

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

COUNCIL

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2018

OPEN BUSINESS

Present: Mr Patrick Loughrey (in the Chair),
Ms Annie Guo, Mr Conrad Heyns, Professor Elisabeth Hill,
Dr Pdraig Kirwan, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Professor David Oswell,
Dr John Price, Dr Ragupathy Venkatachalam, Dr Erica Wald,
Mr Matthew Ward.

Apologies: Professor Michael Archer, Professor Vikki Bell,
Professor Claudia Bernard, Professor Lucia Boldrini,
Professor Frank Bond, Professor Andy Bremner, Dr Lisa Busby,
Professor Rebecca Cassidy, Ms Eva Crossan-Jory, Dr Debbie Custance,
Professor Mark d' Inverno, Dr Henrike Donner, Dr Jasna Dragovic Soso,
Professor Anna Furse, Mr Ian Gardiner, Mr Martin Conreen,
Mr Adrian De La Court, Ms Wei Jin, Mr Kevin Jones, Mr Steve Keirl,
Dr Rodger Kibble, Dr Betty Liebovich, Ms Karen Matthewman,
Ms Taylor McGraa, Professor Richard Noble, Professor Osita Okagbue,
Dr Rajyashree Pandey, Professor Alan Pickering, Ms Maggie Pitfield,
Professor Marsha Rosengarten, Dr Anamik Saha,
Ms Astrid Schmetterling, Mr Paul Stocks, Ms Zoe Walshe,
Professor Simon O'Sullivan, Dr Caroline Rix, Mr Joe Williams,
Professor Robert Zimmer, Professor Joanna Zylinska.

In attendance: Mr Leo Appleton, Mr Kieron Broadhead, Mr Matthew Brooks,
Mr Ian Pleace, Ms Helen Watson, Mr Ben Wilson,
Mr Gareth Bodrell (Secretary).

OPEN BUSINESS

1 QUORACY

Noted:

The College Statutes stated that the quorum for a meeting of Academic Board was twenty members and the meeting was therefore not quorate. It was noted that SMT had decided that the main committees of Council scheduled on strike days should go

ahead as planned, bearing in mind the number of days in March being lost to strike action, the need to keep College business moving forward within the terms of its Statutes and the law regarding strike action and because the Standing Orders established that, in the absence of a quorum, any decision made would be deemed to be the Chair's decision taken on the advice of members present, providing no member present registered his or her objection. The Chair added that he would expect to circulate the full minutes of the Board for comments on any non-routine matters before ratifying any urgent decisions and that any non-routine issues which were also non-urgent would be deferred to the next meeting. However, following consideration of the agenda, it was felt that none of the items before the Board fell into these categories.

(Secretary's note: in separate communications received during the meeting and subsequent to it respectively, the Students' Union and some members of the Board wrote to register regret the meeting was taking place during a period of strike action. The Students' Union also sent written comments on the agenda items, which were fed into the discussion at the appropriate junctures.)

2 MINUTES

Noted:

It was requested that the minute 10 (ii) be amended to record that the Students' Union had asked for the data to be published.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2017 be approved.

3 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Noted:

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

4 WARDEN'S REPORT

- (i) This was the single most troubling time in 8 years as Warden of Goldsmiths. The situation was unprecedented and incredibly painful. The industrial action had the potential to be very damaging to students. There had been some movement within the position of the employers and there was hope that the negotiations through ACAS might lead to a solution. However, the pensions regulator had taken a pessimistic view and this reduced the room for manoeuvre. The College recognised staff's right to strike but also the right of students to have their work marked. It was

hoped that a mutually acceptable solution could be found but this would not be simple.

