

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

COUNCIL

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2017

OPEN BUSINESS

Present: Mr Patrick Loughrey (in the Chair),
Professor Claudia Bernard, Professor Lucia Boldrini,
Professor Rebecca Cassidy, Mr Martin Conreen,
Dr Debbie Custance, Professor Mark d'Inverno,
Dr Jasna Dragovic Soso, Mr Ian Gardiner, Ms Annie Guo,
Mr Conrad Heyns, Professor Elisabeth Hill, Mr Kevin Jones,
Mr Steve Keirl, Dr Gholam Khiabany, Dr Pdraig Kirwan,
Ms Mollie Kneath, Dr Betty Liebovich, Ms Tara Mariwany,
Professor Osita Okagbue, Professor Simon O'Sullivan,
Professor David Oswell, Professor Carrie Paechter, Dr Luciana Parisi,
Professor Alan Pickering, Dr Vivienne Richmond, Dr Caroline Rix,
Ms Astrid Schmetterling, Mr Paul Stocks, Dr Ragupathy Venkatachalam,
Dr Erica Wald, Mr Matthew Ward, Professor Robert Zimmer.

Apologies: Professor Vikki Bell, Professor Frank Bond, Professor Andy Bremner
Dr Lisa Busby, Professor Sean Cubitt, Mr Adrian De La Court,
Professor Matthew Fuller, Dr Marco Gillies, Mr Gerald Lidstone,
Dr Julia Lockheart, Dr Massimiliano Mollona, Mr Daniel Nasr,
Professor Saul Newman, Professor Richard Noble,
Ms Jacqueline Pennell, Ms Nina Reece, Professor Marsha Rosengarten,

In attendance: Mr Matthew Brooks, Ms Eva Crossan-Jory, Ms Taylor McGraa,
Mr Tom Morgan, Mr Ian Pleace, Ms Helen Watson,
Mr Gareth Bodrell (Secretary),

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MINUTES

Noted:

- (i) Capping of resit marks (Item 9, minute v). Although it had been stated that "shrewd students could have made use of the previous regulatory loophole and used a resit

opportunity to improve their mark instead of submitting their best work at the first attempt” it was disputed whether this had been agreed by all members of the Board. It was recognised that there had been a diversity of opinion and it was agreed to amend the minute to reflect this more clearly;

- (ii) It was queried which regulations would apply for students resitting elements that had been failed in the previous academic year. It was confirmed that a principle of “no detriment” would apply to all students. Some concern was expressed that information circulated to departments might not accurately reflect this position. It was agreed to check this as a matter of urgency.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2017 be approved.

2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Received:

An oral report on matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2017.

- (i) English Language Centre (ELC) and Academic Skills Centre (ASC) as Academic Areas (minute 13 – 14 September 2016 and Matters Arising 8th March 2017). It was explained that a decision on the future status of these academic areas had not yet been taken and that the temporary status accorded to them at the earlier meeting would therefore remain in place. The new Head of the ASC had been appointed and it was planned to defer the decision until they had arrived and had the opportunity to discuss this with others. It was confirmed that there would be consultation with departments and that the decision would come to Academic Board for discussion;
- (ii) Election of Academic Board Members to Council (minute 11) – The Board was informed that one of the vacancies for representatives of Academic Board to sit on Council was still unfilled. Two members of the Board volunteered and it was agreed to take forward their applications;
- (iii) Group to Discuss Staff and Student Mental Health (minute 6 – Warden’s Report). In agreement with Unison and UCU, representatives of the Students’ Union had been invited to attend part of the JNCC and had discussed initiatives to support staff and students’ mental health and wellbeing. This had been very productive: key outcomes of the meeting had been recognition of the need to monitor and evaluate the effect of interventions and the importance of building a coherent plan of activities throughout the year. Work would continue with colleagues including GSU officers to achieve this.

3 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Noted:

It was requested that, in addition to the items identified within the agenda as being for discussion, Items 15(F) Criminal Declaration by Applicants (CDAP) Policy and 34 (T) Emeritus Professor Nominations should also be discussed. It was noted that no prior request to discuss the former had been made to the Secretary and that the paper author was therefore not present. Nonetheless it was agreed that comments would be allowed.

4 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Noted:

the Chair reminded members that considerations of equality and diversity should inform the deliberation of all items of business.

