#### **6 BOARDS OF EXAMINERS**

**Received:**

a paper proposing arrangements for the ratification of decisions of Boards of Examiners (14-500).

**Noted:**

- (i) that the regulations state that Academic Board had the final authority for award decisions about student progression and that marks and judgments from Boards of Examiners are not final until they have been confirmed by Academic Board;
- (ii) that to allow the timely communication of Boards of Examiner decisions to students this authority had been delegated to the Head of Assessments in previous years;
- (iii) that to allow Academic Board to have oversight of decisions made by Boards of Examiners an overview report of award and progression decisions is received at the Spring meeting of Academic Board and at the Quality and Standards Sub-Committee each academic year;

**Resolved:**

- (i) that Academic Board delegates its authority to confirm decisions from Boards of Examiner to the Registrar and Secretary or their designated officer and Academic Board continues to receive an overview report on the operations of Boards of Examiners at its Spring meeting.

**7 HIGHER EDUCATION REVIEW****Received:**

an update on preparations for the QAA Higher Education Review (14-501).

**Noted:**

- (i) that a Self Evaluation Document group and a working group had been established to prepare Goldsmiths for QAA Higher Education Review in June 2015;
- (ii) that a second draft of the SED had been prepared and would be considered by a small group of critical friends. The third draft would be circulated in January 2015 for wider consideration;
- (iii) that Departments were asked to consider the evidence base to support the SED and to provide examples that helped illustrate the Goldsmiths approach to the student experience, learning and teaching and student engagement.

**8 QUALITY ASSESSMENT IN UK HIGHER EDUCATION****Received:**

a letter from the Higher Education Funding Council for England regarding arrangement for Quality Assessment in UK Higher Education (14-502).

**Noted:**

- (i) that the QAA's contract with HEFCE was nearing its end. HEFCE had decided that this contract would be subject to competitive European tender. The tender exercise would not affect Goldsmiths Higher Education Review in June 2015. Any changes

to the review methodology as a result of the tender exercise would be piloted in 2016-17, with full implementation in 2017-18;

- (ii) that HEFCE would be undertaking consultation exercises with the sector to consider what appropriate arrangements for quality assessment could be in the future;
- (iii) that Academic Board would receive updates on the consultation process.

## **9 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS**

### **Resolved:**

to appoint the following External Examiners:

#### **Dr Michael Bailey**

BA Media & Communications  
Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology  
Essex University  
*From 1st November 2014 to 30th September 2018*

#### **Dr Frances Giampapa**

MA Education: Culture, Language & Identity  
Graduate School of Education  
University of Bristol  
*From 1st November 2014 to 30th September 2018*

#### **Professor Geoffrey Hinchliffe**

Academic Practice for PhD Students and Early Career Researchers  
Director of Academic Practice  
University of East Anglia  
*From 1st November 2014 to 30th September 2018*

#### **Dr Reima Ana Maglajlic**

MA Social Work  
Senior Lecturer in Social Work  
School of Education and Social Work  
*From 1st November 2014 to 30th September 2018*

#### **Professor Stephen Regan**

MRes English  
Professor of English  
Durham University  
*From 1st November 2014 to 30th September 2018*

#### **Dr Damien Short**

MA Human Rights, Culture & Social Justice  
Reader in Human Rights  
School of Advanced Study  
University of London  
*From 1st November 2014 to 30th September 2018*

## **10 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR**

### **Received:**

action taken by the Chair (14-504).

## **11 FEEDBACK POLICY**

### **Received:**

the Feedback Policy (14-198R).

## **12 STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**

### **Received:**

the Students' Union Annual Impact Report (14-506).

## **13 CAREERS SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14**

### **Received:**

the Careers Service Annual Report and a summary of results from the Destination of Leavers in Higher Education Survey (14-342R).

## **14 COUNSELLING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14**

### **Received:**

the Counselling Service Annual Report (14-343).

## **15 DIGEST OF ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENTAL LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEES 2013-14**

### **Received:**

a paper from the Quality Officer on the activities of Departmental Learning and Teaching Committees in 2013-14 (14-445).

## **16 PERIODIC PROGRAMME/DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW REPORTS, RESPONSES AND UPDATES ON PROGRESS**

### **Received:**

the final reports, initial responses and follow-up reports on action taken in response to the recommendations of the Periodic Programme/Departmental Reviews from the following departments:

Politics (14-369)

University of London International Academy English Programme (14-380)

## **17 PROMOTIONS OF ACADEMIC STAFF**

### **Received:**

a summary of Academic Staff Promotions from 1 September 2014 from the Human Resources Manager (14-388)

## **18 REPORT FROM HONORARY DEGREES AND FELLOWSHIPS COMMITTEE**

### **Received:**

the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships approved by Council, awarded at September 2014 ceremonies (14-509)

## **19 DEGREE AWARDING POWERS**

### **Noted:**

that the University of London approved the extension to the use of the College's Degree Awarding Powers (14-510)

## **20 ACADEMIC BOARD: SCHEDULE OF REGULAR ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **Received:**

the annual schedule of business for Academic Board 2014-15 (14-511)

## **21 PROGRAMME CLOSURE TIMETABLE**

### **Received:**

the timetable for the closure of programmes (14-468R)

## **22 OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT**

### **Noted:**

other matters for report (14-512), including Visiting Researchers and Fellows and minutes from the following committees;

Equality and Diversity Committee, 6 May 2014 (14-513)

Research and Enterprise Committee, 5 June 2014 (14-514)

Academic Development Committee, 12 September 2014 (14-515)

Learning Teaching and Enhancement Committee, 15 October 2014 (14-516)

Information Management and Systems Committee, 28 May 2014 (14-505).

## **23 RETIREMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

### **Noted:**

(i) that Jim Campbell was retiring from the Board and was thanked for his contribution.

## 24 FUTURE MEETINGS

### Noted:

the dates of Board meetings in the current academic year:

Tuesday 24 February 2015 (12.30pm)

Wednesday 25 March 2015 (2.00pm)

Wednesday 3 June 2015 (2.00pm)

*EP*

*Dec 2014*