

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

ACADEMIC BOARD

STUDENT COMMITTEE
31 October 2006

Present: Philip Broadhead, (Chair) Jayne Aldridge (Secretary) Mary Bright, Hannah Bullivant, Basem El-Haddadeh, Linda France, Derfel Owen, Bob Westaway

In Attendance: Anne Francis, Yetty Efunnuga (notetaker)

OPEN BUSINESS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Noted:

James Hutchinson, Jennifer Huseman, Ed Randell

2 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

No request were made

3 APPROVAL OF ITEMS FOR FORMAL DECISION

To confirm all formal decisions as proposed in the circulated papers; these were approved

4 MINUTES

As this is the first meeting of Student Committee there were no previous minutes of this committee to approve

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

As this is the first meeting of Student Committee there were no matters arising

MATTERS TO NOTE

6 COLLEGE POLICY ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Received:

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

Resolved:

Committee members resolved to inform the Chair if there was a conflict of interest at any future point

7 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STUDENT COMMITTEE

Received:

The terms of reference for Student Committee (R/06/253)

Noted:

The Chair explained that the committee would primarily develop and monitor strategies that would deliver the aims at Goldsmiths College

The Chair recommended that :

Liz Thussu(Head of Quality Affairs) should be in attendance at meetings.

Student Support Service section heads would receive committee papers and the Chair would invite them to attend from time to time to offer professional advice.

Resolved:

The Committee agreed to the Chair's recommendations

8 STUDENT EXPERIENCE STRATEGY

Committee members were invited to discuss the salient elements required for a student experience strategy

Chair announced Jayne Aldridge to lead the development the SES.

Noted:

Draft strategy and plan to be put in place by the end of the academic year. When developing the strategic, reference would be made to other strategies including LTO strategy to ensure there was harmony rather than contradiction. The plan to be updated every year and the key themes will be:-

Professional support to underpin learning

Cohesive progression policies

PDP with cross reference to LTS

Resolved:

The first draft strategy will be presented to the next Student Committee in February 2007 as a basis for further discussion.

9 REVIEW OF STUDENTS' UNION INDUCTION PROJECT

Committee members were invited to discuss paper number R/06/251.

Noted:

Excellent feedback received from students and parents during induction and 350 students visited the showcase.

Areas of concern: parents expressed concern at lack of activities on campus during the first weekend.

Resolved:

The Committee were supportive of the continuation of the induction and enrolment and agreed with most of the recommendations but felt further consideration should be given to increasing the level of activity across campus on the first weekend.

The Committee were wholly supportive of 'subject nights' proposals and will encourage departments to support this initiative.

10 FAIR TRADE UNIVERSITY STATUS

Committee members were invited to discuss paper number R/06/252.

Noted:

This is the culmination of the Students' Union work over the last two years.

There are now 40 higher education institutes with Fair Trade status.

GSU asked Student Committee to recommend Fair Trade status to the senior management team.

Mary Bright explained the RCCS was currently taking forward an application for 'The Green Gown' Award.

Resolved:

The Chair will take this initiative to the senior management team for discussion.

11 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR

Resolved:

The Committee approved the Chair's action taken to permit the attendance of Head of Careers at all Student Committee meetings

12 CHILDCARE REVIEW

Noted:

The Committee were invited to note the oral report from the Pro Warden (Students and Learning Development) on the current status of the childcare review. The childcare review report will now progress through the Committee stage for presentation to Council in December.

The review has made the following recommendations:

- To engage with local childminding networks
- To increase the information and advice available to student and staff parents e.g in maximising financial support for childcare
- To act as a Point of liaison with local boroughs (via SU) for half term childcare providers
- To support flexible working by employees whenever possible
- To consider the introduction of a childcare voucher system for staff if it can be operated at a cost neutral basis.
- To construct a one storey purpose-built nursery to be located beside the current nursery playground. It will accommodate 45 places and financial estimates have been predicated on a 50/50 staff student user ratio.

There will be an impact on fee levels and the proposed contract length is 52 weeks but the College able to offer a very good provision to students

The target date for delivery of the new system is 01 August 2007/

The Chair thanked Jayne Aldridge for all her hard work regarding progress on the childcare review.

13 DISABILITY EQUALITY DUTY

The Committee were invited to note the oral report from the Pro Warden (Students and Learning Development) on the progress of the Disability Equality Duty Working Group.

Noted:

Working group concerned to ensure this work goes forward and all relevant and necessary actions are put in place for legal implications.

Student Committee noted the challenges faced by physical accessibility for disabled staff and students on campus.

Resolved:

Student Committee members to give any comments on the paper to Katie Yates by COP Monday 6th November 2006.

OTHER BUSINESS

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The chair thanked to Jayne Aldridge for all work done across the College and sadly announced her departure from Goldsmiths to TVU at the end of January 2007.

Interim: Lucy Smith to attend on behalf of Student Support Services and decide acting secretary at a later date.

15 NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting will be held on 06 February 2007

JEA

October 2006