

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2007

Present: Professor Simon McVeigh (in the Chair), Professor Les Back, Professor Howard Caygill, Professor Carrie Paechter, Dr Len Platt, Professor Maria Shevtsova, Professor Robert Zimmer, Ms Lynda Agili (Secretary)

Apologies: Professor Nirmala Rao, Mr Mike Metelits

In attendance: Academic Registrar, Research Office Secretary

OPEN BUSINESS

6 AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS AND CONFLICT OF INTERESTS POLICY

Received and noted:

the amendments to the College Standing Orders with effect from 1 September 2007 (A; 07-306) and the Policy on Conflicts of Interest (B; 07-307)

7 TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

Received

the Terms of Reference, Composition and Membership of the Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee (C; 07-429)

Noted:

- (i) the Chair welcomed Professor Les Back, Department of Sociology, as the RKTC member representing Group D disciplines (Anthropology; Media and Communications; Politics; Sociology; Centre for Cultural Studies)

Resolved:

to thank Professor Angela McRobbie, who had now completed the maximum term of membership, for her excellent service and contributions to RKTC

8 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE

Received:

the annual review of the Committee (D; 07-430) and the Annual Report (E; 07-394)

Resolved:

- (i) that no amendments were required to the Terms of Reference or working practice of the Committee

- (ii) to approve the Annual Report 06/07

9 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meetings held on 9 May 2007, 10 July 2007, and 3 October 2007

10 RAE 2008

Received:

an oral report from the Chair providing an update on the College RAE submission and the final Impact Assessment (F; 07-431)

Noted:

- (i) that the selection of staff and outputs for submission had been completed and that the final submission was due to be dispatched on 28 November
- (ii) that the Chair thanked Members of RKTC for their work on the RAE and their dedication to providing such a high standard of advice on the College submission throughout the process
- (iii) that the final Impact Assessment had been undertaken and there were no significant areas of concern, although there was a marginally higher percentage of BME staff not being submitted which would suggest that more support should be provided to BME staff in preparation for future assessments

11 REFORM OF HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSESSMENT AND FUNDING

Received:

an oral report from the Chair on HEFCE's proposed consultation on the overall framework for research assessment and funding across all disciplines, and proposals for quality indicators in science-based subjects

Noted:

- (i) that there would be two formats used for research assessment in the future
- (ii) that the science-based disciplines would be assessed by a new bibliometric indicator of research quality based on the extent to which research papers were cited by other publications, which would be combined with data on research income and research student completions
- (iii) that for the arts, humanities and social sciences (where quantitative approaches were less developed) a light touch form of peer review would be introduced, although the exact methodology had not been determined
- (iv) that the 'light touch peer review' exercise for non-STEM disciplines would take place in 2013 whilst the first assessment of STEM disciplines would happen in 2009
- (v) that consultation on the new assessment procedures would be announced before the end of November 2007

12 SAINSBURY REVIEW

Received:

the Executive Summary of the Sainsbury review (G; 07-376). The full report can be seen at www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/5/E/sainsbury_review051007.pdf. Chapter 4 ('Knowledge Transfer') is the most applicable to universities

Noted:

- (i) that the review placed UK HEI research at the heart of the knowledge economy but stressed the importance of remaining internationally competitive
- (ii) that the review appeared to be re-creating the binary line dividing universities between research-intensive institutions and business-facing institutions
- (iii) that there was strong recognition of the importance of the creative industries and Goldsmiths must be careful to position itself as a principal exponent of research excellence in these areas
- (iv) that the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) had been established to provide pathways to support innovation and technology
- (v) that Research Councils are providing support for the TSB and that they too were now requiring evidence of social and economic value in funding proposals
- (vi) that Goldsmiths was one of five finalists currently competing for a TSB Knowledge Transfer Network in the creative industries

13 RESEARCH PLAN FOR 2008-2013

Received:

an oral report from the Chair on plans to develop a framework for Goldsmiths Research Strategy 2008-2013, including development of cross-thematic research groupings

Noted:

that planning for a Research Strategy 2008-2013 was underway and would be the subject of further discussion at the RKTC Away Day scheduled for 30 January

14 LEVERHULME RESEARCH PROGRAMME APPLICATIONS

Received:

the potential applications to the Leverhulme Research Programme competition (H; 07-432)

Noted:

- (i) that as an independent charity the Leverhulme Trust was free from government funding agendas and favoured groundbreaking and highly original work which would have a major public impact
- (ii) that in principle there should be no need to limit the number of outline applications made by College to the competition - a select number of high-quality and diverse applications would demonstrate our versatility and confirm Goldsmiths as a wise choice for further investment

- (iii) that although there were currently no proposals for the Reality theme there was a great deal of College expertise in the areas suggested and a proposal in response to this theme should be developed
- (iv) that three proposals were presented and considered

a. *Network Cultures* - Dr Matthew Fuller, Centre for Cultural Studies

Resolved:

that Dr Fuller's proposal addressing the Networks theme should be developed further and would benefit from collaboration with the Department of Computing

b. Dr Sanjay Seth, Department of Politics

Resolved:

that Dr Seth's proposal addressing the Management of Cultural Diversity theme would need to present a more extensive programme of work possibly incorporating other disciplines to provide other strands to the research

c. *Multicultural Futures: A New Paradigm and Method for Understanding British Multiculture* - Professor Les Back, Department of Sociology, in collaboration with LSE and City University

