

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

COUNCIL
13 March 2008

- Present:** Mr Christopher Jonas (in the Chair), Sir Keith Ajegbo, Mr Mark Baillache, Mr Jack Barnes, Dr David Barrett, Dr Virginia Brooke, Dr Philip Broadhead, Ms Hannah Bullivant, Professor Geoffrey Crossick, Lady Goodhart, Dr Richard Grayson, The Earl of Harrowby, Mr Kenneth May, Mrs Alyson McGarrigle, Professor Simon McVeigh, Baroness Morris, Mr Pádraig O'Connor, Professor Carrie Paechter, Dr Gareth Stanton, Ms Colleen Toomey.
- Apologies:** Mr Bob Annibale, Ms Althea Efunshile, Dr Richard Grayson, Dr Janet Hand, Ms Samyukta Mukhopadhyay, Mr Dick Melly, Professor Nirmala Rao.
- In attendance:** Registrar and Secretary (Secretary), Director of Finance, Academic Registrar, Head of Secretariat.
- Observers:** Two representatives of UCU, Ms Vicky Annand and Dr Peter Findlay (Assistant Director, Quality Assurance Agency).

OPEN BUSINESS

86 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2007 be approved.

87 REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR

Received:

a report on action taken by the Chair since the last meeting of Council (08-133).

(i) Headships of Academic Departments
(29 November 2007, Minute 85 refers)

Noted:

that the following Heads of Department had been appointed:

Anthropology: Dr Frances Pine (from 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2011);
English and Comparative Literature: Professor Alan Downie (from 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2011);
Art: Professor Kay Stables (from 5 February to 31 August 2008).

(ii) Consultation on the proposed University of London Statutes
(29 November 2007, Minute 74 refers)

Noted:

- (i) that, following circulation of the proposals for the new University of London statutes (paper 08-26), 18 Council members had responded by the due date, all of whom supported the proposition that Council give its consent to the new statutes without a meeting;

- (ii) that accordingly the Chair had agreed on Council's behalf to its consent to the making of the new statutes being given to the University of London.

88 WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden gave an oral report, including the following matters:

- (i) the intention of the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to initiate a review of higher education by inviting specific individuals or organisations to make contributions on specific themes by September 2008;
- (ii) HEFCE grant funding for 2008, which was broadly in line with expectations, with opportunities to bid for Additional Student Numbers; the grant letter to HEFCE identified four priority areas of research and innovation; increasing student numbers; widening participation and creating new relationships with employers;
- (iii) continuing financial problems for universities due to the 2006 pay settlement, and anticipated higher employer costs of the Universities Superannuation Scheme following re-valuation in 2008;
- (iv) research grant funding, in which Goldsmiths had been improving its performance, but where adverse effects were nevertheless expected from the very low increase in funding to the Arts and Humanities Research Council;
- (v) the overall positive situation regarding Goldsmiths' student recruitment, although with a fall in overseas undergraduate applications by comparison with the previous year, coupled with uncertainty about the future effect of undergraduate variable fees on home postgraduate recruitment;
- (vi) the completion of the review of the Department of Art, and the work which had already commenced by the new leadership group of members of the Department established by the Warden under Professor Kay Stables as Head of Department.

89 GOLDSMITHS' APPROACH TO GROWTH

(29 November 2007, Minute 70 refers)

The Registrar and Secretary reported on proposals for taking forward the discussions at the last meeting concerning the Growth agenda. Two early evening meetings would be held to which all Council members would be invited for further discussion of this matter. Papers and presentations would be provided by College officers, but the aim would be to provide material for Council members to discuss rather than to present proposals for approval. It was envisaged that the two meetings would consider:

- (i) endogenous growth – ie growth from within or arising from the current disciplines within Goldsmiths;
- (ii) exogenous growth – ie growth by incorporation of new areas and new partnerships, or from other forms of activity.

90 EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Received:

a discussion paper by the Registrar and Secretary (08-134), concerning the various types of external collaboration available to the College.

During a wide-ranging discussion, several members drew attention to the differences, and indeed potential tensions, between corporate-level and individual collaborations. The importance of external relationships cultivated by individuals within the institution should not be under-estimated. It was important that

arrangements for institutional contact management, and for the sharing of the profits of intellectual property, should not discourage such individual relationships, although the institution should be alert to the potential for developing them at corporate level where that was clearly beneficial and could provide stability in the face of staff changes.

