

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

COUNCIL

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2007

Present: Professor Geoffrey Crossick (Chair), Dr Toby Abse, Professor Dennis Atkinson, Dr Philip Broadhead, Ms Hannah Bullivant, Dr Debbie Custance, Dr Sophie Day, Professor Mark d'Inverno, Dr Basem El-Haddadeh, Mr Sam Fisher, Dr Rosalyn George, Mr Jack Gillis, Dr Richard Grayson, Dr Stella Harvey, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Professor Simon McVeigh, Professor Keith Negus, Ms Mary Nixon, Mr Larry O'Carroll, Dr David Oswell, Professor Carrie Paechter, Ms Angela Phillips, Professor Alan Pickering, Dr Frances Pine, Professor Len Platt, Mr Keith Potter, Professor Sanjay Seth, Dr Gareth Stanton, Ms Joan Turner

Apologies: Mr John Backwell, Ms Janet Bowens, Mr Andrew Brett, Professor Peter Dunwoodie, Professor John Hutnyk, Professor Janis Jefferies, Dr Helen Jones, Professor Nirmala Rao, Mr Terry Rosenberg, Ms Astrid Schmetterling, Professor Maria Shevtsova, Ms Liz Thussu

In attendance: Registrar and Secretary, Director of Finance, Academic Registrar, Deputy Academic Registrar, Deputy Examinations Officer, Assistant Registrar (Programmes)

OPEN BUSINESS

1 NEW STANDING ORDERS

Received:

revised Standing Orders (07-306).

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

Received:

the College Policy on Conflicts of Interest (07-307).

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

Received:

the terms of reference, composition and membership of the Board for 2007-08 (07-461).

4 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2007 (07-462).

5 MATTERS ARISING

Received:

a report from the Academic Registrar on matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2007 (07-463).

6 WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden gave an oral report, on developments in the higher education sector, both nationally and locally, including the following:

(i) Finance

The financial statements for 2006/07 were very encouraging. The College had recorded a £1million surplus despite predicting a deficit of £340,000. This was good news in the short term for the immediate boost to the College's cash and reserves. However, it was also particularly important for the long term as an indicator of the progress the College was beginning to make. The surplus was due to above target income growth both from student fees and research grants, coupled with a better control of expenditure within departments. The College was still projecting a deficit for the following year as a result of increased salary costs, and it would be necessary to continue to cut costs. Nonetheless, the new financial strategy appeared to be working.

(ii) Admissions

- a) It was unlikely that the College's Admissions position would be as good as in the previous year. The paper in the Items for Report gave a detailed report, but the overall picture could be summarised here. The key indicators for Home / EU recruitment were strong and, although it had been necessary to go into clearing for 265 places, these had been achieved with relative ease and there was a good deal of confidence that the College would achieve its contracted numbers for the HESES return.
- b) Overseas recruitment was also critical and, although numbers were growing, the College was still falling short of target. In an increasingly competitive global market, it would be necessary to focus strategic attention and resources on this area, which was critical to the financial strategy.
- c) A 14% fall in applications from Home / EU postgraduate students also gave cause for concern. Whilst it was positive to note that three-quarters of offers made by the College were accepted and it had to be noted that there was a downturn across the sector in this area, the College was still significantly short of its targets.
- d) Home / EU undergraduate recruitment was therefore the only area in which the College was recruiting to target and, although this was HEFCE funded and therefore the most secure of the three, it was also the area in which further growth was least in the College's hands since this could only be achieved through the granting of additional student numbers by HEFCE. It was important to work hard to ensure that the College's targets were stretching yet achievable. It would be necessary to ensure that its programmes and wider offer were attractive and that recruitment work was both properly organised and resourced.

- e) It was noted that the closure of the East London line could have an effect on applications. It was queried whether the College could exert greater pressure on Transport for London (TfL) to ensure alternative cheaper travel to the area through the rail network during this period. It was pointed out that significant efforts had been and would continue to be made to change the position of TfL. However, they had been resistant and, ultimately, the College had no power to make them do so. The Students Union were also campaigning for the extension of student discount to single tickets. All the College could do was to ensure that the cheapest and quickest alternative options were effectively communicated to students and applicants