- (ii) Despite this negative situation, there were still some positive developments to report. The exhibition “Counter Investigations: Forensic Architecture” by the Centre for Forensic Architecture at the ICA was a great success and had received a very positive review in the Financial Times. A new distance learning undergraduate degree to be offered through the University of London International Academy in collaboration with Coursera had also received widespread, positive coverage. It represented a small first step that could develop into something incredibly important as the College looked to extend its reach and to diversify the means by which it delivered its academic offer.
- (iii) The Office for Students (OFS) had published the new regulatory framework for higher education in England and associated guidance. Minimal changes had been made to the draft published for consultation earlier in the year. Amongst them was the removal of the references to students as consumers from the regulatory objectives. Nonetheless, this seemed to be essentially cosmetic since the constitution of the Board and the Student Panel remained the same. The “Registered (basic)” category of providers had been removed from the framework following concerns that prospective students might misinterpret the inclusion of providers within this category as implying they were subject to a higher degree of regulation than was in fact the case. However, that effectively left this category of provider unregulated. The banding of fees for registration had been revisited and, as a result, the fee payable by Goldsmiths had now risen to £99,900 which could increase to £124,000 if the College were to grow to over 10,000 FTE. Participation in TEF had become a condition of registration. The College would aim to be on the register when it went live in August. In order to do this it had to have a published student protection plan, which would need to be approved by Council. It was notable that the Minister’s letter to the OFS setting out his expectations was far more political than had previously been the case in the annual letters to HEFCE, including references to countering harassment and hate crime; challenging grade inflation, use of new Longitudinal Educational Outcomes (LEO) dataset and championing and promoting the freedom of speech.
- (iv) The campaign and information around the sexual violence, sexual harassment and sexual misconduct policy had been launched. The Report and Support website had gone live and a training programme was being delivered to staff. The response to the campaign had been very strong with over 1,000 staff signing up to attend the training. In addition a pilot training on being an active bystander was being delivered by the Students’ Union.

5 BAME ACTION PLAN

Received:

The BAME Action Plan (17-282).

Noted:

- (i) The paper had been written together with the Students' Union and had been discussed and agreed by the Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee (LTEC). The Students' Union had hosted an open meeting to share and discuss the experience of BAME students.
- (ii) The Working Group proposed in the paper would draw from staff and students from a wide range of areas. This would be further publicised through staff news and everyone was encouraged to become involved.
- (iii) The Students' Union were pleased with the developments and had planned the handover for the new sabbatical officers to ensure that the momentum in this area was maintained.
- (iv) The new Access and Participation plan would offer the action plan a route within an official document.

6 STUDENT EXPERIENCE WORKSTREAMS

Received:

A paper reporting on the work of the three Student Experience Workstreams (17-337).

Noted:

- (i) The report set out the progress made on the projects being undertaken by the sub-groups of the workstreams. More detail was provided on two specific projects: Goldsmiths Ready and Student Enterprise.
- (ii) The Students' Union felt that the Graduate Entrepreneurs Programme could be an exciting project if it was developed in an accessible and inclusive way and asked to be closely involved with this.
- (iii) It was appreciated that these were difficult times. However, many people were engaging with the work and everyone was still encouraged to become involved as the aim was to improve the experiences of both students and staff.

7 CHANGE TO THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Received:

A proposal to amend the name of the Department of Media and Communications

(17-338).

Noted:

- (i) It was proposed to change the department's name to the Department of "Media, Communications and Cultural Studies". This reflected both its long history of cultural studies research and the transfer of programmes and integration of many of the staff from the Centre for Cultural Studies to within the department.
- (ii) There had been consultation with other academic departments and it was felt that the proposal made sense.

Recommended:

That the change of name to the Department to Media, Communications and Cultural Studies be approved.

8 FITNESS TO STUDY

Received:

A proposal to amend governance structures relating to the College's fitness to study regulations (17-339).

