

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

COUNCIL

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2016

OPEN BUSINESS

Present: Mr Patrick Loughrey (in the Chair), Professor Claudia Bernard, Professor Lucia Boldrini, Professor Frank Bond, Professor Andy Bremner, Dr Lisa Busby, Professor Rebecca Cassidy, Professor Sean Cubitt, Mr Adrian De La Court, Professor Mark d'Inverno, Mr Ian Gardiner, Dr Monica Greco, Ms Annie Guo, Dr Ariel Hessayon, Mr Steve Keirl, Dr Gholam Khiabany, Dr Padraig Kirwan, Ms Julia Lockheart, Mr Daniel Nasr, Professor Saul Newman, Ms Kiona Nieuhaus, Professor Stephen Nugent, Professor David Oswell, Professor Carrie Paechter, Dr Luciana Parisi, Ms Jacqueline Pennell, Professor Jane Powell, Dr Vivienne Richmond, Professor Robert Zimmer.

Apologies: Ms Lynda Agili, Dr Michael Banissy, Mrs Liz Bromley, Professor Gavin Butt, Ms Sue Dixon, Professor Michael Dutton, Professor Matthew Fuller, Dr Marco Gillies, Professor Elisabeth Hill, Mr Kevin Jones, Dr Veronica Lawrence, Dr Richard Noble, Dr Ben Levitas, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Ms Claire MacLean, Dr Mao Mollona, Professor Osita Okagbue, Ms Astrid Schmetterling, Dr Anna Traianou, Ms Joan Turner, Mr Matthew Ward,

In attendance: Mr Gareth Bodrell (Secretary), Mr Matthew Brooks, Ms Mollie Kneath, Ms Tara Mariwany.

1 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2016 be approved.

2 WARDEN'S REPORT

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

The EU referendum was only weeks away and the real possibility of a leave vote was very concerning. Universities UK had run a strong campaign in favour of remaining and the

College would continue to work to encourage students to vote. The implications were potentially very damaging in terms of EU recruitment and research funding.

There was a much wider diversity of opinion in the sector in relation to the issues raised by the Higher Education Bill. The biggest challenge in the White Paper appeared to be the open door for new providers entering higher education. Although they faced significant disadvantages in terms of their standing, they had no state burden, research commitments or pension exposure. The College would work on building coalitions of influence in the most important areas and in those where it felt it had most chance of success. There was particular concern over the focus on graduate outcomes which was an unfavourable metric for students moving into the cultural industries where a career might take longer to develop but could be of greater cultural significance. It was necessary to ensure that these issues were raised through the College's networks.

The College was grappling with issues relating to the running of Exam Boards and the forthcoming Open Day as a result of the UCU industrial action. Although the College had always held a benign attitude to such action it was pointed out that this could also affect the long-term future of departments and the wellbeing of students and staff. The College had never jeopardised one for the advantage of the other. It was recognised that it was not easy for staff to square this circle.

Population shifts meant that recruitment was a challenge for everyone across the sector, including Russell Group institutions, who were going far beyond their published grade requirements. Clearing would be very challenging this summer and it was essential that the College maximised recruitment opportunities.

The White Paper restated the need to increase access to low participation groups including BME and white working class boys. The most recent Guardian league tables placed Goldsmiths in the top three in the value-added section. Open Book and the College's generous bursaries and scholarships were of benefit but all departments had a responsibility to actively reach out in this direction.

The College continued to expand globally: the next phase of the relationship with LASALLE was being finalised. This was both culturally and financially good for the College.

The current financial backdrop was challenging: the College faced a "perfect storm" of pension increases, falling research income, new accounting standards, and a need to invest at speed and in volume in IT systems. It was necessary to be focussed and strategic about resources and a much-improved annual planning round had enabled this. Nonetheless, the College would record a deficit at the end of the year.

The College was also looking at innovative modes of delivery for its programmes. The appointments of Dr Debbie Custance as Academic Director of TaLIC and Dr Marco Gillies as Academic Director – Distance Learning would be particularly important in this regard.

The appointments of Professor Alan Pickering as the new Dean of the Graduate School and Professor Simon McVeigh as Academic Director – Research Policy were also noted, as were the new Heads of Department: Dr Lisa Blackman and Professor Vikki Bell in Media

and Communications and Sociology respectively.