(iii) Comprehensive Spending Review

- a) The government had announced the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in October. The review, which looked at funding both through HEFCE and to the Research Councils, would have significant implications for higher education funding over the following three years and it appeared that universities would fare better than the Research Councils.
- b) Although the precise details would not be clear until the Secretary of State's letter to HEFCE in January, HEFCE funding would be maintained over the period of the CSR. Funding through the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF), focussing on knowledge transfer to business, would rise by 80% to £150 million by 2010-11 and would be based on an income-driven formula. Although it was initially thought that this would not favour the College it now seemed that it could fare better than expected from the formula.
- c) Funding of the science base, as planned in the Ten-Year Framework would be maintained at 2.5% per annum in real terms. However, the HEFCE research funding stream (QR funding) would barely grow at all.
- d) Research Council funding would rise by 18% overall over three years. However, this would be distributed very unevenly. The College received most of this funding through ESRC, which would rise by 18% and AHRC, which would only rise by 12%. In the case of AHRC funding this would only equate to a 3% increase in real terms.
- e) The full economic costing of grants (fEC) would prove very costly for research councils and would not be fully covered by the increase in funding. Therefore, although universities which received grants would get more because of fECs, there would be a reduction in volume of grants making that funding harder to obtain.
- f) The College had been overly dependent on teaching and research capital to maintain and develop its estate and needed to diversify. It seemed that HEFCE teaching capital would remain unchanged but that research capital would now be reduced. The Science Research Investment Fund (SRIF) would be replaced by a more permanent formula-driven capital stream which would be calculated as an additional 10% based on fECs for research council grants. Research council income would therefore be crucial for this.

(iv) Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills

- a) The new department had been announced by the Prime Minister as part of the reorganisation of government. It was broadly good news that universities and the government's core agendas of research and innovation were now located within the same department. Having both sides of the dual support system within the same department would allow for better joint planning, whilst the possibility that this could give rise to conflicts was probably no greater than before.
- b) However, one of the first acts of the department had been the new policy on Equivalent and Lower Qualifications (ELQ) under which HEFCE, following instructions from the Secretary of State, proposed to remove funding for students studying for a qualification of an equivalent or

lower level to one that they had already obtained. There would be many exceptions, particularly in medicine, PGCE and strategic and endangered subjects. The aim of the policy was to redistribute £100 million within the HEFCE budget.

- c) This policy would have a very uneven impact across institutions: some, such as the Open University, would lose approximately one-third of their teaching grant. The College would be quite seriously hit by the policy, which would affect about 7% of students as well as income, and would result in a loss of £1 million in HEFCE funding. PACE would be particularly seriously affected, with up to 20% of students on some programmes holding an ELQ. The policy would take effect from 2008-09 although there would be transition funding to mitigate the effects of the policy for three years.
 - d) The policy cut across government priorities such as lifelong learning, skills retraining and vocational learning and had led to very strong protests from universities. Perhaps of even greater concern were the exemptions which applied to the policy, since for the first time the government had distinguished between programmes which it would and would not fund.
 - e) It would not be possible to overturn the policy so the College could only join the pressure to moderate it. SMT would need to consider its full implications in the new year, once the outcome of HEFCE's implementation consultation became clear, and to formulate an appropriate strategy. It would be necessary to decide whether to charge differentiated Home/EU fees for the same programmes as well as to consider the viability of programmes and the impact on departments. It was disappointing that such an unnecessary mess had been created for the sake of £100 million which, in terms of HEFCE funding, was an extremely small amount of money.
- (vi) University of London
- a) Consultation on the new governance system and new Statutes had taken place over the summer and, following some adjustments, the proposals had been presented to the University of London Council for approval, which would need to approve the changes twice before they could be presented to the Privy Council for approval to come into effect in 2008-09.
 - b) A long process was approaching its conclusion and, unsurprisingly, it was now experiencing some difficulties. The provost of UCL was insisting that the University of London subscription should be the same for all Colleges, irrespective of their size. However, this was really a policy issue rather than a question relating to Statutes or governance and it seemed unlikely that it would derail the process.
 - c) Of greater concern were the questions raised by the Bloomsbury colleges over the security of their occupation of University of London property in the event that they were to leave the University of London. This did impact on the Statutes and the role of the new Board of Trustees and would need to be resolved before the March meeting of Council if the University were to avoid serious difficulties. Although the Warden believed this problem could be resolved, success was by no means assured. The uncertainty made it all the more important for the College to obtain degree awarding powers.
 - d) Concern was expressed over the future of the University of London Union (ULU) and its newspaper "London Student". It was noted that ULU was experiencing some difficulties and would have to make changes which might well involve making cuts. It was also noted that ULU was requesting that it had observer status on major committees under the new Statutes.

