

**GOLDSMITHS COLLEGE**  
**University of London**

**COUNCIL**

**ACADEMIC BOARD**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2006**

**Present:** Professor Geoffrey Crossick (Chair), Professor Dennis Atkinson, Mr John Backwell, Dr Herb Blumberg, Ms Hannah Bullivant, Dr Philip Broadhead, Dr Marie-Claude Canova-Green (*vice* Dr Josh Cohen), Dr Sophie Day, Professor Peter Dunwoodie, Dr Basem El-Haddadeh, Dr Richard Grayson, Ms Jennifer Huseman, Dr Helen Jones, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Professor Celia Lury, Professor Simon McVeigh, Ms Samyukta Mukhopahyay, Dr Steve Cottrell (*vice* Professor Keith Negus), Ms Mary Nixon, Mr Larry O'Carroll, Dr David Oswell, Professor Carrie Paechter, Professor Alan Pickering, Dr Len Platt, Professor Nirmala Rao, Ms Astrid Schmetterling, Professor Maria Shevtsova, Dr Gareth Stanton

**Apologies:** Mr Andrew Brett, Dr Simon Cohn, Mr Barry Douglas, Professor Michael Dutton, Ms Rosemary Harrison, Professor Janis Jefferies, Mr James Mudie, Mr Keith Potter, Mr Terry Rosenberg, Mrs Vivien Taibe, Ms Liz Thussu, Mr Ian Turner, Ms Joan Turner, Professor Geraint Wiggins, Professor Robert Zimmer

**In attendance:** Academic Registrar, Assistant Registrar (Programmes)

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**1 NEW MEMBERS OF ACADEMIC BOARD**

Noted:

that the Warden welcomed the following new members of Academic Board:

Professor Dennis Atkinson, Mr John Backwell, Ms Hannah Bullivant, Dr Marie-Claude Canova-Green, Dr Richard Grayson, Dr Basem El-Haddadeh, Ms Jennifer Huseman, Dr Helen Jones, Ms Mary Nixon, Mr Larry O'Carroll, Professor Alan Pickering

**2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Received:

the College Policy on Conflicts of Interest (S06.133)

**3 THE NEW COMMITTEE SYSTEM, AND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP OF ACADEMIC BOARD**

Received:

a paper on the new Committee System, including the Terms of Reference, Composition, and Membership of Academic Board (R/06/214)

#### **4 PRESENTATION CEREMONIES 2007**

Noted:

- i) that Presentation Ceremonies for 2007 would be held on 4, 5, 6, and 7 September 2007
- ii) that the numbers of academic staff attending from some departments had been very low, and that graduates and their guests were greatly appreciative of staff attending the ceremony itself as well as the gathering on College Green afterwards

#### **5 DEATH OF A FORMER MEMBER OF STAFF**

Noted:

with regret, the death of Monica Grist, who retired in 1999 from Credit Control in the Finance Department

#### **6 MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2006 (R/06/215)

#### **7 WARDEN'S REPORT**

Received:

an oral report from the Warden on developments in the higher education sector, both nationally and locally

Noted:

- i) Admissions
  - a) overall the College had had a reasonable year for admissions due to the hard work of all involved in the recruitment process combined with departments' willingness to be flexible and responsive. The final picture was still not absolutely clear as students were still enrolling. Nonetheless, it appeared that the College would meet its overall HEFCE contract numbers for Home / EU undergraduates. The general picture for overseas students was also encouraging in the context of a variable situation across the sector and a far more competitive international market: undergraduate overseas recruitment was on target while postgraduate overseas recruitment was a little below but represented a reasonable performance in a difficult year
  - b) however, there were areas for concern. Although the College had met its HEFCE contract numbers, it was possible that it might not achieve the additional student numbers for which extra HEFCE funding had been allocated. If this did not occur, this money would be held back and, if the numbers were not achieved in the following year, would be permanently lost. This would represent a serious financial problem for the College. It was therefore essential that departments continued to accept extra students if possible and also ensured that all students had fully enrolled. Furthermore, it was extremely important that departments worked to retain those students who had enrolled, since the date for the calculation of student numbers and its attendant funding was 1 December and any students who withdrew before then could not be included in the return.

