

**GOLDSMITHS  
University of London**

**COUNCIL**

**ACADEMIC BOARD**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2016**

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**Present:** Mr Patrick Loughrey (in the Chair), Dr Michael Banissy, Professor Lucia Boldrini, Professor Frank Bond, Dr Lisa Busby, Professor Rebecca Cassidy, Mr Adrian De La Court, Professor Mark D'Inverno, Dr Marco Gillies, Ms Annie Guo, Professor Elisabeth Hill, Mr Kevin Jones, Mr Steve Keirl, Dr Gholam Khiabany, Dr Pdraig Kirwan, Dr Ben Levitas, Ms Julia Lockheart, Mr Daniel Nasr, Professor Saul Newman, Ms Kiona Nieuhaus, Dr Richard Noble, Professor David Oswell, Dr Luciana Parisi, Ms Jacqueline Pennell, Professor Jane Powell, Dr Vivienne Richmond, Ms Astrid Schmetterling, Mr Matthew Ward, Professor Robert Zimmer.

**Apologies:** Ms Lynda Agili, Professor Claudia Bernard, Professor Andy Bremner, Professor Gavin Butt, Professor Sean Cubitt, Professor Michael Dutton, Professor Matthew Fuller, Mr Ian Gardiner, Dr Monica Greco, Dr Ariel Hessayon, Dr Veronica Lawrence, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Ms Claire MacLean, Dr Mao Mollona, Professor Osita Okagbue, Professor Carrie Paechter, Dr Anna Traianou, Ms Joan Turner.

**In attendance:** Mr Kieron Broadhead, Mrs Liz Bromley, Ms Sue Dixon, Mr Geraint Fox, Ms Caroline Lloyd, Mrs Lucinda Parr, Mrs Charley Robinson, Mrs Cathryn Thompson (Secretary).

**1 MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2015 be approved.

**2 WARDEN'S REPORT**

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

Given the financial climate, all departments were asked to consider the necessity of all vacant posts to ascertain whether a replacement was required or whether a period of vacancy might be possible. The Senior Management Team had demonstrated their commitment to this through the decision not to seek an immediate reappointment of the Pro-Warden (Interdisciplinary Development), with the post remaining vacant for at least a year. The Associate Pro-Warden roles had been reconfigured, with academic leadership

continuing in key areas, including the Graduate School, TaLIC, research and collaborative provision.

The College had discussed the accumulation of financial challenges openly and transparently, including pensions, QR funding and changes in accounting practices. Fundamentally Goldsmiths is doing well, but the College still has challenges to face. It endeavours to make savings and avoid unnecessary spending where it can, as well as to maximise sources of income through its resources, facilities and catering services.

Discussion on the Stern Review and Goldsmiths' submission took place, with work on research themes noted. Goldsmiths prides itself on the quality and inclusiveness of its research. Departments, research groups and individual staff had been making their submissions internally, which would be synthesised in terms of viable themes going forward. The recent launch event also spoke about possible themes. It was noted that the mid-March deadline for submission would be extended.

The latest recruitment figures were noted, both in terms of UK/EU and international students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. The Board were informed that 20% of the current student intake was on new programmes which had been approved within the last 5 years, raising the question of whether some existing programmes remain of interest to the modern day student. Whilst undergraduate UK/EU recruitment is good overall, in some departments applications are down 19-23%, which indicates that some of the College's offer is less attractive than it once was. Some significant declines in international undergraduate recruitment were also noted. The extraordinarily good postgraduate recruitment levels in Computing and Politics were commended. The Warden noted his gratitude for the speed of decision-making and turnaround times taking place within departments and in professional services in relation to admissions, and stressed the importance of making offers to those who meet the published criteria.

Some interesting new programme developments had recently been presented to Academic Development Committee, with some very encouraging discussions on law, health studies, marketing and photography.