7 RAE 2008

The following points were particularly noted:

- (i) The Warden wished to record his thanks to all involved in the preparation of the submission. Particular thanks were due to the Pro-Warden (Research and Enterprise) who had provided very strong leadership over a long period of time, and ensured that the process had run smoothly. The result was a submission of impressive quality.
- (ii) The Pro-Warden (Research and Enterprise) reported that the submission was 1,500 pages long and listed 344 Category A staff, equivalent to 228.9 FTEs in 16 Units of Assessment. Art and Design had been submitted separately and submissions in two Units of Assessments had been made from within PACE, which had not been submitted previously. It had been the largest project ever carried out by the College and it had been a significantly bureaucratic process. Nonetheless, it was hoped that it had also provided an opportunity to consider how the College would develop its research in the future.
- (iii) The results of the exercise would be published in December 2008 and would influence funding from 2009/2010.
- (iv) The RAE would now be replaced by the Research Excellence Framework. HEFCE's proposals for the new system were contained within a consultation document to which institutions had been invited to reply by February 2008. Since the deadline fell before the next meeting of Academic Board, it would not be possible to discuss it before responding. However, both Research Committee and SMT would consider the proposals and Heads of Departments would be fully involved in the process.
- (v) The new system for STEM subjects, which would be based on citations, would begin to come into effect from 2009 and would blend with the RAE over a four-year transition period. This would only affect the areas of computing and subjects allied to health at the College. The system for "non-STEM" subjects, which accounted for the bulk of College departments, had been less well defined; it was still not clear what would constitute the "light touch" peer review that would come into effect in 2012, nor the associated measures. This was problematic as it prevented the College from being able to plan the development of its research strategically.

8 NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

Received:

A report on the results of the 2007 National Student Survey (07-416)

The following points were particularly noted:

- (i) The National Student Survey was now in its third year and its importance was increasing. The performance of the College had not changed significantly since the previous year's survey. However, although there had only been a small decline, the College had dropped significantly in the overall table. In part this was due to the entry of some Russell Group institutions to the survey for the first time, which had pushed others down the list. However, it was also true that Universities across the country were looking at their results and acting: the College could not allow itself to be complacent and stand still. The Quality Office would be able to drill down into the data to give more detailed information and departments were urged to make use of this possibility to be aware of issues that needed to be addressed and to give a focussed response.
- (ii) A number of measures were already in place across the College: departmental learning and teaching strategies were an important tool in addressing students' expectations and difficulties

and the appointment of Assessment Fellows would provide the opportunity to devise new methods of assessment and to improve the quantity, type and timing of feedback given to students. The 3D Graduate scheme had also been established, which allowed departments to reflect on where skills and development issues were dealt with in the curriculum. However, there were still areas where the College could improve its performance, for example in the ability to learn from complaints, particularly if upheld.

- (iii) It was queried to what extent issues could be pursued through the planning round if specific funds were not set aside to address them. It was pointed out that the College had put extra funds into IT and the Library in the current year. These problems would have been addressed in any case to ensure the quality of the student experience but SMT was aware of the importance of such issues but it needed to be informed. It was also noted that it would be beneficial to identify and share best practice across departments.
- (iv) It was pointed out that there were a number of problems with the statistical data, which was very unstable. It was also noted that a response rate of 60% would not be considered high in some research areas. Nonetheless, it was accepted that prospective students might not be so statistically aware and that it was likely that the survey might influence their choice of institution. Furthermore, the institutions that were at the top of the survey were known to be those which had consistently focussed on these issues. It would be remiss to wait for a trend to appear before acting.
- (v) It was pointed out that the question of the way the College was perceived was a wider issue than simply the National Student Survey and that it needed to be aware of how it was being represented in a variety of media ranging from social networking sites to league tables.
- (vi) It was agreed that the College's aim should be to ensure that students had the best possible experience whilst studying at the institution.

9 LIFELONG LEARNING NETWORKS

Noted:

the further progress made by the College on Lifelong Learning Networks (LLNs) (07-330).

Resolved:

that the progression agreement with Lewisham College in Computing, promoted by the Creative Way LLN, be approved, subject to any minor drafting amendments which might be identified before the signing of the agreement.

10 CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE CULTURE AND LEARNING

Resolved:

to approve, on the recommendation of Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee, a proposal submitted by the Department of Educational Studies to establish a Centre for Language, Culture and Learning with effect from December 2007 (07-436).

11 POLITICS AND ETHICS RESEARCH UNIT

Noted:

that at its meeting on 21 November 2007, Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee had approved a proposal submitted by the Department of Politics to establish a Politics and Ethics Research Unit with effect from December 2007 (07-437).

12 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR

Noted:

the action taken by the Chair on behalf of Academic Board (07-464).

13 SCHEDULE OF REGULAR ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Received:

the schedule of regular items of business for Academic Board for the 2007-08 session (07-465).

14 ANNUAL REPORTS

Received:

the following Annual Reports:

- (i) Recruitment and Admissions (07-448)
- (ii) Enrolment 2007 (07-466)
- (iii) Careers (07-467)

15 UPDATE ON DEGREE AWARDING POWERS AND INSTITUTIONAL AUDIT

Received:

an update from the Head of Quality and Governance on Degree Awarding Powers and Institutional Audit (07-420).