5 WARDEN'S REPORT

- (i) On 12 June the outcome of the TEF2 would be released under embargo. The College was working on its response plan which would take in stakeholders including offer-holders, current students, staff, and Council. An all-staff meeting would be held on Wednesday 14 June to explain the outcome and answer questions. It was recognised that, irrespective of the outcome, excellent teaching takes place at Goldsmiths. Looking into the longer term, the future of TEF remained unclear. An independent review would be undertaken in 2019 and Goldsmiths would ensure that its voice was heard in the coming discussions;
- (ii) TEF was not the only measure of the quality of universities and there was good news to report that Goldsmiths had performed well in the new QS World Rankings, appearing for the first time within the world's top 400 universities which, according to the rankings, placed the College amongst the top 1.5% of universities in the world. A number of individual departments had performed particularly well and appeared within the top 50. The Warden wished to thank all those who had been involved in achieving this outcome. One of the main drivers of the rise had been an improvement in academic reputation. The survey would begin again in 9 months' time and the importance of maximising citations was emphasised;
- (iii) The General Election would shortly take place. Whatever the outcome there would be big implications for the sector. The College had worked together with the Students' Union encouraging students to register to vote and it was predicted that students would be key in a number of constituencies. It was also good to note the presence of Goldsmiths' scholars across the media throughout the election campaign. This was important for both Goldsmiths' and the individuals' reputation;
- (iv) Vicki Baars had begun work as the Strategy and Review Manager for Sexual

Harassment. The review was currently in the planning stage but she had already been very active across campus. This represented an opportunity to move from a problem to a position of leadership. The College would also continue to work with UUK in their work around this issue. A workshop tackling sexual harassment would be held on 12 June and all staff and students were urged to attend;

- (v) three new Directors of professional services departments had been appointed: Kieron Broadhead and Andy Lamb had been confirmed in post as Director of Student Experience & Academic Registrar and Director of HR respectively. Ben Wilson would also be joining the College as Director of Communications and Public Affairs;
- (vi) Professor Carrie Paechter would be leaving Goldsmiths after many years' service. She had been the founding Dean of the Graduate School and a formidable leader of the Education department. It was a pleasure to announce that part of her legacy would be the renaming of the Education Building after the great pioneer Margaret McMillan.

6 NSS

Received:

an oral report from the Deputy Warden on NSS completion rates and action planning in the 2017 NSS.

Noted:

- (i) The College had reached the overall 50% threshold response rate and this meant that data for those departments that had also reached the threshold would be published;
- (ii) consideration of NSS data had now been incorporated into the planning round in order to make the student experience a more integral part of that process. Departments were reminded to continue to update their action plans. It was emphasised that the main driver for this was not the results of the survey in itself but the desire to continually improve the student experience.

7 LEARNING TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY

Received:

The new Goldsmiths Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2017 (16-411R).

Noted:

- (i) LTEC had recommended approval of the draft strategy following input from a number

of working groups comprised of representatives of academic and professional services staff and the Students' Union;

- (ii) the paper set out the strategic aims. A key principle in its production was that it should be a meaningful and live document for students and staff. To that end a linked operational document that included guidance and case studies would also be created;
- (iii) "Liberating our degrees" was felt to be a particularly important aim and it was reported that departments had discussed how students could be encouraged to get involved. The Students' Union confirmed that they had considered case studies from other institutions and were working with departments to facilitate this. It was recognised that changes to curricula would necessarily have resource implications for the Library;
- (iv) in relation to Strategic Aim 4: "Extending our Reach", it was suggested that the value of MOOCs was open to question and it was asked whether the aims were supported by market research. It was confirmed that this was the case. It was pointed out that the Academic Director Distance Learning had carried out detailed work in this area and would be happy to speak to departments and the Board about it;
- (v) in relation to Strategic Aim 3: "Access, Inclusion and Learning Support", it was suggested that the College should consider doing more to make its programmes accessible to part-time students, particularly in terms of when delivery was timetabled. The argument proposed was that by scheduling more teaching in the evenings it would make it easier for such students to attend and would also ease the pressure on teaching spaces. However, others argued that, whilst this might benefit some students, it would not necessarily be convenient for students or staff with childcare responsibilities or students who worked in the evening. There was consensus around the view that different programmes had different constituencies and that the strategy aimed to support and encourage departments in considering how programmes could be designed and delivered to best meet the needs of their students.

Resolved:

That the strategy be approved.

8 BAME STUDENT PROGRESSION AND OUTCOMES

Received:

a report on the progression and outcomes of BAME students at Goldsmiths (16-447).