The College's response to the Green Paper was submitted in January and published on the Goldsmiths website. The next stage includes a technical consultation, which will be published to the sector in May. The College was working on outlining its position in the form of a Gold Paper and would continue its involvement in sector discussions. The Board noted the European context and work was continuing to encourage students and staff to be registered to exercise their democratic right in the forthcoming referendum.

Some promising discussions were underway with a number of HE institutions based in London and the South East. Further announcements would be made soon, but it could be a useful network for Goldsmiths as well as an opportunity for collaboration.

Whilst the Associate Pro-Warden roles would cease to exist at the end of the academic year, the need for continuing this core academic leadership was noted. There would continue to be a Dean of the Graduate School, and Academic Directors for TaLIC, Collaborative Provision and Research. The posts would be advertised internally soon, with the exception of Collaborative Provision leadership, as John Ginman would continue for another year.

### 3 INTERNATIONALISATION

#### Received:

a report from the Deputy Warden on the Internationalisation Strategy, including international recruitment and international research partnerships (15-597).

#### Noted:

- (i) that Goldsmiths' vibrant and multicultural community, student mobility through Erasmus+, its subject areas and approach to teaching and learning resulted in an amazingly international institution, along with its great research networks that are strongest when undertaken in collaboration with the best minds around the world;
- (ii) that a single internationalisation strategy document was difficult as it formed a key part of all strategies at Goldsmiths, including the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy and the Research and Enterprise Strategy, and that designated departmental International Liaison Officers were assisting drawing together what was happening at ground level;
- (iii) that the College needed to promote its approach and level of activity in this area externally, maximising the use of the QS survey to do so;
- (iv) that a database to track where staff have different connections in different discipline areas had been developed so that research themes and possible bids could be joined up where appropriate, including forging interdisciplinary applications or hosting delegations from other countries, as well as proactively identifying collaborations and teaching opportunities;
- (v) that Goldsmiths needed to continue its participation in QS World University Rankings, with members of the Board encouraged to continue submitting nominations;
- (vi) that the Executive Summary of the International Marketing and Recruitment Strategy complemented the Internationalisation Strategy well, and that whilst the College had seen an increase in undergraduate and postgraduate taught international student numbers, it needed to continue to focus on its conversion and admissions processes, whilst being mindful of challenging financial, competitor and UKVI factors that might impact negatively;
- (vii) that concerns raised by the Students' Union, regarding international students feeling alienated, alone and isolated were noted by the Board, with further discussion on the support available for international students upon arrival and opportunities for enhancing their student experience taking place. The focus of the Student Experience and Engagement Strategy on this issue was noted, as well as the commitment of Student Services to support all students irrespective of their background.
- (viii) that the Director of Marketing and Student Recruitment also intended to facilitate closer working between student societies, GSU and the Student Engagement Team on a programme of activities for international students which would run beyond the induction programme at beginning of the academic year. An international arrival period similar to GoldStart was also under development, which would benefit from

early offers to, and acceptances by, international applicants, so that there was a clearer picture at an early stage of the international cohort of students for the following year. Free airport pickups, availability of accommodation, an international version of Goldstart at that point, plus an explicit international strand through welcome week, followed by a re-welcome a few weeks into the term were also planned to enhance the international student experience next year;