It was noted, with regret, that Professor Sara Ahmed had resigned from Goldsmiths. A number of critical statements had been made on social media and in the press on the issues of sexual harassment that had led to her decision, to which the Deputy Warden had attempted to respond in her open letter. The issues were fundamental for the College and if it appeared that there had been some reticence to deal with them openly, this was not the result of an intended cover up but of an honourable commitment to employment law and protecting the individual rights of staff and students. One of the first requirements of victims reporting such cases was usually a guarantee of confidentiality. Reparations were made as part of the College's ethical duty and any constraints were entirely for the victims' wellbeing. Whilst the open letter was an important starting point, it was important to move forward to democratised dialogue. It was intended to establish a forum that would meet regularly with the aim of establishing how people understood sexual harassment and how the College's policies addressed it. Heads of Department would be asked to identify a member of academic staff to attend and students would also be represented. It was noted that this was a sector-wide issue and that a Universities UK taskforce on violence against women, harassment and hate crime would produce a Final Report in September. The College would be following this closely and playing an active part in discussions. Both internally and externally Goldsmiths wished to get back on the front foot and to ensure that no-one was neglected.

3 COLLABORATIVE PROVISION PARTNERSHIPS: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Received:

a report on risks and opportunities to be borne in mind by Departments when considering Collaborative Provision partnerships (15-758).

Noted:

- (i) the paper explained clearly the risks and opportunities related to collaborative provision. The approval processes set out in the document were necessarily detailed and thorough. However, it was important to emphasise that this should not discourage staff from developing new proposals as the possible benefits of such partnerships, from both a financial and academic point of view, were significant;
- (ii) partnerships could also give the College the opportunity to test the water with distance and blended learning and could provide staff development opportunities. It was pointed out that research partnerships could emerge from these initiatives. The partnership with the University of Tomsk, for example, had begun as a collaboration with the Psychology department but had led to shared research activities with the Goldsmiths' Computing department;
- (iii) the College was currently exploring a number of collaborative partnerships with a diverse range of bodies including overseas institutions, a commercial provider, a charity and a London museum. The aim was to focus on quality rather than quantity

and develop a limited number of strategically chosen partnerships which would enhance the College's brand. It was underlined that one of the first stages in the approval of any collaborative partnership was a consideration of the core values of the proposed partner.

4 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Considered:

a report on how equality and diversity impacted on the business and decision making of the Board (15-759) and an oral update on Athena Swan.

Noted:

- (i) there could be no more pivotal work for the College than the implementation of its Equality and Diversity Strategy, which had now been in place for a year. The College needed to be sure that it avoided complacency and lived up to its principles;
- (ii) committees had different functions and formats and one method would not be appropriate for all. The majority of items discussed by Academic Board had already been considered as papers at lower committees. Nonetheless, in order to ensure that issues of equality and diversity were truly embedded in the College's decision making processes it was essential that any agenda item was considered from this standpoint;
- (iii) it was important to consider whether the representation on committees reflected the College's principles of equality and diversity. The Council Diversity Project was a first step in this direction. It was also vital that committee Chairs understood their responsibilities in championing and providing leadership in this area. To this end a workshop would be held for Chair's of all committees in September;
- (iv) a number of initiatives had been launched as part of the strategy such as the creation of the BME Staff network and the LGBTQ network. The College had joined the Athena Swan Charter and was working to develop an involving network. Events were being organised so that people could reflect, debate and learn from each other. It was also intended to set up a forum to look at issues of sexual harassment and how this was dealt with. It was not intended that these networks should compete with each other: rather, the aim was to raise everyone's awareness across the College. The work undertaken would be brought together through the Equality and Diversity Forum. It was important that Academic Board received reports periodically on the development of these networks;
- (v) diversification of the curriculum was a very important issue, which it was felt should also be included in the list of initiatives linked to the Strategy. Similarly, the need to consider disability within this context should not be overlooked.

5 REGULATIONS REVIEW

Received:

proposed changes to the structure and format of General Regulations and the Regulations approved by Academic Board for implementation in 2016-17 (15-760).

Noted:

- (i) the College's Regulations had grown in an unsystematic way over a number of years. As a result they were voluminous and in some instances overlapping;
- (ii) it was necessary to undertake a wholesale overhaul of the College's statutory instruments. However, to do so required that Academic Board make such a recommendation to Council. The Board was asked to approve the principle of this overhaul and to devolve responsibility for this task to the Quality and Standards Sub-Committee;
- (iii) a number of changes had been identified which needed to be approved in advance of the 2016-17 academic year to ensure that the College met its obligations under consumer protection law and to improve the student experience. In particular it was necessary to ensure that fair and accessible complaints and appeals processes were in place and, following review, it was therefore proposed that a number of amendments (set out in Annexes D, E and F) be made to the Regulations;
- (iv) it was queried whether the definition of "bringing the College into disrepute" as set out in the proposed Student Conduct regulations (Annex D) could be used to limit students' right to protest. In particular it was noted that 12.7 (a) defined misconduct as "disruption of, or improper interference with the academic, administrative, sporting social or other activities of the College". It was explained that this element of the regulations had been in place for many years and was not part of the proposed amendment. Whilst it was not possible to prejudge what actions would meet this definition, student protests had not been dealt with in this way in the past. It was emphasised that this was a normal definition across the sector and it would not be used without discussion, but that the College needed to have such a tool available if students were strongly affected by the actions of others. This was accepted but it was felt that the amendment presented an opportunity to look again at the wording of this section and to add greater nuance to the definition.