Noted:

- (i) The report set out the areas in which the College was committed to reporting and gave a sense of the ethnic breakdown of students;
- (ii) increased consideration would be given of the progress of BAME students at a range of committees including Quality and Standards Sub-Committee, Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee and Council;
- (iii) the ratio of BAME students to white varied across departments and so it would also be necessary to break down the data in this way to be clear whether outcomes were affected by local circumstances or College-wide issues. It was confirmed that it was also possible to disaggregate BAME students into different sub-groups;
- (iv) it was queried why the ethnicity of a significant proportion of the student population was described as unknown, as it was felt that this made meaningful comparisons very difficult. It was noted that the data came from information returned to HESA. HESA requirements state that 'Not Known' should only be used when a student genuinely does not know their ethnicity and that otherwise 'information refused' should be used when a student prefers not to say. The College was required to collect data for all students and it was important to ensure that data were as accurate and complete as possible.

Resolved:

That the approach set out within the strategy be endorsed.

9 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK REVIEW

Received:

a report setting out a proposed new process and timetable for making changes to the College's Regulations and Regulatory Framework (16-396R).

Noted:

- (i) A process and timescale for the proposal and consideration of amendments to College regulations had been set out and discussed at earlier meetings of the Board. However, following discussions at the previous meeting regarding the changes to the regulations on resits, it had been felt that this process should be strengthened to ensure greater and more specific input from departments. The project to repackage the regulations into a more accessible format would be aligned with the process and timetable for considering material amendments;
- (ii) the increased level of consultation would result in an extension to the deadline for the consideration of changes which were now scheduled to be presented to the December meeting of the Board;
- (iii) it was confirmed that the new process was intended to facilitate a two-way dialogue.

The working group would propose changes which departments would be asked to comment on through Departmental learning and teaching committees but would also invite input from departments;

- (iv) though individual members had not yet been appointed to the working group it was confirmed that the aim was to gain as broad a spread as possible of staff from across departments and schools.

Resolved:

- (i) to approve the proposed process and timetable for making changes to the Regulations;
- (ii) to endorse the proposed composition of the Regulations Working Group;
- (iii) to approve the alignment of the process and timetable for repackaging the Regulations with that for making substantive change to the Regulations.

10 GOLDSMITHS STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Received:

an oral report from the Goldsmiths Students' Union reviewing 2016-17 and looking ahead to 2017-18

Noted:

- (i) The Students' Union highlighted a number of developments and successes from the previous year. In terms of democratic processes, it had been a positive year with a 60% increase in the number of students voting in elections. The successes of various teams and individual sporting achievements were also noted including the Goldsmiths Cheerleaders, who became national champions; the participation of women's sports teams in the finals of the Varsity Challenge for the first time and the creation of three new sports clubs and 15 new societies;
- (ii) support and advice had been provided to students on cases relating to academic conduct, appeals and complaints. This had led to the award of compensatory payments totalling £31,612. 30 students had also been given extra attempts to complete assessments and 10 students had received additional support and adjustments;
- (iii) particular attention was given to the campaigns that had been run throughout the year. The boycott of the NSS had led to a 15% fall in completion rates and officers had been strongly involved in the debates around the Higher Education Bill. The rent strike was still ongoing and consideration was being given to employing a housing advisor. Liberate My Degree had been very successful, becoming the first aim of the

College's new Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy. Discussions were now underway with the Library to discuss how the Bookmarks Project could be extended onto an electronic platform through the online catalogue. The campaign to rename the Education Building had led to a vote by which students had decided to rename it the Margaret McMillan building: the first on campus to be named after a woman. Other campaigns such as; Keep Wednesday Afternoon Free; This Girl Can; Rainbow Laces; Liberation Months; Sexual-Harassment Awareness Week and the Fee Strike were also highlighted;

- (iv) there had been positive developments in the area of academic representation. The Departmental Student Co-ordinators'(DSC) survey had been completed 1,322 times, which was more than any other survey run by the Union. This year's DSC presentations had been very successful and 112 applications had been received for next year's positions. 19 Disabled Departmental Student Co-ordinators (DDSCs) had also been appointed. Over 100 nominations had been received for the Student-led Teaching Award, the results of which had been published on the Students' Union website.
- (v) The Warden offered his thanks to the Students' Union Officers. He particularly wished to express his appreciation of the impressive work that Mollie Kneath had undertaken as Education Officer and to wish her well in her future career.

