

**GOLDSMITHS  
University of London****ACADEMIC BOARD****ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE****Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2006**

Present: Professor Nirmala Rao (in the Chair), Ms Vicky Annand, Dr Philip Broadhead, Professor Michael Dutton, Dr Andrew Fisher, Mr Geraint Fox, Dr Andrea Gilroy, Dr Helen Jones, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Professor Carrie Paechter, Mr Bob Westaway, Professor Geraint Wiggins.

In attendance: Head of Secretariat (Secretary).

Apologies: Dr Gavin Butt, Ms Lante Yan'Kyaa (Students' Union).

**OPEN BUSINESS****1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST****Noted:**

the College's new Conflicts of Interest Policy, and in particular the section on conflicts of interest in relation to Committee Business (S06.133).

**2 THE NEW GOLDSMITHS COMMITTEE SYSTEM AND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION OF ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE****Received:**

an outline commentary on the new committee system introduced at Goldsmiths with effect from 1 September 2006, incorporating the Terms of Reference and Composition of Academic Development Committee for 2006-07 (R06/248).

**3 CREATIVE INDUSTRIES****Received:**

a paper from the Pro-Warden (Academic) concerning an outline proposal for a future Institute for Cultural and Creative Entrepreneurship (R06/249).

It was noted that it was proposed to apply, in collaboration with external partners, for a stream of HEFCE funding to launch the new Institute, the context of which required at least an initial focus on the undergraduate level.

A late draft of the bid would be for consideration at the next meeting of Academic Development Committee, at which point the Committee would be asked formally to recommend approval of the proposal, and of the collaborative partnerships involved.

**4 PLANS FOR THE FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee noted in particular from its terms of reference (item 2 above refers) its brief in relation to the strategic development of academic programmes. It was noted that the starting point for particular initiatives might arise from proposals made by members of the Committee themselves, from the Senior Management Team or other members of the College, or from outside institutions wishing to collaborate with the College.

Given the likely direction of future strategic developments, the Committee's specific role as the principal body charged with recommending new collaborative partnerships involving educational provision to Academic Board<sup>1</sup> seemed likely to become more significant with time. This meant that effective coordination with the work of the Senior Management Team was of crucial importance, and the Committee recognised the key role of the Pro-Warden (Academic) as its Chair in facilitating this liaison. The Committee were conscious in particular of the following issues:

- (i) The need to avoid a situation in which the Committee's deliberations on a proposed partnership might be pre-empted by negotiations already conducted on behalf of the Senior Management Team, to the extent that there might be embarrassment for the College were the partnership not to be approved.

Members of the Committee recognised that either the timing of negotiations with other institutions or the need for confidentiality would be likely to make it desirable on occasion for the Pro-Warden (Academic) to take Chair's Action on behalf of the Committee to approve a new partnership.

- (ii) The need for the Senior Management Team to reach a preliminary view on an outline proposal for development before significant time was invested by Academic Development Committee in more detailed work (a need which might also arise in relation to other activities within the Committee's scope).

It was noted that the Senior Management Team had explicit responsibilities in matters relating to risk management, and that the degree of risk considered appropriate for the College would be a key factor in the range of potential partnerships in the development of which it was appropriate to invest resources.

The Committee noted that the College hoped to obtain Degree Awarding Powers in 2008, and that obtaining these powers would impact crucially on the range of potential partnerships in which the College could engage. In view of this, the Committee agreed to request a paper from the Head of Quality for consideration at its next meeting, summarising the implications which attainment of Degree-Awarding Powers would have for the College's capacity to engage in specific types of academic development and partnership, taking into account any relevant issues relating to the University of London brand.

The attention of the Committee was drawn to the University of London External System as one existing framework by which the College could engage in a particular type of partnership with other institutions.

The institutional framework for joint degrees, in terms both of internal credit and the capacity to incorporate modules from other University of London institutions, was an area identified by the Committee as significant in determining the scope for innovation in future academic programmes - whether they were wholly internal or in partnership with other institutions.

## **5 NEXT MEETING**

Noted:

that the next meeting would be held at 2.00pm on Monday 12 February 2007, and that it was expected that at this meeting a report on the planning process would be for consideration.

RMH  
November 2006

---

<sup>1</sup> Item 3 of the terms of reference for 2006-07: *To propose new collaborative partnerships to Academic Board for approval, subject to consultation with the Learning and Teaching Quality Committee and Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee on matters within their scope, provided that proposals for partnerships intended within the foreseeable future to involve research collaboration only may be approved by Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee and Academic Board only.*