It was noted that the College should be alert to the possibility of using the personal contacts of independent members of Council for developing international relationships, in particular in the case of contacts at governmental level. Alumni might also have an important contribution to make to external relationships.

Several members stressed the importance of a clear ethical framework for the choice of partners, so that collaboration was only established with institutions having compatible values. The benefits of collaboration with the right kind of external institution needed to be seen more widely than in terms of purely financial advantage, and placed in a context of social responsibility.

91 DISABILITY EQUALITY SCHEME

Received:

an updated Action Plan on the Disability Scheme (08-20) and an Annual Report on the Disability Scheme (08-21R).

The Council noted that the proportion of disabled staff was apparently low, but that it was suspected that this arose partly from staff not declaring their disabilities.

Several members of Council drew attention to the importance of integrating awareness of the needs of the disabled with planning for the Estate, and of ensuring that sufficient provision was available within the Estates budget for appropriate developments, including a prompt response to the needs of individual disabled members of the institution.

92 COLLEGE COMPANIES

Received:

A paper containing proposals for the establishment of two companies in which the College would have a legal interest (08-94).

Resolved:

(i) that a wholly-owned company, to be known as PureGoldsmiths, be established;

(ii) that the composition of the Board of PureGoldsmiths be as follows:

**Head of Business Development of the College (Managing Director *ex officio*)
Director of Finance of the College
Registrar and Secretary of the College
A further board member appointed by the Warden**

Company Secretary: The Financial Accountant of the College

(iii) that the College should participate, with a 35 percent share, in the establishment of a company, provisionally known as *Mutators*, along the lines set out in paper 08-94.

Noted:

that a further specialist Board member might need to be added to *Mutators*, to be appointed by the Warden.

93 TUITION FEES

Received:

proposals from Finance and Resources Committee concerning Tuition Fees in 2009-10 and the future mechanism for fixing Tuition Fees (08-92).

Resolved:

- (i) that the arrangements for 2009-10 tuition fees, as set out in paper 08-92, be approved;**
- (ii) that the terms of reference of the Senior Management Team be amended to include the setting of all tuition fees and fee bands (Minute 96 below refers).**

94 FINANCIAL POSITION OF RESIDENCES, CATERING AND CONFERENCES, AND HALL FEES 2008-09

Resolved:

that the proposed Hall Fees for 2008-09, involving an increase of 4.5% in five Halls and no increase in fees at Batavia Mews, be approved (08-93R).

95 AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL REGULATIONS

Resolved:

to approve amendments to General Regulations with effect from 1 September 2008 (08-101).

The Students' Union drew attention to two matters relating to the proposed amendments:

- (i) The new requirements on attendance, (Regulation 9), which were made necessary by new immigration control arrangements at national level, but had the potential to affect students more widely and therefore needed to be communicated clearly to the whole student population;**
- (ii) the importance of sensitive handling of the new disciplinary offence relating to the irresponsible use of social networking sites (Regulation 13), to ensure that legitimate criticism of the College's activities was not stifled.**

96 AMENDMENTS TO TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Resolved:

- (i) to approve proposed changes to the terms of reference and composition of committees of Council with effect from 1 September 2008, together with a consequential amendment to the Financial Limits associated with the Financial Regulations (08-135);**
- (ii) to approve the establishment of a new Environment and Sustainability Sub-Committee of Estates Committee (08-135).**

97 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Received:

the minutes of the meeting of Audit Committee held on 5 February 2008 (08-136).

98 WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Resolved:

to approve a revised Whistleblowing Policy with effect from 1 April 2008 (08-68R).

99 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

Resolved:

to approve an amendment to the section of the Health and Safety Policy concerning workstations and eye tests (08-137).

100 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting of Council would be held at 4pm on Thursday 26 June 2008, to be followed by the Council and Academic Board dinner.

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

101 INDEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

Resolved:

to approve, on the recommendation of Nominations Committee (19 February 2008), the re-appointment of the following members of Council for the period 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2011 (08-138):

**Dr David Barrett;
Baroness Morris.**

102 INDEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEES

Resolved:

to approve recommendations from Nominations Committee (19 February 2008) for new appointments to independent places on committees with effect from 1 September 2008 (08-88R).

RESERVED BUSINESS

103 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

to approve the proposed appointed membership of the Environment and Sustainability Sub-Committee (08-139).