11 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

Resolved:

to appoint the following External Examiners:

Professor Lise Autogena

Professor of Cross-Disciplinary Art, Sheffield Hallam University
MA Art & Politics
From 1st May 2017 to 31st August 2020

Dr Emilyn Claid

Professor of Dance, University of Roehampton
MA Performance Making
From 1st Sept 2017 to 31st August 2021

Dr Monica Figueroa

Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge
BA Sociology / joint programmes
From 1st May 2017 to 31st August 2020

Dr Sam Halliday

School of English & Drama, Queen Mary
UoLIA English programmes
From 1st May 2017 to 31st August 2020

Dr Siobhan McAndrew

Lecturer in Sociology, University of Bristol
BA Sociology / joint programmes
From 1st May 2017 to 31st August 2020

Ms Joan McCormack

International Study & Language Institute, University of Reading
Grad Dip, International Foundation Cert & English for Academic Purposes (English Language Centre)
From 1st Sept 2017 to 31st August 2021

Dr Dominic Symonds

School of Fine & Performing Arts, University of Lincoln
MA Musical Theatre
From 1st Sept 2017 to 31st August 2021

Dr Eva Verhoeven

London College of Communication, UAL
MA Design Critical Practice
MA Design Expanded Practice
From 1st May 2017 to 31st August 2020

Dr Stefano-Maria Evangelista

Trinity College, Oxford
MA Comparative Literary Studies
From 1st June 2017 to 31st August 2021

Dr Mary Dullea

Department of Music, Royal Holloway
MMus (Performance)
From 1st June 2017 to 31st August 2021

12 CRIMINAL DECLARATION BY APPLICANTS (CDAP) POLICY

Received:

a revision to the Criminal Declaration by Applicants (CDAP) Policy (16-397)

Noted:

that the College admitted many international students, some from communities where the risk of criminal prosecution was higher than in the UK. Concern was expressed that the policy could be prejudicial to such students. It was pointed out that the proposal was a revision to the existing policy and that in the previous two years almost nobody had been rejected. The aim of the revision was to improve the transparency and confidentiality of the process.

Resolved:

to approve the revised policy.

13 MERIT AND DISTINCTION

Resolved:

To approve the recommendation of the Quality and Standards Sub-Committee regarding the timing of the implementation of the revised criteria for the award of Merit and Distinction on taught postgraduate programmes (16-371)

14 INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS AND INTEGRITY APPROVALS

Resolved:

To approve:

H1 The Annual Statement of Research Integrity (16-449)

H2 A proposal to adopt the UK Research and Integrity Office's Code of Practice for Research in lieu of our institutional Code of Practice on Research Ethics (16-450)

15 ELECTION OF ACADEMIC BOARD MEMBERS TO COUNCIL

Noted:

the election of Professor Andy Bremner to Council with effect from 2017-18:

16 APPOINTMENT OF STUDENTS' UNION SABBATICAL OFFICERS

Noted:

the appointment of the following Students' Union Sabbatical Officers for 2017-18:

President - Eva Crossan Jory

Education Officer - Taylor McGraa

Campaigns and Activities Officer - Joseph Tema

Welfare and Diversity Officer - Tara Mariwany

17 COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Received:

the Annual Report on Complaints and Appeals (16-383)

18 POSTGRADUATE ANNUAL PROGRAMME REVIEW REPORT 2015-16

Received:

the Postgraduate Annual Programme Review Report (16-403)

19 ANNUAL PROGRAMME REVIEW REPORT - COLLABORATIVE PROVISION

Received:

the Collaborative Provision APR Summary Report (16-401)

20 ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT - UoLIA

Received:

the UoLIA Annual Review Report (16-402)

21 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:

M1 Department of Music (16-367)

M2 Department of STaCS - Community Studies Programmes (16-368)

M3 Centre for Cultural Studies (16-369)

22 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 2016-17 (16-451).

23 ACCREDITATION OF PROGRAMMES BY PROFESSIONAL, STATUTORY AND REGULATORY BODIES

Noted:

the continued approval of programmes by the Health and Care Professions Council (16-373)

24 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Noted:

minutes from the following committees:

P1 Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee – 17 May 2017 (16-452)

P2 Academic Development Committee – 7 March 2017 (16-453)

P3 Research and Enterprise Committee – 2 March 2017 (16-454)

25 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2017-18

To consider and recommend to Council dates of meetings of College Committees 2017-18 (16-328R).

26 VISITING FELLOWS

Received:

The recent appointments of Visiting Fellows (16-455).

27 RETIREMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Noted:

That Miss Jacqueline Pennell; Dr Marco Gillies; Professor Carrie Paechter; Dr Vivienne Richmond; Professor Sean Cubitt; Professor Saul Newman; Ben Levitas; Mr Daniel Nasr and Ms Mollie Kneath were retiring from the Board and were thanked for their contributions;

28 FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates of meetings in 2017-18 as follows:

13 September 2017 – 14:00-16:00

6 December 2017 – 14:00-16:00

7 March 2018 – 14:00-16:00

6 June 2018 – 14:00-16:00

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

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June 2017