Resolved:

that Professor Back's proposal addressing the Management of Cultural Diversity theme was very well developed and should be a priority for submitting as an outline to Leverhulme

15 APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

Received:

- i summary of applications and awards for the last 5 years (I; 07-433)
- ii schedule of applications and awards for funding made in the year ending 31 July 2007 (J; 07-434)
- iii table of Research Income and Awards (K; 07-435)

Noted:

- (i) that the format of the annual Schedule of Research Applications and Awards had been updated by the Head of Management Accounts and now provided very useful data for measuring College external funding activity
- (ii) that the high value of awards won in 2005/06 had provided a 61% increase in actual research income in 2006/07 and that due to the increase in levels of Research Council FEC funding the contribution to overheads was commensurate with the rise in direct income
- (iii) that grant applications in 2006/07 had reduced although success rates appeared to be increasing - the downturn in applications may have been due to the fact that

active researchers were too busy carrying out the projects won in previous years to apply for further funds

- (iv) that more support should be provided to academics successful in applying for external research money, to enable them to capitalise on their success and maintain the momentum

16 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND LEARNING

Received:

the proposal submitted by the Department of Educational Studies (L; 07-436)

Noted:

that a linguistics stream could be added to the Centre which might incorporate other departments such as PACE and ECL

Recommended to Academic Board:

to approve the establishment of a Centre for Language, Culture and Learning with effect from December 2007, attached to the Department of Educational Studies

17 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A POLITICS AND ETHICS RESEARCH UNIT

Received:

the proposal submitted by the Department of Politics (M; 07-437)

Resolved:

to approve the establishment of a Politics and Ethics Research Unit attached to the Department of Politics with effect from December 2007

18 RESEARCH LEAVE POLICY

Received:

a report on the current Research Leave Policy (N; 07-438)

Noted:

- (i) that the Goldsmiths branch of the Universities and College Union had requested the establishment of a unified policy of Research Leave across the College
- (ii) that it may be difficult to establish a policy that fits the diverse needs of each department but that a qualifying entitlement should be considered
- (iii) that the survey completed by Departments demonstrated the range of schemes in practice varying from the maximum permitted one term's leave for six qualifying terms (subject to HoD discretion) to more informal/fragmented schemes based on 'light terms'
- (iv) that some Departments were constrained by budgetary limitations with respect to replacement teaching and by the difficulty of re-allocating teaching requiring specialist expertise

- (v) that there would be further discussion of potential ways to operate a more uniform scheme that all staff could access

Resolved:

to work towards establishing a scheme that is transparent and equitable to staff across all Departments, bearing in mind the current financial situation

19 ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS POLICY

Received and noted:

the policy approved by the Pro-Warden (Research and Enterprise) (O; 07-439)

20 GRADUATE SCHOOL

Received and noted:

the minutes of Graduate School Board (P; 07-440)

21 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Received and noted:

the minutes of the Business Advisory Sub-Committee held on 27 October 2007 (Q; 07-441)

22 RESEARCH ETHICS SUB-COMMITTEE

Received and noted:

the Annual Report of Research Ethics Sub-Committee 06/07 (R; 07-442)

23 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY HORIZON SCANNING

Received and noted:

a report of major research initiatives currently open for application (S; 07-443)

24 RESEARCH OFFICE TRAINING SESSIONS

Received and noted:

a paper on the Research Office contribution to the College Training and Development Programme (T; 07-444)

25 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Noted:

- (i) the following periods of paid leave approved by Chair's action:
 - (a) Dr C Ayrey Dept of Music (1.10.07 – 30.9.08)
 - (b) Prof L Back Dept of Sociology (1.10.07 – 30.9.08)
 - (c) Dr L Boldrini, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (7.1.08 – 19.3.08)

- (d) Dr J Drever, Dept of Music, (24.12.07 – 14.12.07)
- (e) Dr M Inghilleri, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (1.9.07 – 31.12.07)
- (f) Dr A Kramer, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (24.9.07 – 31.12.07)
- (g) Dr R Lee, History Dept (7.1.08 – 19.3.08)
- (h) Dr U Natarajan, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (7.1.08 – 19.3.08)
- (i) Dr M Simpson, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (24.9.07 – 14.12.07)
- (j) Ms J Sprake, Dept of Design (24.9.07 – 14.12.07)
- (k) Dr C Sweeney, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (24.9.07 – 14.12.07)
- (l) Dr E Tarlo, Dept of Anthropology (1.7.07 – 31.12.07)
- (m) Dr A Toscano, Dept of Sociology (7.1.08 – 19.3.08)

(ii) the following period of unpaid leave approved by Chair's action:

- (a) Dr J Andrews, Dept of Visual Cultures (1.9.07 – 30.6.08)

Resolved:

(iii) to approve the reports following leave of absence: (V; 07-445)

- (a) Prof V Bell, Dept of Sociology
- (b) Prof A Ivashkin, Dept of Music
- (c) Dr C Levy, Dept of Politics
- (d) Dr J London, Dept of Drama
- (e) Dr P Pichler, Dept of English and Comparative Literature

26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Noted:

Changes to AHRC Studentship funding

- (i) that the AHRC had announced a call for Block Grant Partnerships which will provide strategic funding for postgraduate studentships, following their review of postgraduate funding
- (ii) that the new scheme will bring AHRC in line with other Research Council studentship schemes and it will be very important that Departments currently receiving AHRC studentships engage with the scheme at an early stage

27 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting will be incorporated in the RKTC Away Day to be held on 30 January 2008

LA
December 2007