Resolved:

to accept the recommendations and approve the amendments set out in points (i) – (viii) of the paper, with the exception of section 12 of the regulations relating to Student Conduct, as set out in Annex D. It was requested that an amended version of this section be presented for consideration to the following meeting of the Board.

6 GOLDSMITHS STUDENTS' UNION (GSU)

Received:

an oral update from GSU on recent internal and external developments.

Noted:

- (i) interviews for a new Chief Executive Officer would take place shortly. In the interim Jen Hart would continue as acting Chief Executive Officer;
- (ii) a new sabbatical team had been elected and a reception would be organised in September to present the new Officers;
- (iii) an internal review had been carried out with the aim of addressing the systemic issues that led to the resignations of several sabbatical Officers earlier in the year. The three main areas that had been identified were the financial infrastructure, provision of office support and the management of the Union;
- (iv) there had been a number of successes during the year. The GSU had been awarded Student Union of the year. It had become a leading Union for refugee support which had pressed successfully for the College's new scholarships for refugees and asylum seekers; the campaign to keep Wednesday afternoons free had been a success; the access fund had been expanded to £20,000, which had enabled funding travel to the Edinburgh Fringe, organisation of a sports day and the purchase of equipment; Jeremy Corbyn had also come to a Q&A event co-hosted by Goldsmiths Labour Society and the Students' Union;
- (v) means of improving communications with students were also being reviewed with revisions to the website and new signage within the Students' Union. There were also plans to develop the bar within the Union into a common room style space;
- (vi) within the context of the national landscape there were a number of developments to report. The president of the Students' Union had been elected onto the International Students Committee. GSU had supported Malia Bouattia's successful campaign to become President of the NUS and the ongoing industrial action by UCU. The Union also continued to support the rent strike being undertaken by students in College halls of residence. On the question of the EU referendum the Union did not have an official position and could not legally campaign for either outcome. However, it had run a campaign to encourage all students to register to vote;
- (vii) the Union believed that BAME voices were not being taken sufficiently seriously and that an everyday casualisation of racism and homophobia was taking place. It was necessary to be very proactive in addressing this;
- (viii) the Union believed that the White Paper would have a detrimental effect on higher education and would fight it. It was noted that the Union had also voted to boycott the National Student Survey. Whilst the criticisms of the NSS and its use as a metric

within the TEF were understood, concern was expressed that a boycott could be detrimental to departments and students at Goldsmiths if it was not followed by other Unions.

7 REVISED TERM DATES

Resolved:

to approve revised standard term dates for 2016-17 to 2018-19 and variations to standard term dates for 2015-16 to 2017-18 (15-761).

8 RESEARCH

Received:

an update from the Pro-Warden (Research) on Goldsmiths' response to the Stern Review (15-762) and an oral update on the development of research themes.

Noted:

- (i) there had been many responses to the request for views for the institutional response to the Stern review of the Research Excellence Framework. The final response had now been produced;
- (ii) a Research Themes initiative had been launched as part of the new Research and Enterprise Strategy. A call had been made for proposals for research themes which would help establish the College's research priorities. The aim of the themes was to assist in defining the College's image of itself and the way this was projected to the outside world. Two proposals had been received and 173 individuals had been involved from across every academic department. Half of the themes had been taken forward to the next stage, which was a two-week, cross-College, open consultation. A panel meeting would then take place in early July to decide how many of them should be adopted as themes. It was not intended to specify a particular number of themes, although it was pointed out that if too many were adopted this would dilute their impact. All staff were encouraged to participate in the consultation.