16 OPERATION OF THE QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESSES IN 2006-07

Received:

details of the operation of the quality assurance processes in 2006-07 (07-212).

17 PORTFOLIO REVIEW

Noted:

the contents of the report from the Head of Quality and Governance on the Portfolio Review (07-332).

18 DIGEST OF DEPARTMENTAL BOARDS

Received:

a digest of Departmental Boards 2006-07 from the Academic Registrar (07-468).

19 BURGESS GROUP FINAL REPORT

Received:

the Executive Summary of the Burgess Group's Final Report (07-469).

20 ACADEMIC BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Received:

the minutes from the following committees of Academic Board:

- (i) Academic Development Committee, 16 October 2007 (07-471)
- (ii) Equality and Diversity Committee, 15 May 2007 (07-472)
- (iii) Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, 23 May 2007 (07-473).

21 APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Noted:

appointments and promotions with effect from 1 September 2007 (07-456).

22 PRO-WARDEN (STUDENTS AND LEARNING DEVELOPMENT)

Noted:

that Council had approved the re-appointment of Dr Philip Broadhead as Pro-Warden (Students and Learning Development) for the period of 1 September 2007 to 31 August 2011.

23 AWARDS, PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Received:

details of the awards, prizes and scholarships awarded to students (07-474).

24 DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSE TO THE PERIODIC REVIEW OF COLLABORATIVE PROVISION WITH ITP BERN

Received:

the departmental response to the Periodic Review of collaborative provision with ITP Bern (07-233).

25 VISITING FELLOWS

Noted:

the names of Visiting Fellows invited by the Warden (07-470).

26 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

Noted:

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

BA Design

Ms Fiona Raby
Partner/Tutor
Dunne Raby Partnership
Royal College of Art

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

BA Design and Technology Education (Secondary)

Mr Peter Grover
Senior Academic/Head of Programme Area
Sheffield Hallam University

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

BA Economics, Politics and Public Policy/BA Politics and Economics

Dr Andrew Brian Trigg
Senior Lecturer
Open University

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

BA International Media

Dr Karen Lury
Reader
University of Glasgow

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

BA English/BA English and American Literature

Dr Graham Thompson
University of Nottingham
Associate Professor of American Studies

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

BA English/joint degrees

Professor Frank Tallett
Professor of Early Modern European History
University of Reading

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

Professor Ralph Pite
University of Bristol
Director of Centre for Romantic Studies

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

BA/Diploma in English (External Degree)

Professor William R Owens
The Open University
Professor of English

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

BA European Studies/Spanish and Latin American Studies

Dr Ulrike Zitzlsperger
University of Exeter
Senior Lecturer

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

Dr Susan Bainbrigge
University of Edinburgh
Senior Lecturer

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

BSc Computing programmes/External Degree

Professor Michael Luck
Professor of Computer Science
Kings College, University of London

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

BA Media and Communications/joint degree

Ms Rosalind Brunt
Sheffield Hallam University
Visiting Research Fellow

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

BA Sociology/joint degrees

Professor Sara Arber
Co-Director of CRAG
University of Surrey

For a period of 1 year from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2008

PGCE Secondary – Chief Examiner

Professor Kate Jaques
Dean of FO, Education and Contemporary Studies
De Montford University

For a period of 1 year from
1st November 2006 to 30th
September 2007

PG Certificate in Management of Learning and Teaching

Ms Fran Beaton
Course Director and Chief Examiner in PGC in
HE/Lecturer in HE and Academic Practice
University of Kent

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

MA Media and Communications

Dr Sean Nixon
University of Essex
Senior Lecturer

For a period of 1 year from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2008

MA Social Research

Professor Joan Busfield
Professor of Sociology
University of Essex

For a period of 1 year from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2008

MA Social Work

Professor Charlotte Williams
Head of School
Keele University

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

MFA Computational Studio Arts

Dr Charlie Gere
Reader in New Media Research
Lancaster University

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

MMus Historical Musicology

Professor John Whenham
Professor of Music
University of Birmingham

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

MRes Media and Communications

Dr Suki Ali
Programme and Course Convenor
London School of Economics

For a period of 1 year from
1st November 2006 to 30th
September 2007

MRes Politics/Public Policy/European Politics
Professor Clive Seale
Research Professor of Sociology
Brunel University

For a period of 3 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2010

27 DEATH OF AN HONORARY FELLOW

Noted:

with regret, the death of Andy Hawkins, conferred as an Honorary Fellow in September 1995.

28 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 27 February 2008 at 2.00pm.

AB/26
REW/December 2007