

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

COUNCIL

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2008

Present: Professor Geoffrey Crossick (Chair), Professor Dennis Atkinson, Mr John Backwell, Dr Philip Broadhead, Dr Debbie Custance, Professor Mark d'Inverno, Dr Basem El-Haddadeh, Dr Rosalyn George, Mr Jack Gillis, Dr Richard Grayson, Dr Stella Harvey, Professor John Hutnyk, Dr Helen Jones, Professor Michael Keith, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Professor Simon McVeigh, Professor Keith Negus, Ms Mary Nixon, Professor Carrie Paechter, Professor Alan Pickering, Dr Frances Pine, Professor Len Platt, Professor Nirmala Rao, Ms Astrid Schmetterling, Professor Kay Stables, Dr Gareth Stanton, Dr Derval Tubridy, Professor Geraint Wiggins, Dr Michael Young *vice* Dr Stephen Cottrell

Apologies: Professor Sophie Day, Mr Barry Douglas, Professor Peter Dunwoodie, Mr Sam Fisher, Professor Janis Jefferies, Dr David Oswell, Mr Terry Rosenberg, Professor Sanjay Seth, Professor Maria Shevtsova, Ms Joan Turner, Mr Robert Westaway

In attendance: Registrar and Secretary, Deputy Academic Registrar, Head of Quality and Governance, Head of Secretariat, Head of Learning and Teaching, Deputy Examinations Officer

OPEN BUSINESS

29 QAA ATTENDANCE

Noted:

that no member of the Degree Awarding Powers assessment team would be present at the meeting.

30 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2007 subject to minute 22, Pro-Warden (Students and Learning Development), being amended so that the period was "1 September 2008 to 31 August 2012" (08-95).

31 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Received:

a report from the Academic Registrar on matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2007 (08-96).

32 WARDEN'S REPORT

Received:

a written report from the Warden on developments in the higher education sector, both nationally and locally (08-97).

The following points were particularly noted:

- (i) DIUS Grant Letter to HEFCE
 - a) the letter set out a position that should allow for reasonable stability for the sector to go forward. However there was increasing anxiety across the sector about finances focusing particularly on increasing staffing costs. The next salary increase to come out of the pay settlement would be 3% in May 2008 followed in October 2008 by a further increase of either 2.5% or the RPI, which was expected to be around 3 to 4%.
 - b) pensions continued to be a real challenge to financial stability. Substantial contributions had been made to the LPFA scheme to maintain final-salary benefits. Currently the USS scheme was undergoing a revaluation and there were concerns that it would also show very major deficits which would lead to substantial increases in contributions from 2009. Concern was expressed as only ten years ago the USS had had good resources and could cover commitments. It was noted that other factors had become relevant including the increasing longevity of members and the need to cover all liabilities including those of younger contributors in their projections into the future.

- (ii) Research Councils

the funding problems of Research Councils were highlighted in the report especially those affecting the AHRC. There would be more competition for awards although it was noted that Goldsmiths had a very good success rate and submitted top-quality applications. The cuts affecting the number of AHRC studentships would be mitigated by Goldsmiths status as a big player obtaining the 6th highest number of awards in the country despite the size of the institution. Goldsmiths could be confident about receiving grants in a more competitive atmosphere as long as applicants continued to submit high-quality applications. Although all HEIs would have less success Goldsmiths must keep applying and exploit its strengths.

- (iii) Equivalent or Lower Qualifications

concern was raised in relation to PhD research students applying for the 1+3 competitive awards, many of whom already had a Masters qualification from another institution but who were required to take a research based Masters in the first year. It was confirmed that such students should if they obtained Research Council 1+3 awards not be charged the higher fee for ELQ students notwithstanding their ELQ status. It was noted that some institutions were moving to the 2+2 (MPhil/PhD) model to take research students out of the ELQ requirements.

33 ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS REPORT

Received:

a report on Examinations, including the Digest of External Examiner Reports, and class percentage figures for undergraduate and postgraduate students (08-98).

Noted:

- (i) the report was considered too lengthy for Academic Board to consider in detail and should be submitted to the Standards Scrutiny Sub-Committee where any particular comments or areas for discussion could be raised. A less detailed report should be submitted to Academic Board each year for consideration.
- (ii) apologies received from Media and Communications Department, a report for MA Theory examinations was submitted in error, a full undergraduate report would be made available to the Standards Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
- (iii) that there was some disparity with respect to the figures on plagiarism. The Psychology Department reported 18 cases but the report from the Examinations Officer reported no cases, this may have been because the cases were resolved within the department.
- (iv) that some students were writing their names on their examination paper despite being told to only enter their candidate number. An announcement at the beginning of every examination to the effect that examination scripts that had a student's name on would not be marked would resolve the issue.

Resolved:

to refer the Annual Examinations Report to the next meeting of the Standards Scrutiny Sub-Committee for its consideration.