9 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

Resolved:

to appoint the following External Examiners:

Dr Anna Rosalyn Beer

Cert HE/Dip HE/BA English, University of London International Programmes
Visiting Fellow and Tutor, Oxford University

From 1st March 2016 to 31st August 2019

Professor David Buckingham

PGCE Secondary (Media Studies with English)
Emeritus Professor, Loughborough University
From 1st April 2016 to 31st August 2019

Mr. Abdul Chowdry

BA Applied Social Science Community Development and Youth Work
Internal Quality Assurer, Reddenhill Consulting Ltd
From 1st March 2016 to 31st August 2019

Dr. William Edmondson

MMus Popular Music & MMus Creative Practice
International Centre for Music Studies, Newcastle University,
From 1st March 2016 to 31st August 2019

Professor Christopher Glynn

MMus Performance
Royal College of Music
From 1st April 2016 to 31st August 2019

Dr Mel Jordan

MFA Fine Art
Senior Tutor in Contemporary Art Practice, Royal College of Art
From 1st April 2016 to 31st August 2019

Professor Andrew Lewis

MMus Sonic Arts & MMus Composition
Bangor University
From 1st March 2016 to 31st August 2019

Mr Joe Lockwood

MA Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship
Institute of Design Innovation, Glasgow School of Art
From 1st March 2016 to 31st August 2019

Professor Robin MacPherson

MA Filmmaking (Directing Fiction & Producing Pathways)
Chair in Creative Industries, University of the Highlands and Islands
From 1st April 2016 to 31st August 2019

Dr Matt Malpass

MA Interaction Design
University of The Arts London: Central Saint Martins
From 1st May 2016 to 31st August 2019

Mr Mark Wells

MA TV Journalism
School of Politics, Philosophy, Language and Communications Studies,
University of East Anglia
From 1st March 2016 to 31st August 2019

10 ADMISSIONS POLICY

Resolved:

that the revised Admissions Policy for the 2016-17 admissions cycle be approved (15-764).

11 APPOINTMENT OF STUDENTS' UNION SABBATICAL OFFICERS

Noted:

the appointment of Students' Union Sabbatical Officers for 2016-17:

President	Daniel Nasr
Education Officer	Mollie Kneath
Campaigns and Activities Officer	Eva Crossan Jory
Welfare and Diversity Officer	Tara Mariwany

12 OPEN ACCESS STATEMENT

Received:

Goldsmiths Statement on Open Access, approved by Research and Enterprise Committee (15-585).

13 POSTGRADUATE ANNUAL PROGRAMME REVIEW REPORT 2014-15

Received:

the Postgraduate Annual Programme Review Report from the Quality Officer (15-727).

14 ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT - LASALLE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Received:

the LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore annual review report from the Collaborative Provision Officer (15-748).

15 PERIODIC REVIEW ACTION PLAN FINAL UPDATES

Received:

the final follow-up report on action taken in response to the recommendations of the Periodic Review of:

Institute of Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship (15-528R)

Social, Therapeutic and Community Studies, Therapies (15-526R)

Educational Studies (15-684)

College-level recommendations made by the panels of the Periodic Reviews carried out between December 2013 and November 2014 (15-685)

16 PERIODIC REVIEW ACTION PLAN PROGRESS UPDATE

Received:

final reports, initial responses and follow-up reports on action taken in response to the recommendations of the Periodic Review of:

Sociology (15-682)

Psychology (15-683)

17 ANNUAL REPORT TO ACADEMIC BOARD ON PROGRAMMES APPROVED, TERMINATED AND AMENDED

Received:

the annual report to Academic Board on Programmes Approved, Terminated and Amended in 2015-16 (15-765).

18 ACCREDITATION OF PROGRAMMES BY PROFESSIONAL, STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BODIES

Noted:

the continued approval of programmes by the Health and Care Professions Council (15-686R).

19 GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Noted:

the dates of the Graduation Ceremonies for Summer 2016, as follows:

Wednesday 13 July 2016
Thursday 14 July 2016

and the dates for Winter Ceremonies as follows:

Wednesday 14 December 2016
Thursday 15 December 2016
Friday 16 December 2016 (TBC)

20 HONORARY DEGREES AND FELLOWSHIPS

Received:

the names of nominees recommended by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee and resolved by Council for receiving Honorary Degrees and Fellowships this year and beyond (15-766).

21 OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

Noted:

other matters for report (15-767), including Visiting Researchers and Fellows and minutes from the following committees:

Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee – 24 February 2016 (15-768)
Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee – 18 May 2016 (15-769)
Academic Development Committee – 3 February and 8 March 2016 (15-770)
Academic Development Committee – 12 May 2016 (15-771)
Research and Enterprise Committee – 3 March 2016 (15-772)

22 RETIREMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Noted:

that David Oswell, Gavin Butt and Kiona Niehaus were retiring from the Board and were thanked for their contributions;

23 FUTURE MEETINGS

Noted:

the dates of meetings in 2016-17 as follows:

Wednesday 14 September 2016

Wednesday 7 December 2016

Wednesday 8 March 2017

Wednesday 7 June 2017

All meetings will begin at 2.00pm and take place in the Professor Stuart Hall, Room 3.26

GB

July 2016