- (ix) that economic conditions around the world presented another major challenge for UK higher education, as well as increased competition from traditional and non-traditional competitors, and the changing demographics in particular countries affecting the size of the 'pool' of students reaching university age;
- (x) that Goldsmiths was adopting a number of strategies to address the above concerns, including thorough planning at department level, reviewing website and print material, the establishment of two overseas offices, a conversion campaign, an expanded scholarship offer and new programme developments. Some programme titles had also been reviewed to ensure that they fully reflected the programme content and remained attractive to applicants, such as the change of BA Politics and International Relations from BA Politics and International Studies;
- (xi) that the Internationalisation Strategy and International Recruitment Strategy should not be conflated and that appropriate resources at all levels to support the strategy were vital, including support, student services, study skills and English language support. It was noted that the Internationalisation Strategy would bring key people together to marry up resources, with working groups reviewing and advising what support would be required;
- (xii) that the College was committed to reviewing and enhancing its English language support provision in order to ensure that it meets students' needs. However, it was noted that awareness of the current offer among staff and students needed to increase in order to improve student uptake. Members of the Board noted the in-session provision was currently available over one taught term but a review of resource and how it was to be built into the formal curriculum was to be undertaken. The support from members of the Board for the existing provision offered by the Centre for English Language and Academic Writing (CELAW) was welcomed and it was noted that CELAW staff were committed to working to meet the needs of both students and academic departments, dealing with a diverse study body. The Board noted that it was necessary to provide more than solely language support, and increasingly also about strategies for dealing with learning barriers, cultural variations and other obstacles to engagement. The need to align and potentially extend the offering within Student Services was also under review;
- (xiii) that collaborative provision activity was a key part of the Strategy, which had seen increased investment in the Collaborative Provision team recently. Goldsmiths had been successful in developing a good reputation for delivering this well, and members of the Board and all scholars were asked to draw on their networks to explore further opportunities in this area;
- (xiv) that students were interested in the pedagogical principles of different departments as well as the content of a programme of study, so it would be useful for these to be specified upfront and available online in order to communicate our offer more clearly both nationally and internationally;

- (xv) that retention of students was increasingly an area of focus for the College, as well as the tracking and profiling students from entry qualifications to exit outcomes, which was being explored further.

#### **4 NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY 2015**

**Received:**

an oral update on progress in relation to the 2015 National Student Survey results.

**Noted:**

- (i) that the NSS 2016 was currently open for completion by eligible students and that the College was grateful to those working behind the scenes to achieve the response rates achieved so far, which were noted to be higher than at this point in the survey last year;
- (ii) that departments were encouraged to keep promoting the 2016 survey to eligible students in order to achieve the agreed institutional response rate target of 65%, and to seek assistance from the Student Engagement Team as necessary; one department had successfully achieved this response rate and two further departments were close to it;
- (iii) that both academic and professional service departments were continuing to work through their action plans stemming from the 2015 NSS results, and that the Board could expect to receive a report on progress at its next meeting.

#### **5 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS**

**Resolved:**

to appoint the following External Examiners:

**Dr Brendan Bartram**

BA Education Culture & Society  
Senior Lecturer, Education Studies, University of Wolverhampton  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Sara Bragg**

BA Education Culture & Society  
Senior Research Fellow, University of Brighton  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Erich de Wald**

BA History  
Lecturer in History, University Campus Suffolk  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Mr Murray Dick**

MA Digital Journalism  
Lecturer in Multimedia Journalism, Newcastle University

*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Michael Edwards**

BSc/BMus Music Computing  
Reader in Music Technology, University of Edinburgh  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Professor Viv Edwards**

Certificate in Community Languages (MA Education board)  
Professor of Language in Education, University of Reading  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Mr Kenneth Fee**

MA Games: Art & Design  
Programme/Course Leader & Lecturer, Abertay University  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Helen Hester**

BA History of Art  
Course Leader & Senior Lecturer, University of West London  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Ann Hodson**

BA Social Work  
Lecturer, University of Dundee  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Valerie Kaneko-Lucas**

BA Acting & BA Musical Theatre (LASALLE)  
Programme Director, Theatre and Performance Studies, Regent's University London  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Mrs Jane Lings**

MA Music Therapy (Nordoff Robbins)  
Associate Lecturer, University of the West of England  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Dawn Lyon**

BA Sociology & joint programmes  
Senior Lecturer, University of Kent  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Professor Jeremy MacClancy**

BA Anthropology & joint programmes  
Professor of Anthropology, Oxford Brookes University  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Mr Mark Perry**

BSc Computer Science  
Reader & Senior Tutor, Brunel University  
*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Tom Rice**