34 ANNUAL REPORT ON STUDENT APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS 2007-2008

Received:

the Annual Report on Student Appeals and Complaints 2007-2008 (08-99).

Noted:

- (i) that it had taken up to fifteen weeks for some complaints to be dealt with. The OIA were critical of long delays in responding to students. It was inevitable that there was some delay during the summer but Departments were urged to consider ways of dealing with complaints and appeals more promptly.
- (ii) that seventeen complaints were received by the Academic Registrar and, although this was still a fairly low number, it was a considerable increase on former years.
- (iii) that the OIA expected written notes of interviews conducted with students and where none existed they tended to believe the student's version of events. Departments were urged to place notes of meetings with students on file as evidence for future reference.
- (iv) that some students might be seen as vexatious litigants and what were groundless complaints took an inordinate amount of time and caused staff a great deal of stress. However the establishment of the OIA was welcomed as providing a significant place for students to take valid complaints. A third of the cases taken to the OIA were found in favour of the student and institutions needed to ensure that inadequate practices or procedures were reviewed. Nonetheless student complaints were a useful means of measuring student feedback.
- (v) that, in the context of the time taken to deal with an appeal, the Board noted students' right of access, under the Data Protection Act, to all recorded information held by the College concerning their academic performance and the importance, especially in appeal cases, of

prompt action at departmental level to release such information directly to students under the Informal Access to Personal Files Policy (within the College Data Protection Policy).

Resolved:

that the Head of Secretariat would circulate a reminder to Heads of Department to draw attention to the procedures.

35 COLLEGE'S RESPONSE TO THE HEFCE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION

Received:

the College's response to the HEFCE Research Excellence Framework consultation (08-37).

Noted:

the response had been submitted with constructive suggestions allowing continuing issues to be raised, rather than a critical response which might lead to the collapse of the framework to be replaced with something far less acceptable. A key aim in developing the framework would be to reduce the burden on researchers and HEIs and a better data, user-friendly management system was essential to this aim. Fairly negative reactions had been received from the Research Councils and from the science associations. It was hoped that HEFCE might slow the pace of its progress in light of the comments received.

36 CREDIT FRAMEWORK FOR QUALIFICATIONS AT GOLDSMITHS

Received:

a proposal for the introduction of a credit framework at Goldsmiths (08-30R).

Noted:

- (i) that the Learning and Teaching Quality Committee was recommending to the Academic Board the approval in principle that a credit framework should be introduced; noting that it would support a range of strategic initiatives in the College, including more interdisciplinarity and flexibility of study.
- (ii) that the recent Burgess Report had recommended the introduction of a national credit framework, as it was considered to be an advantage to students, giving them greater flexibility and that it would also improve engagement with employers.
- (iii) that both the current undergraduate unitised degree scheme and the postgraduate framework already had a structure that could be described in terms of credit.
- (iv) that careful consideration would have to be given as to the level at which credit would be awarded (i.e at programme or individual course unit level).
- (v) concern that the introduction of a credit framework would not militate against the assessment of overarching skills and attributes at programme level.
- (vi) that the introduction of a credit framework raised the question of compensation for and condonement of failure and the various approaches to this had been considered in the Standards Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

Resolved:

that a paper be produced for consideration by Departments, setting out the rationale for the credit framework and giving the advantages and disadvantages of the different options. The paper to be supported by evidence of what comparative institutions were adopting, namely the 1994 Group and other Colleges of the University of London. Following consultation with Departments a further paper be presented to the Standards Scrutiny Sub-Committee before being submitted to Academic Board.

37 STUDENT EXPERIENCE STRATEGY

Received:

the College's Student Experience Strategy (07-402R).

Noted:

that the Student Experience Strategy was the result of wide consultation throughout the College and had been considered by Student Committee on 5 February 2008. The strategy ensures that the student experience was viewed from the student position and would become the College action plan over the next four years.

Resolved:

to approve, on the recommendation of Student Committee, the Student Experience Strategy.

38 ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Resolved:

- (i) that the proposal to amend the undergraduate pass-mark to 40, and any associated changes, had now been deferred and that proposals would be brought in parallel with those for the credit framework (08-56).
- (ii) that the generic grading descriptions used for taught postgraduates would be extended, with effect from 2008/09, to undergraduate degrees.

39 AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL REGULATIONS

Recommended:

that amendments to the General Regulations be approved with effect from 1 September 2008 (08-101).

40 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITIONS OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

to approve recommendations concerning proposed amendments to terms of reference and compositions of committees with effect from 1 September 2008 (08-102).

41 VARIATIONS TO STANDARD TERM DATES 2008-2009

Resolved:

to approve variations to the standard term dates for 2008-2009 (08-103) subject to the following amendments:

(i) PGCE Primary programmes

Autumn term 15.09.08 – 19.12.08

Spring term 05.01.09 – 27.03.09

Summer term 20.04.09 – 10.07.09

(ii) PGCE Secondary programmes

Autumn term 08.09.08 – 19.12.08

Spring term 05.01.09 – 03.04.09

Summer term 20.04.09 – 26.06.09

42 ANNUAL REPORT ON DISABILITY

Received:

the Annual Report on the Disability Scheme (08-21R).

