

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

COUNCIL
2 July 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2015

- Present:** Rt Hon Estelle Morris (in the Chair), Mr Nick Barron, Professor Mark d'Inverno, Dr Rupert Evenett, Mr James Grierson, Mr Gerald Lidston, Mr Patrick Loughrey, Mr Brian Lymbery, Mr Dick Melly, Dr Richard Noble, Professor Jane Powell, Ms Adrihani Rashid, Ms Vivienne Rose, Ms Cathy Runciman, Ms Vanessa Sharp, Dr Derval Tubridy, Mr John Wadsworth, Ms Jessica Wanamaker, Mr Tom Wilson, Mr Philip Wright.
- Apologies:** Professor Roger Burrows, Professor Elisabeth Hill, Ms Jackie Morgan, Mr Barry Quirk, Mr Yanis Szafranski.
- In attendance:** Registrar and Secretary (Secretary), Director of Finance, Director of Human Resources, Director of Executive and Governance Services, Head of Secretariat and Legal Services, Director of Estates.
- Observers:** Ms Jaqueline Ahweih (Unison), Mr David Ramsey (Unison),

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed Ms Adrihani Rashid to the meeting and thanked Mr Rupert Evenett, Mr Brian Lymbery, Ms Vivienne Rose, Mr Howard Littler and Mr Yanis Szafranski for their contributions during their respective terms of office.

2 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Noted:

no additional items were starred by members.

3 APPROVAL OF ITEMS FOR FORMAL DISCUSSION

Noted:

that all formal decisions proposed in the circulated papers for Open, Confidential and Reserved Business were confirmed by members.

4 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2015 were approved.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

none.

***6 WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Warden gave an oral report of interest to Council:

- (i) that it had been a good year for recruitment with strong performance at all levels. However, given rising costs and fixed income, Goldsmiths still needed to focus on growth;
- (ii) that this year's results day was, therefore, particularly important across the sector and there was intensive work underway to ensure the opportunities at Goldsmiths were well promoted;
- (iii) that the QAA review had been completed and the final report would be published at the end August and that a full report would be available to Council at the September meeting;
- (iv) that Professor Roger Burrows had tendered his resignation and that this was a significant loss to Goldsmiths;
- (v) that over the past year the contribution of Howard Littler as President of the Students' Union had been highly valued;
- (vi) that the management team looked forward to working with the new President of the Students' Union, Adrihani Rashid, her strategic interests in diversifying the curriculum, employability and improving the new student experience; and
- (vii) that the Goldsmiths Press had received SMT support and would be a very important bridgehead to the wider academy, with the publication of text books at secondary level in our key areas.

***7 GOLDSMITHS BUDGET**

Received:

the budget for 2015-16 (B; 15-217R).

Noted:

- (i) that this was a breakeven budget with a small indicative surplus;
- (ii) that any potential reductions that might be applied by HEFCE are not accounted for in this budget and that there was the potential for a cut in the grant allocated to Goldsmiths to be applied;
- (iii) that tuition fee income had been increased this year;
- (iv) that an increased offer rate would not mean a decline in standards;
- (v) that the budget had been endorsed by Finances and Resources Committee;
- (vi) that the institution was investing in its estate to match the increased student numbers to protect the students' experience overall; and
- (vii) that the performance in league tables was an ongoing piece of work and will be brought back to Council.

8 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Received:

an oral report from the Chair of ARC and the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2015

Noted:

- (i) that Brian Lymbery had his final meeting last month, and that he had made an invaluable contribution to the Committee's work;
- (ii) that the Committee had two new independent members: Mr Chris Miller (Del Software), and Mr Steve Stanbury (City University internal auditor);
- (iii) that this year the Committee decided to change its name to reflect its role in respect of risk management;
- (iv) that, at its first and last meetings of the year, the Committee gave careful consideration to the Strategic Internal Audit Plan and satisfied itself that the right risks had been identified and that the plan met the audit needs of the College at this time;
- (v) that the Committee has received a report from management at each meeting this year as to the progress being made to implement the recommendations of both the internal and external auditors;

- (vi) that the Risk Register had been carefully scrutinised at each meeting and that the Registrar and Secretary has provided full reports on the risks and the control measures being taken to manage these;
- (vii) that the Audit and Risk Committee was satisfied with the adequacy and the effectiveness of the mechanisms for managing risk at the institution;
- (viii) that a new accounting standard, FRS102, would shortly come into force. The College needed to make considered decisions as to how to implement this and manage its impact. The Committee had received updates at each meeting about FRS 102 and had had some useful discussions on the subject;
- (ix) that, this year, the Committee had concerned itself more than ever before with academic control systems and governance and that it had been kept firmly abreast of progress with the QAA Higher Education Review; and
- (x) that, looking ahead, the Committee had identified a number of areas which require consideration. It will receive reports in relation to the College's Legal Compliance Framework, UKVI internal control processes and an audit of IT and Information Systems.

***9 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER**

Received:

an update of the Strategic Risk Register (D; 15-262R).

***10 SUSTAINING GOLDSMITHS**

Received

an update from the Pro-Warden (Research and Enterprise) on the programme (E; 15-288).

Noted:

- (i) that there was a detailed plan of the different projects in operation but the savings had not yet been quantified;
- (ii) that this would facilitate an easier resolution of localised problems and an improved planning process to enable the Pro-Wardens to manage their budgets; and
- (iii) that inter-School collaborations will be enabled through the Pro-Wardens and through an inter-disciplinary committee.

***11 PENSIONS UPDATE**

Noted:

- (i) that the consultation on the changes to the benefits structure for the USS pension scheme had now been completed and that work was underway to identify what will be needed to enable implementation;
- (ii) that USS had provided a window for the changes to be implemented; Goldsmiths was planning for April 2016; and
- (iii) that, for LPFA, a paper was currently being prepared to be discussed at FRC and then at Council in due course.

12 MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Received:

the minutes of the meetings for 2014/15 from the following committees of Council (F; 15-287):

- (i) HUMAN RESOURCES AND EQUALITIES COMMITTEE
- (ii) EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
- (iii) HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
- (iv) NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
- (v) FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
- (vi) JNCC
- (vii) DEGREES AND FELLOWSHIPS.

***13 EXTERNAL AUDIT TENDER**

Received

an oral update from the Director of Finance as to the tender process for the appointment of external auditors.

Noted:

that a tender process had been undertaken. A panel, which contained representatives from the Audit and Risk Committee, had met to consider the bidders.

Resolved:

to appoint Deloitte as the external auditors for the College from 1 July 2015 until 31 January 2019, subject to annual confirmation by Council.

14 ORDINANCES

Received:

the Ordinances for approval (Paper G, 15-290).

Resolved:

the Ordinances were approved and will have effect as of 1 September 2015.

15 STANDING ORDERS

Received:

amended Standing Orders for approval (Paper H,15-289).

Resolved:

the amended Standing Orders were approved and will have effect from 1 September 2015.

16 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015/16

Resolved:

the terms of reference, composition and membership for the committees of Council for 2015-16 were approved (Paper I, 15-291).

17 HEFCE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL RISK

Noted:

HEFCE's *Annual Assessment of Institutional Risk* (Paper J, 15-269R).

18 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Noted:

The following meetings for the 2015-2016 session were noted:

- 4pm on 24 September 2015 in PSH 3.26;
- 4pm on 26 November 2015 in PSH 3.26
- 4pm on 16 April 2016 in PSH 3.26; and
- 4pm on 30 June 2016 in PSH 3.26

***19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (OPEN BUSINESS)**

Noted:

None