- c) Home / EU postgraduate recruitment had been poor and the College was likely to be significantly under target in this area. This was concerning not only because of the impact on Additional Student Contract Numbers, but also because postgraduate growth was a key element in the College's strategy. Although some departments had met or exceeded their targets in this area, it had been the weakest aspect of the College's recruitment this year. It was felt that performance could have been improved in this area if more realistic numbers of offers had been made since a significant proportion of postgraduate applicants always failed to enrol. It was also felt that some students might have been lost to other institutions due to slow decision making in making offers.
  - d) it was therefore vital to ensure that late undergraduate applications were accepted wherever possible, that all returning students had enrolled, that any late postgraduate applications were turned around rapidly and registered and that everything possible was done to maximise retention in this term.
- (ii) University of London
- a) considerable progress had been made by the Working Group looking at the governance of the University. The sense of crisis which had prevailed a year ago had been replaced by a feeling of confidence in a strengthened and more stable future. Although Imperial College would be withdrawing from the University, it had been directly funded for over 40 years and had been quite detached for some time. Therefore, although the departure of a world-class institution was not positive, its impact was actually less significant than it might immediately have seemed.
  - b) the reform of the University was of greater importance. The 1994 University of London Act had given Colleges direct funding but left them legally subordinate to the University. This tension had resulted in the QAA being unwilling to express complete confidence in the University, although it had done so for each of its constituent Colleges. The governance reform aimed to create a framework which better reflected the reality of the University as a federal structure which served the collective interest of its members rather than a unitary university. It was intended that a new Collegiate Council, composed of the heads of all the Colleges, would drive the University, whilst a Board of Trustees, composed mainly of lay members, would have oversight of its assets. There would be far fewer committees and a streamlined central administration with reduced costs.
  - c) as part of the changes all Colleges had been encouraged to seek degree awarding powers. The College had already accepted the need to do this to safeguard its own position and mark its own autonomy, irrespective of the outcome of decisions over the future of the University. Although the College chose to be in the University, degree awarding powers would allow it to enter into collaborations both at home and abroad to award Goldsmiths degrees elsewhere. This would be a demanding process. However, planning was already underway for the scrutiny to take place in 2008 with the aim to have them in place by 2008 / 09. A full report would be made to Learning and Teaching Quality Committee and then to the next meeting of Academic Board and Council.
- (iii) Sector Issues
- a) the future of the RAE after 2008 was still the subject of debate. The Russell Group and the 1994 Group responses to the Government consultation were broadly similar. There was concern that, behind the debate over the use of metrics, lay a desire to shift the balance of QR funding towards STEM subjects. In the long term this was probably more important than the question of metrics. Any shift towards STEM subjects would have a serious effect on the College's QR funding, which was crucial for much of the research in most of its subjects.

- b) the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review was still in progress. This would be critical for the future funding of universities. There was some belief that research funding would hold up and could even grow in real terms, above all research council funding. However, teaching funding was far less certain. Debate was taking place over the precise meaning of “additionality”. Although the Government had reaffirmed its commitment to the principle of tuition fee income remaining additional to the money that would have been granted to universities, there was no way of demonstrating what that would have been. As public finances tightened it was likely that a period of much tighter public funding for HE would follow. It was therefore crucial that the College diversified its income streams, particularly bearing in mind its relatively high dependence on HEFCE funding.
- c) the importance of “employer engagement” was being emphasised by both the DfES and HEFCE. It was becoming clearer that this would involve employers both in shaping the curriculum and making financial contributions. It was unlikely to be particularly relevant to Goldsmiths’ undergraduate programmes, however there could be real potential at taught postgraduate level, including high level Continued Professional Development. Many departments already had a significant level of employer engagement which could be formalised and the Pro- Warden (Academic) was currently developing plans for creative industries activities which would include this. The College needed to be cautious but not fearful of this development: unreasonable employer interference would not be welcome but it would be key to future funding opportunities and we needed to shape the way we responded.
- d) the Government was becoming increasingly concerned about extremism on campus and what they saw as the possible radicalisation of moderate Muslim students. The Board of Universities UK had discussed this at its last meeting and had agreed that a far more balanced approach needed to be taken. Universities needed to be vigilant, and Goldsmiths would be so, but it was very important to defend the concept of a tolerant, open and integrated community which was critical to the nature of universities and, indeed, to the maintenance of stability in a multi-ethnic society. The College had discussed this with the Students’ Union and were in complete agreement on this approach.