MA Social Anthropology

Lecturer & Programme Director, University of Exeter

*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Rory Ridley-Duff**

MA Social Entrepreneurship

Reader, Sheffield Hallam University

*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Tina Salter**

BA Applied Social Science, Community Development and Youth Work

Senior Lecturer, YMCA George Williams College

*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Wenny Teo**

BA Asian Art Histories (LASALLE)

Lecturer in Modern & Contemporary Asian Art, The Courtauld Institute of Art

*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**Dr Huon Wardle**

BA Anthropology & joint programmes

Senior Lecturer, University of St Andrews

*From 1st November 2015 to 31st August 2019*

**6 GOLDSMITHS' DUAL DEGREE PROCESS**

**Resolved:**

that following scrutiny by Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee and Institutional Partnerships Sub-Committee, Goldsmiths' process for dual degrees be approved (15-560).

**7 TERM DATES**

**Resolved:**

that standard term dates for 2016-17 to 2018-19 and variations to standard term dates for 2015-16 to 2017-18 be approved (15-600).

**8 COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

**Resolved:**

that dates of College Committees 2016-17 be approved (15-601) and that indicative dates of College Committees 2017-18 be noted (15-602).

## **9 UOLIA ENGLISH PROGRAMME AMENDMENTS**

### **Resolved:**

that programme amendments to the University of London International Programmes for English be approved (15-608).

## **10 UNDERGRADUATE ANNUAL PROGRAMME REVIEW REPORT 2014-15**

### **Received:**

a report from the Quality Officer on the undergraduate Annual Programme Review reports for the academic year 2014-15 (15-558).

## **11 COLLABORATIVE PROVISION ANNUAL PROGRAMME REVIEW REPORT 2014-15**

### **Received:**

a report from the Collaborative Provision Manager and Collaborative Provision Officer on the Annual Programme Review reports for the academic year 2014-15 for Partner Institutions (15-559).

## **12 ASSESSMENT REPORT 2014-15**

### **Received:**

a report from the Head of Registry Services on the assessment process for session 2014-15 (15-533).

## **13 ANNUAL DIGEST OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS' REPORTS 2014-15**

### **Received:**

a digest report from the Quality Assurance Manager of External Examiners' reports for 2014-15 (15-535).

## **14 COLLABORATIVE PROVISION ANNUAL DIGEST OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS' REPORTS 2014-15**

### **Received:**

a digest report from the Collaborative Provision Manager and Collaborative Provision Officer on the External Examiners' reports for 2014-15 for Partner Institutions (15-536).

**15 LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15**

**Received:**

the Library annual report for the 2014-15 academic session (15-569).

**16 DIGEST OF ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENTAL LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEES 2014-15**

**Received:**

a paper from the Quality Officer on the activities of Departmental Learning and Teaching Committees in 2014-15 (15-566).

**17 ANNUAL REPORT ON ACADEMIC APPEALS, STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

**Received:**

the annual report of academic appeals, complaints and student disciplinary matters for the 2014-15 session (15-537).

**18 PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Received:**

the Periodic Review Report of the Department of Psychology (15-532) and final follow-up reports on action taken in response to the recommendations of the Periodic Review of the Department of:

Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies, Social Work (15-527)  
Politics, undertaken on 19 March 2014 (15-529)

**19 OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT**

**Noted:**

other matters for report, including Visiting Professors and Fellows (15-604) and minutes from the following committees:

Learning Teaching and Enhancement Committee – 24 November 2015 (15-605)  
Academic Development Committee – 25 November 2015 (15-606)

**20 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Resolved:**

that following discussion at the Board, it was agreed that Academic Board and its

Committees would provide copies of its agendas and papers to its members in electronic format only. Printed copies will not be routinely provided going forward, unless specifically requested by a member.

## **21 NEXT MEETING**

### **Noted:**

that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 June 2016 at 2:00pm in the Professor Stuart Hall Building, Room 3.26.

CT  
March 2016