

**GOLDSMITHS**  
University of London

**COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2014**

- Present:** Rt Hon Estelle Morris (in the Chair), Mr Nick Barron, Professor Roger Burrows, Dr Rupert Evenett, Mr James Grierson, Mr Howard Littler, Professor Mark d’Inverno, Mr Dan Lambeth, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Mr Patrick Loughrey, Mr Brian Lymbery, Dr Richard Noble, Mr David Richards, Ms Vivienne Rose, Ms Vanessa Sharp, Dr Derval Tubridy, Mr John Wadsworth, Ms Jessica Wanamaker, Mr Tom Wilson, Mr Philip Wright.
- Apologies:** Mr Dick Melly, Ms Jackie Morgan, Professor Jane Powell, Ms Cathy Runciman.
- In attendance:** Registrar and Secretary (Secretary), Director of Finance, Director of Human Resources, Director of Governance and Legal Services.
- Observers:** Ms Lucinda Parr, Ms Jen Grote

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**1 MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2014 be approved.

**2 STANDING ORDERS**

**Noted:**

the standing orders in force for all Goldsmiths Committees from 1 September 2014

**3 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS POLICY**

**Noted:**

the College policy on conflicts of interest had been circulated to all members.

**4 TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL**

**Noted:**

the Committee's terms of reference, composition and membership.

## 5 ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

### Received:

the annual schedule of business (14-436)

## 6 WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden gave an oral report on matters of interest, including an update on student recruitment numbers.

### Noted:

#### Student recruitment

- (i) Student recruitment for this session had been very successful and enrolment was now underway. It was expected that the Home/EU undergraduate (UG) target of 1780 would be achieved, with approximately one third of the cohort counting as off-quota, i.e. achieving at least ABB at A level or equivalent; the international UG target, 406, would be achieved; there were expected to be approximately 1100 Home/EU taught postgraduate enrolments against the target of 1200; the international postgraduate target would be exceeded (680 compared with a target of 650);
- (ii) the removal of the student number cap presented a rare opportunity for growth and expanding the academic offer, whilst potentially leading to more competition for students from other institutions, expected from to come from post-92 rather than Russell Group institutions;
- (iii) postgraduate recruitment remained a concern for the sector although our performance relative to other institutions was very good;
- (iv) the uncertainty about the funding gap should a new government reduce the UG fee to £6000.

#### Sustainable Goldsmiths

- (v) Sustainable Goldsmiths was a new project, led by Professor Mark d'Inverno, which would seek to explore ways of effective and efficient working that would enable a sustainable growth-led future. This would help Goldsmiths achieve its targets of producing surpluses in excess of 3%.

#### Pensions

- (vi) Goldsmiths had responded to the UUK consultation on proposed revision to USS scheme benefits and emphasised the need to ensure all options have been explored.

#### Local partnerships

- (vii) There was increasing engagement between Lewisham Council and Goldsmiths as local partners in New Cross, with shared aspirations for development of the local area and potential for alignment of plans, including opportunities for considering the masterplan in the context of wider locale. A meeting between representatives from the Council and Goldsmiths staff would take place the following week.

## 7 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

**Received:**

the Strategic Risk Register (14-437) and the annual HEFCE assessment of institutional risk (14-441)

**Noted:**

- (i) the ranking of several of the risks with a high rating should be reviewed;
- (ii) that HEFCE had assessed Goldsmiths as “not at high risk”.

**Resolved:**

that Audit and Risk Committee should review the “high” risks and report back to the next meeting of Council.

**8 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY****Received:**

the draft Community Engagement Strategy (14-438)

The draft strategy was enthusiastically received. It was noted that:

- (i) the draft strategy had been presented and discussed at SMT and External Relations Committee and these bodies would continue to play integral roles in its development;
- (ii) further iterations would incorporate research being undertaken in academic departments and centres as well as activities relating to community regeneration and our relationship with our students’ neighbours;
- (iii) the strategy should include some quantifiable elements, e.g. local expenditure, and have associated KPIs;
- (iv) there was an opportunity to integrate this strategy with elements of the Estates masterplan, and in particular, how we provide community access to buildings and events on campus;
- (v) there was a need for a dedicated resource to coordinate and provide a focus for the College’s activities in this area.

**Resolved:**

- (i) that the strategy should be developed further, taking account of the feedback provided;
- (ii) to allocate some resource to the coordination of this work;
- (iii) that External Relations Committee should consider the revised strategy, including appropriate KPIs and a further presentation should come to Council at a future meeting.

## **9 REVIEW OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

### **Received:**

a report on the review of Council committees (14-439)

### **Noted:**

- (i) the survey had been very well received and the overall response rate had been 75%;
- (ii) the responses were very positive, and a number of areas had been identified across all committees for improvement. These included providing inductions for members and improving the reporting and feedback between Council and its committees;
- (iii) the survey results indicated that some committees should be repurposed and that that work would be undertaken in the next phase in liaison with chairs.

Thanks were expressed to Ms Jen Grote, our graduate trainee from Kings College, for all her work on the review.

### **Resolved:**

- (i) to implement general improvements identified;
- (ii) to liaise with Chairs about any changes to individual committees;
- (iii) to disestablish Information Management Systems Committee with immediate effect, and to consult with the Chief Information Officer about transferring its business to him or other committees or groups as appropriate;
- (iv) to report progress back to the next meeting of Council.

## **10 ACADEMIC BOARD EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW**

### **Received:**

a report on the review of Academic Board committees (14-325)

### **Noted:**

the new terms of reference and composition approved by Academic Board.

## **11 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

### **Resolved:**

To renew the terms of membership on Council committees for the following independent members and members of Council

Ms Jessica Wanamaker – External Relations Committee (Chair)  
HHJ Mary Stacey – Human Resources Committee (Chair)  
Mr Dick Melly – Estates Committee  
Ms Cathy Runciman – Audit Committee

## **12 GENERAL AND ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**

### **Resolved:**

that the General Regulations (14-442) for 2014-15 be approved.

## **13 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS**

### **Received:**

a list of promotions of members of the academic staff with effect from 1 September 2014 (14-440).

## **14 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

### **Noted:**

the following dates of forthcoming meetings in 2014-15 (at 4.00pm):

27 NOVEMBER 2014

02 JULY 2015