Noted:

- (i) The policy had been in place for a year and represented a great improvement on the previous arrangements. This was an interim review to address some issues that had become apparent. A number of these were corrections to factual inaccuracies such as incorrect department and job titles. The substantive changes principally related to questions of governance.
- (ii) It was queried whether the statement that there might be "occasions where staff needed to disclose information to additional personnel or to third parties" could extend to this information being shared as part of the Prevent agenda. Reassurance was given that this was not the case and it was agreed that the Director of Student Experience & Academic Registrar would liaise with the Students' Union to clarify the circumstances in which the disclosure to third parties might take place.
- (iii) The addition of a standard review period for any suspensions was necessary as the old policy had allowed indefinite suspensions, which was not good practice. It was asked whether greater guidance could be provided on the criteria for making a suspension when the panel felt that an individual's behaviour was disruptive but he or she had not declared any mental health issues. There was concern that there were areas where staff did not consider themselves sufficiently professionally qualified to make judgements. It was suggested that, in these circumstances, the panel should decide whether or not it was beneficial for the student to attend,

pending the creation of an advanced action plan and the intervention of a health professional. Nonetheless, it was agreed that the advice made available to panels could be reviewed as part of the work of the task and finish group.

- (iv) It was suggested that this was an area in which a greater degree of centralisation would be beneficial, both in terms of the provision of expertise and the need to ensure consistency. It was pointed out that each level 3 suspension would be different and, whilst guidance could be provided, it was important not to constrain panels too tightly. It was recognised that it was necessary to find an appropriate balance between academic autonomy and the need for professional expertise.

Resolved:

To approve the amendments to the policy.

9 ELECTION OF ACADEMIC BOARD MEMBERS TO COUNCIL

Received:

An update on the need to elect two members of Academic Board to Council from 1st September 2018 for a 3-year period (17-352).

Noted:

- (i) Two positions for members of Academic Board would become vacant on Council in 2018-19.
- (ii) It was very important that members of Academic Board were represented on Council, particularly given its increasing academic responsibility.
- (iii) The Governance and Legal Services Office would be contacting departments in the following weeks and members were encouraged to either put themselves forward or nominate a fellow member.

10 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

Resolved:

Dr [REDACTED]
Head of Department, Criminology & Sociology
[REDACTED] University
BA Sociology Joint degrees / BA Religion
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
School of Education, University of [REDACTED] (retired)
Certificate in the Teaching of Chinese
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
Research Lecturer/ Consultant, [REDACTED]
MA Dance Movement Psychotherapy
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
Professor of Creative & Entertainment Games, [REDACTED] University
MA Independent Games and Playable Experience Design
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
Senior Lecturer in Music, [REDACTED] University
BA Music (LASALLE)
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Miss [REDACTED]
Architecture Department, [REDACTED]
BA Design
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Professor [REDACTED]
Deputy Head of Art, [REDACTED] University
MA Children's Literature: Children's Illustration Pathway
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
Senior Lecturer (Dept of Politics & International Relations)
[REDACTED] University
MA Human Rights, Culture and Social Justice
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
Chancellor's Fellow (Sociology), University [REDACTED]
MA Gender, Media & Culture
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
School of Humanities and Performing Arts, University of [REDACTED]
BA History of Art/ BA Fine Art and History of Art/ BA Curating
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
Senior Lecturer, University of [REDACTED]
MA Race, Media and Social Justice
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Professor [REDACTED]
Professor of Public Diplomacy, [REDACTED] University
MA Cultural Policy, Relations and Diplomacy
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
Visiting Senior Fellow [REDACTED] (retired)
MA in Creative Writing and Education (Previously MA Writer/Teacher)
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
Principal Research Fellow, University [REDACTED]
MA Understanding Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Mr [REDACTED]
Secondary PGCE Programme Leader, [REDACTED] University
PGCE Secondary (Science)
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Dr [REDACTED]
Senior Lecturer, [REDACTED] University
MA Applied Anthropology and Community and Youth Work
MA Applied Anthropology and Community Development
MA Applied Anthropology and Community Arts
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

Mr [REDACTED]
Associate Head of Fashion/ Fashion Business, [REDACTED]
MA Luxury Brand Management
From 1st January 2018 to 31st August 2021

11 TERM DATES

Received:

Amended standard and non-standard term dates for 2018-19 and 2019-20, and note provisional standard and non-standard term dates for 2020-21 (17-341).

Noted:

The table noted that students on MA Art Psychotherapy could arrange to take 2 weeks off which was negotiable with the placement. It was asked whether this had to be taken as a block or whether it could be spread over the year. It was agreed to seek clarification and to update the information accordingly.