43 DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME

Received:

the Disability Equality Scheme and updated Action Plan (08-20).

44 ACADEMIC BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Received:

the minutes from the following committees of Academic Board:

(i) Academic Development Committee, 22 January 2008 (08-106).

(ii) Equality and Diversity Committee, 31 October 2007 (08-107).

(iii) Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, 14 November 2007 (08-108).

(iv) Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee, 9 May 2007 (08-109), and 21 November 2007 (08-110).

(v) Student Committee, 6 February 2007 (08-111), 15 May 2007 (08-112), and 30 October 2007 (08-113).

45 VISITING FELLOWS

Noted:

the names of Visiting Fellows invited by the Warden (08-104).

46 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:

Diploma in Jazz and Popular Music

Dr Frank Millward
Senior Lecturer
Kingston University

For a period of 2 years from
1st November 2007 to 30th
September 2009

Foundation Certificate – Year 0 Anthropology

Dr William Redwood
Lecturer
University College London, University of London

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

BA Drama and Theatre Arts

Dr Claire MacDonald
Director International Centre for Fine Art Research
University of the Arts

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

BA Education, Culture and Society

Dr Elizabeth Brooker
Course Leader for Early Years MA
Institute of Education, University of London

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

BA History/joint degrees

Professor Jonathan Barry
Associate Professor of History
Head of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Exeter

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

BA Social and Cultural Studies

Professor William Richard Jones
Development Officer
National Institute of Adult and Continuing Education

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

BA Social Work

Dr Derek Kirton
Lecturer in Social Policy and Social Work
University of Kent

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

BA Textiles

Ms Victoria Mitchell
Course Leader for MA Textiles/Senior Tutor
Norwich School of Art and Design

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

BSc Computing (Year 0 – Foundation Year)

Dr Benjamin Cosh
Programme Director/Deputy Faculty Director for Science
and Life Sciences
University of Reading

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

BSc Psychology

Dr Patrick Leman
Reader
Royal Holloway, University of London

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

PGCE Primary

Ms Soo Sturrock
Senior Lecturer/Course Leader
University of Brighton

For a period of 1 year from
1st November 2008 to 30th
September 2009 (sic)

PGCE Secondary – Chief Examiner

Mr Terence Lamb
Director of Initial Teacher Education
University of Sheffield

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

PGCE Secondary Art and Design

Dr John Steers
General Secretary
National Society for Education in Art and Design

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

PGCE Secondary Drama

Mr Keith Palmer
Drama Pathway Co-ordinator
University of Plymouth

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

PGCE Secondary Modular English

Mr Jon Berry
Course Tutor PGCE Secondary English
University of Hertfordshire

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

**MA Anthropology and Cultural Politics, and MA
Social Anthropology**

Dr Mark Harris
Lecturer
University of St. Andrews

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

**MA Art Psychotherapy, and MA (Add On) Art
Psychotherapy**

Ms Philippa Kate Somerville Brown
Principle Lecturer/Programme Leader
University of Hertfordshire

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

MA Cultural Industry

Dr Stefan Szczelkun
Senior Lecturer, CARTE
University of Westminster

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

**MA Development and Rights, and MA Health and the
Body in the 21st Century**

Dr Ian Harper
Senior Lecturer
University of Edinburgh

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

MA Feature Film

Professor Roger Shannon
Professor of Film, and Film Producer at SWISH
Edge Hill University, Liverpool

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

MA Gender and Culture

Professor Donna Landry
Professor of English
Rutherford College, University of Kent

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

MA Media Practice Programmes

Mr James Rhys Davies
Lecturer Grade B
Royal Holloway, University of London

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

MA Performance and Culture

Dr Hugh Denard
Lecturer
King's College, University of London

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

MSc Research Methods in Psychology

Dr Tim Rakow
Senior Lecturer in Psychology
University of Essex

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

MRes Anthropology, and MA Visual Anthropology

Dr Glenn Bowman
Senior Lecturer
Eliot College, University of Kent

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

MRes Art Psychotherapy

Dr Chris Wood
Programme Director of MA/MRes Art Psychotherapy
Sheffield Trusts (validated by Leeds Metropolitan
University)

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

47 DEATH OF A FORMER MEMBER OF STAFF

Noted:

with regret, the death of Dave Walsh, former member of staff and Head of the Department of Sociology.

48 DEATH OF A STUDENT

Noted:

with regret, the death of Paul Hendrich, a student on the MRes in Anthropology.

49 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 4 June 2008 at 2.00pm.

50 APPOINTED ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

to approve appointed academic membership of committees with effect from 1 September 2008 (08-105).

**AB/27
VT/March 2008**