## **8 REFORM OF HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSESSMENT FUNDING**

Received:

a draft response to the consultative exercise on the future methodology for research funding (R/ 06/216)

- i) the response to the Government’s consultation document was in two parts: a response from the 1994 Group and individual response from Goldsmiths which was an elaboration of some relevant points in the former.
- ii) it was accepted that the current system for the RAE would not continue. However, it was vital that QR funding remained genuinely independent from research council funding. Although the debate over a lighter touch assessment including the use of metrics and other measures was a welcome one, there would be serious concerns over any system which abandoned peer review. It was also important to consider similarities in the assessment of research in the arts and humanities and in the social sciences
- iii) it was suggested that the reference to a flexible approach in the use of metrics in question 6 of the document, could imply that this was more important than the principle of universality. It was vital, however, that the arts, humanities and social sciences did not cut themselves off from STEM subjects. It was felt that it might be possible to apply a universal overarching approach to both STEM and non-STEM subjects, whilst accepting that individual disciplines might

require some degree of flexibility. It was accepted that this could be made clearer within the response.

- iv) it was suggested that the responses seemed to be skewed towards practice-based research. However, it was pointed out that the College was committed to the 1994 Group position and its own response was only intended to make additional points, which explained the focus on practice.

**Recommended:**

**that the document be approved subject to the minor amendments mentioned above**

**9 AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREES OF MPhil AND PHD IN PERFORMANCE PRACTICE (MUSIC)**

**Resolved:**

to approve, on the recommendation of the Music Department, amendments to the assessment regulations for the MPhil and PhD in Performance Practice (Music) (R/06/221)

**10 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR**

Noted:

the action taken by the Chair since the last meeting of Academic Board on 24 May 2006 (R/06/217)

**11 SCHEDULE OF REGULAR ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

Received:

a schedule of regular items of business for Academic Board for the 2006-07 session (R/06/218)

**12 APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS**

Received:

details of appointments and promotions with effect from 1 September 2006 (R/06/219)

**13 VISITING FELLOWS**

Noted:

the names of Visiting Fellows invited by the Warden (R/06/220)

**14 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS**

Noted:

that the Pro-Warden (Academic) had approved, on behalf of the College Board of Examiners, the following External Examiners:

**Certificate / Diploma in Language and Contemporary Culture**

Dr Carys Jones  
Part-time lecturer  
Kings' College, University of London

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2009

**Psychology – Level 0 (integrated degree)**

Dr Roz Dixon  
Programme Director  
Birkbeck College, University of London

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2009

**BA Education Design and Technology: Secondary**

Ms Louise Davies  
Deputy Chief Executive  
The Design and Technology Association

For a period of 1 year from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2007

**BA English / joint degrees**

Professor Dianne Watt  
Professor of English  
University of Aberystwyth

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2009

**BMus Music, and BMus Popular Music Studies**

Professor Christopher Fox  
Research Professor in Music  
Brunel University

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2009

**BA Fine Art**

Mr Brian Chalkley  
Course Director of Postgraduate Fine Art  
Chelsea College Of Art and Design

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2009

**Diploma in Advanced Training in Art Psychotherapy**

Ms Helen Greenwood  
Senior Art Therapist  
Wakefield Health Authority

For a period of 1 year from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2006

**MA Art Psychotherapy**

Mrs Françoise Loertscher Rouge  
Psychoanalyst/Teacher  
Private practice

For a period of 2 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2007

**MA Social Work**

Dr Gillian Bridge  
Senior Lecturer in Social Policy  
London School of Economics

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2009

**MA Writing for Performance / Musical Theatre**

Professor Michael Patterson  
Professor of Theatre  
De Montfort University

For a period of 1 year from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2006

**MA Arts Administration and Cultural Politics**

Mrs Cara MacMahon  
Head of Subject, Arts Management  
De Montfort University

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2009

**MA Interactive Media: Critical Theory and Practice**

Dr Adrian MacKenzie  
Lecturer  
Lancaster University

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2008

**MRes English**

Professor Sue Thompson  
Professor of New Media  
De Montfort University

For a period of 2 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2007

**MA Screen Studies**

Dr Michele Pierson  
Lecturer  
King's College, University of London

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2009

**MA Political Communications**

Professor Bob Franklin  
Professor of Journalism Studies  
Cardiff University

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2006 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2009

**MA Criminology and Criminal Justice**

Dr Michael Cahill  
Reader in Social Policy/Deputy Head of Department  
University of Brighton

For a period of 2 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2004 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2006 (Amended  
dates. Previously reported to  
the Board on 12 October  
2005)

**MRes Media and Communications**

Dr Rachel Moseley  
Lecturer  
University of Warwick

For a period of 3 years from  
1<sup>st</sup> November 2003 to 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2006 (Amended  
dates. Previously reported to  
the Board on 6 October  
2004)

**15 NEXT MEETING**

Noted:

that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 29 November 2006, and that,  
exceptionally, this meeting would commence at 10.00am

AB/22  
REW/GB/October 2006