

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

**RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COMMITTEE
7 February 2007**

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2007

Present: Professor Simon McVeigh (in the Chair), Professor Scott Lash, Professor Angela McRobbie, Mr Mike Metelits, Professor Carrie Paechter, Dr Len Platt, Professor Nirmala Rao, Professor Maria Shevtsova, Professor Robert Zimmer, Ms Lynda Agili (Secretary)

Apologies: Professor Howard Caygill

In attendance: Academic Registrar, Management Accountant (Academic), Research Office Secretary, Research Development Officer

OPEN BUSINESS

22 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2006 (enclosed)

23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

Centre for Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement

- (i) the establishment of the Centre for Lifelong Learning and Community Engagement with effect from 8 January 2007, as a soft Centre attached to the Department of Professional and Community Education following approval by Academic Board

24 RAE 2008

Received:

an oral report from the Chair providing an update on the College dry run

Noted:

- (i) that the dry run exercise was nearly completed and had run very smoothly due to the hard work of departmental staff, excellent contributions from advisors and support from the Research Office
- (ii) that the special meeting of RKTC on 1 March would consider the dry run assessments for each member of academic staff, the potential profile for each departmental submission and make recommendations to the Warden and Senior

Management Team (SMT), bearing in mind the College strategic aim of achieving 2.5 average or higher in all UoAs

- (iii) that in keeping with Goldsmiths Code of Practice the Warden would make decisions on departmental and individual submissions following the advice of SMT

25 REFORM OF HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSESSMENT AND FUNDING CONSULTATION

Received:

the DFES:RAE Reform response summary (A; 07-024)

Noted:

- (i) that the use of metrics for research assessment will become the norm, but the change-over has been stalled for non-STEM subjects for which some form of peer review of outputs will be retained for an interim period
- (ii) that College must be prepared for the future assessment measures - a basket of metrics to include research income, esteem indicators, and postgraduate student metrics (especially completion rates), as well as some expert review of research outputs which might provide up to 50% of the overall grading
- (iii) that STEM subjects would be reassessed in 2009 whilst non-STEM subjects would retain the income apportioned from RAE 2008 for five years
- (iv) that most Goldsmiths disciplines would be non-STEM but there was a question over whether computing and psychology would be classified as STEM
- (v) that the dual support system had become a political battlefield between the DFES, which currently controls funding for HEFCE and consequently QR income, and the DTI, responsible for the OSI and consequently Research Council funding with a directive to make publicly funded research more directly applied
- (vi) that Goldsmiths must be prepared to compete in the new climate by ensuring PhD provision is demonstrably competitive, citations for bibliometrics are maximised and external funding is increased
- (vii) that it was vital that Goldsmiths ensured a good grading in the 2008 RAE as this would be the last traditional assessment before the new metrics systems were introduced
- (viii) that College staff must ensure to take an active part in policy debates on potential metrics assessment measures for social science, humanities and arts based disciplines

26 RCUK EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF PEER REVIEW PROJECT

Received:

the RCUK Consultation document, the College response, the 1994 Group response (B; 07-025), and the Warry report *Increasing the economic impact of Research Councils* (C; 07-026)

Noted:

- (i) that the proposals of the RCUK consultation document appeared to provide a

mandate for polarising Research Council funding into a small number of elite research universities

- (ii) that the HEI sector response to the document had been highly critical but that the Government may well still seek to develop the strategic aims of the project
- (iii) that, of the proposals suggested, institutional quotas were the least likely to be introduced in the short term, but consolidation grants could be anticipated to become more a feature of Research Council funding, so it is important that Goldsmiths forms strategic alliances internally and externally to maximise potential for the award of large-scale funding
- (iv) that the Warry report emphasised that Research Council funding should provide research that addressed economic, social and quality-of-life issues and encouraged collaboration with industrial partners, SMEs and NGOs
- (v) that Goldsmiths should seek to form groupings to capitalise on the creative industry sector and research with high social impact
- (vi) that in the light of current trends it was important that Goldsmiths should not be reliant on UK Research Council funding and should consider European funding opportunities - particularly with the launch of Framework Programme 7 and the European Research Council, both of which offer funding streams specifically targeting social science research

Resolved:

Research Office to help develop cross thematic research groups across departments to maximise on future research funding opportunities

27 REVIEW OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Received:

the executive summary of the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property (D; 07-027) and the Association for University Research and Industry Links (AURIL) Response to Call for Evidence (E; 07-028)

Noted:

- (i) that an Intellectual Property Officer was in the process of being appointed to the Business Development Office and would be specifically addressing the IP issues involved in contracts and the commercialisation of research
- (ii) that with the push towards open access publishing, academic staff must pay careful attention to copyright clauses when signing publisher contracts

