

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

ACADEMIC BOARD

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2008

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

Apologies: Professor Howard Caygill, Professor Nirmala Rao

In attendance: Professor Scott Lash, Professor Angela McRobbie, Research Office Secretary

OPEN BUSINESS

28 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2007

29 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

(i) Leverhulme Research Programme Applications

that two proposals were submitted to the Leverhulme Research programme competition, one from Professor Les Back in collaboration with LSE and City University – (*Multicultural Futures: A New Paradigm and Method for Understanding British Multiculture*) and the other from Dr Matt Fuller – (*Network Cultures*)

(ii) Research Leave Policy

that a meeting was to be held with the Director of HR and UCU officers and a paper would be presented to SMT to consider development of a policy that would unify the approach to Research Leave across the College

(iii) RAE2008

that the Goldsmiths RAE 2008 submission had been successfully despatched electronically on 29 November and all of the physical outputs delivered as required on 17 January

30 RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK (REF) CONSULTATION

Received:

the HEFCE Research Excellence Framework (REF) consultation document (A; 08-36) and Goldsmiths draft response (B; 08-37)

Noted:

- (i) that there was widespread concern regarding the format and proposed timing of the forthcoming REF and particularly the methodology to be used for the new metrics-based assessment

- (ii) that the first REF for STEM subjects is currently planned for 2009 and would consist of three elements – citations taken from Thomsons ISI Web of Science, research grant income and research student completions
- (iii) that the details of the time span over which the citations would be recorded was still not determined – the minimum period would be over the previous five years and the maximum over the past ten years
- (iv) that HEIs would have major difficulties with citation record keeping due to the movement of academics between institutions
- (v) that HEFCE would respond to the consultation exercise in Spring 2008 but that in general the sector felt there were too many issues still undecided to begin the first STEM REF in 2009
- (vi) that Goldsmiths disciplines to be classified as STEM were still under discussion – Psychology was originally designated a non-STEM subject but clinical psychologists would prefer to be assessed as STEM. On the other hand Computing academics, so far designated as STEM, are unhappy with the proposed citations model since highly regarded computing outputs, including conference papers, are under represented in ISI Web of Science
- (vii) that the Allied Health Professions and Studies UoA are currently designated as STEM and this would not suit Goldsmiths Unit of Psychotherapeutic Studies outputs since they were not of a clinical nature
- (viii) that a consultation on the framework for non-STEM subjects would take place in 2009 and a light touch peer review based REF including research income and student completions metrics, would be held in 2013
- (ix) that there was a fear that too much HEI prevarication might lead to the Government resolving that future HEFCE funding should simply follow Research Council funding since the government has been clear that they are not prepared to run another RAE in the previous format

Resolved:

to approve the draft response to the consultation, subject to additional emphasis on user-based value for non-STEM subjects

31 RESEARCH REPORT

Received:

a schedule for publication of the forthcoming Research Report publication (C; 08-38)

Noted:

that the publication schedule appeared timely and the report would provide a valuable showcase for Goldsmiths' research achievements

Resolved:

that it would not be possible to provide additional funding for the report from RKTC funds as these were provided specifically to encourage future research income generation

32 COLLEGE RESEARCH FUNDS

Received:

the application form and guidelines previously issued for the College Research Funds seedcorn funding competition for 2007/08 (**D; 08-39**)

Noted:

- (i) that there would be approximately £50,000 available for seedcorn funding
- (ii) that as well as a competition specifically encouraging early career researchers there should also be a major research initiative competition to support strategic activities aimed at raising Goldsmiths profile, open to all academics
- (iii) that the value for both type of award should be between £1,000 and £5,000

Resolved:

to publicise both competitions, Early Career and Major Research Initiatives, and consider applications at the May meeting

33 IMPACT OF COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW ON THE AHRC

Received:

a press release from the AHRC concerning the effects of the Comprehensive Spending Review (E; 08-40)

Noted:

- (i) that the funding cuts would inevitably reduce success rates across all responsive mode competitions
- (ii) that the Research Leave Scheme funding had been substantially reduced and the September 08 round cancelled, which would cause particular hardship for humanities academics

34 AHRC POSTGRADUATE BLOCK GRANT PARTNERSHIPS AND INSTITUTIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH STRATEGY

Received:

extracts from the AHRC Postgraduate Awards Block Grant Partnerships guidance (F; 08-41)

Noted:

- (i) that from 2009 eligible HEIs will bid for a Block Grant Partnership providing studentships over a five-year period
- (ii) that Goldsmiths was sixth across the UK in the AHRC studentship award league tables and is therefore eligible to apply for a Block Grant Partnership
- (iii) that the Graduate School would be coordinating the bid across all departments

35 DIRECTORSHIP OF CENTRE FOR COGNITION, COMPUTATION AND CULTURE

Resolved:

to approve the extension of the current Directorship of the Centre for Cognition, Computation and Culture for a further year

36 RESEARCH OFFICE STRUCTURE AND PLANS

Received:

a plan of Research Office initiatives and revised structure (G; 08-42)

Noted:

- (i) that Ms Lynda Agili had been appointed Head of Research Office from January 2008
- (ii) that in addition to the outlined plans, Research Office would be project managing the development of a Research Management System

37 GRADUATE SCHOOL

Received and noted:

the minutes of Graduate School Board held on 16 January 2008 (H; 08-43)

38 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Received and noted:

the minutes of the Business Advisory Sub-Committee held on 15 January 2008 (I; 08-44)

39 CENTRE FOR LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND LEARNING

Noted:

the establishment of the Centre for Language, Culture and Learning with effect from December 2007, as a soft Centre attached to the Department of Educational Studies, following approval by Academic Board on 5 December 2007

40 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY HORIZON SCANNING

Received and noted:

a report of major research initiatives currently open for application (J; 08-45)

41 BBSRC VISIT

Noted:

that Dr Lesley Heppell, Head of Animal Sciences, and Dr Simon Kerley, the Animal Science Senior Programme Manager, from the BBSRC will be visiting College on 28 April

42 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Noted:

the following periods of paid leave approved by Chair's action:

- (a) Mr K Potter, Dept of Music (7.1.08 – 19.3.08)
- (b) Dr L Turner, Dept of Visual Cultures (1.10.07 – 31.5.08) 2nd term funded by AHRC Research Leave Scheme

Resolved:

to approve reports following leave of absence: **(K; 08-46)**

- (a) Dr A Kramer, Dept of English and Comparative Literature
- (b) Dr M Rosengarten, Dept of Sociology
- (c) Dr E Tarlo, Dept of Anthropology

43 NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting will be held on 7 May 2008 at 2.00 pm

LA
February 2008