Resolved:

To approve the dates set out in the paper.

12 GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Noted:

The dates of the Graduation Ceremonies for Summer 2018, as follows:

Wednesday 18 July

Thursday 19 July

Friday 20 July

13 EXTERNAL EXAMINATION SUMMARY REPORTS 2016-17

Received:

The external examination summary reports for the academic session 2016-17 for:

I1 Goldsmiths (17-244)

I2 LASALLE (17-245)

I3 UoLIA (17-246)

Noted:

It was queried whether an action plan would be created to monitor the points raised within the Goldsmiths report (I1). It was explained that the report had been discussed at the Quality and Standards Sub-Committee (QSSC) which had noted a number of developments taking place within the College, such as the work of the Regulatory Framework Working Group and the review of the Feedback Policy, where these and other issues would be considered. Output from these initiatives would be considered by College committees in the summer term. However, QSSC had made no specific recommendations in respect of these and it would therefore be inappropriate to create an action plan.

14 DESTINATION OF LEAVERS FROM HIGHER EDUCATION (DLHE) REPORT

Received:

The Annual Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) Report (17-278).

15 COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS REPORT 2015-16 & 2016-17

Received:

The Complaints and Appeals report for the academic session 2015-16 & 2016-17 (17-251).

Noted:

- (i) The report had been discussed at Quality and Standards Sub-Committee, where it had been agreed that a follow-up report should be presented to the summer term meeting which would consider the data in the light of protected characteristics. However, the Students' Union had requested that some points made in the original report be further discussed by the Board.
- (ii) Surprise was expressed that no academic appeal founded on an assertion of bias or prejudice had been successful. It was suggested that the College should consider why particular types of appeal had much less chance of being upheld. It was noted that an academic appeal could be founded on any of three grounds: 'extenuating circumstances'; 'procedural irregularity'; and 'bias or prejudice'. The burden and standard of proof was the same for each of these. Those resolving academic appeals had not been satisfied on any occasion during the relevant academic session that an appellant had substantiated an assertion of bias or prejudice. This was a ground of academic appeal that was not always permitted at universities.
- (iii) It was noted that 36 appeals had not been resolved within the relevant time frame and it was suggested that more resources should be invested into the team to meet the increasing volume of work. The report before the Board covered two academic sessions: 2015-16 and 2016-17. The number of academic appeals resolved outside of the relevant time frame in the latter period reduced to 19 despite an increase in the number received of 10%. Efforts would be made to continue to tackle the issue of delay. The Senior Management Team had been supportive of requests for additional resources such that it was not currently considered that additional staff were required.
- (iv) Concern was expressed that the OIA received 10 complaints from Goldsmiths students compared to the sector average of 5. It was pointed out that any student had the right to take a complaint to the OIA and this demonstrated that the College was signposting this clearly to students. More important than the number of complaints submitted was the number upheld. Of the 10 complaints, none were justified and 2 were partly justified. In this respect Goldsmiths performed better than the sector average.

16 PG ASSESSMENT REPORT

Received:

The PG Assessment Report, including BME analysis and turnaround of assessment

(17-247).

17 PERIODIC REVIEW

Received:

Reports and action plans of the following periodic reviews:

- (i) Department of Computing, undertaken on 11-12 May 2017 (17-249)

The final update of the Action Plan for the Periodic Reviews of:

- (ii) Department of Music, undertaken on 6 December 2016 (17-96R)
- (iii) Department of STaCS, undertaken on 14 March 2017 (17-97R)

18 VISITING PROFESSORS AND FELLOWS

Noted:

The recent appointments of Visiting Professors and Fellows (17-224).

19 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

Noted:

Minutes from the following committees:

Academic Development Committee – 22 November 2017 (17-353)

Academic Development Committee – February 2018 (17-354)

Learning, Teaching and Enhancement Committee – 15^h November 2017 (17-355)

20 FUTURE MEETINGS

Noted:

The dates of the final meetings of 2017-18 as follows:

Wednesday 6 June 2018

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