28 APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

Received:

a revised summary of applications and awards for the last 5 years (F; 07-029)

Noted:

- (i) that the revised figures represented a significant increase in research income in 2006/07, the last figures eligible to be used for RAE 2008
- (ii) that it was important to ensure that all of the forecasted grant income was spent in

the year, therefore project leaders must ensure to spend budgets as originally proposed in their application to ensure maximising the research income to be reported to the RAE

29 DRAFT OBJECTIVES TO AMPLIFY COLLEGE'S STRATEGIC AIM TWO – RESEARCH AND STRATEGIC AIM SIX – BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY

Received:

the proposed Research Strategic Objectives and Business Strategic Objectives (G; 07-030)

Noted:

- (i) that a key research objective was to ensure strategic staff recruitment so as to develop initiatives and enhance areas of research in the light of changes to funding mechanisms
- (ii) that a further key objective was to establish strategic alliances and set up specific cross-boundary groupings to meet the likely future income streams
- (iii) that the Business strategy would look particularly at developing Knowledge Transfer products and partnerships within the cultural and creative industries sector

Resolved:

- (i) to establish a group within RKTC to consider potential research directions and collaborations in the context of the developing intellectual agenda of the College
- (ii) to agree the Research and Business objectives

30 COLLEGE RESEARCH FUNDS

Received:

the previous application form and guidelines for College Research Funds seedcorn funding competition (H; 07-031)

Noted:

- (i) that it was expected that College Research funds for 2007/08 would be £25,000, but that if this figure was increased there would be far greater potential for research development
- (ii) that funds would be best used by supporting a larger number of seedcorn projects across all disciplines rather than using large chunks for Fellowship awards or restricting funding to specific areas
- (iii) that early career researchers should be particularly encouraged
- (iv) that funding could be spent on travel, fieldwork and teaching buy-out to allow some concentrated research time for staff to develop viable pilot projects

Resolved:

- (i) to announce the competition early in the summer term for projects costing between £1000 to £3000 across all college disciplines

31 RESEARCH DISSEMINATION

Received:

an outline of future plans for dissemination of Goldsmiths research (I; 07-032)

Noted:

- (i) that an aim of the dissemination plan was to cut down on printed materials and move towards interactive web-based material which would facilitate showcasing Goldsmiths research expertise internally and externally
- (ii) that international links should be audited to assist with the development of strategic alliances

32 REVISED CONCORDAT AND CODE OF PRACTICE FOR CAREER MANAGEMENT OF RESEARCH STAFF IN THE HE SECTOR

Received:

the Universities UK statement on the revision of the Research Concordat for career management for research staff (J; 07-033)

Noted:

- (i) that Research Office was currently designing a programme of career development training for contract research staff using Roberts money

33 GRADUATE SCHOOL

Received:

a report on the development of the Graduate School and possibilities for future research activities (K; 07-039)

Noted:

- (i) that the progress report had been very well received and demonstrated the emphasis on building an interdisciplinary postgraduate community which regularly met to exchange ideas and practices
- (ii) that success of the Graduate School relied on student participation and encouragement of this by Departments
- (iii) that in 2007/08 Graduate School Officers planned to attend Department Boards and meetings to ensure the new services were fully communicated to all graduate students

34 AHRC PEER REVIEW PANEL AND COLLEGE NOMINATIONS

Received:

details of the AHRC nominations process (L; 07-034)

35 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Received:

the minutes of the Business Advisory Sub Committee held on 21 November 2006 (M; 07-035)

36 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY HORIZON SCANNING

Received:

a report of major research initiatives currently open for application
(N; 07-036)

37 RESEARCH OFFICE TRAINING SESSIONS

Received:

a paper on the Research Office contribution to the College Training and Development Programme for Spring 2007 (O; 07-037)

38 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Reported:

- i the following period of paid leave approved by Chair's action:
 - (a) Ms S Skaife, Dept of Professional and Community Education (19/2/07 – 1/6/07)

Received and approved:

- ii. reports following leave of absence (P; 07-038)
 - (a) Dr J Anim-Addo, Dept of English and Comparative Literature
 - (b) Prof J Curran, Dept of Media and Communications
 - (c) Prof D Keown, Dept of History
 - (d) Prof K Negus, Dept of Music
 - (e) Dr T Parnell, Dept of English and Comparative Literature
 - (f) Mr K Potter, Dept of Music
 - (g) Prof B Skeggs, Dept of Sociology

39 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

- (i) that a special meeting to consider the outcomes of the RAE dry run will be held on Thursday 1 March 2007 10.00 am to 4.00 pm in DTHB 110. Only Committee Members who have advised on dry-run panels need to attend.
- (ii) that the next full Research Committee will be held on Wednesday 9 May at 2.00pm in DTHB 110

LA
April 2007