

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

COUNCIL

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2008.

Present: Professor Geoffrey Crossick (Chair), Dr Toby Abse, Mr John Backwell, Dr Philip Broadhead, Dr Stephen Cottrell, Dr Debbie Custance, Professor Mark d'Inverno, Professor Alan Downie, Mr Jesse Fajemisin, Mr Ian Gardiner, Mr John Ginman, Dr Richard Grayson, Professor John Hutnyk, Dr Helen Jones, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Professor Simon McVeigh, Mr Larry O'Carroll, Dr David Oswell, Professor Alan Pickering, Dr Frances Pine, Professor Len Platt, Professor Jane Powell, Mr Terry Rosenberg, Ms Astrid Schmetterling, Professor Sanjay Seth, Professor Maria Shevtsova, Mr Robert Smith, Ms Emma Sowden, Professor Kay Stables, Dr Gareth Stanton, Ms Jess Tratt, Dr Derval Tubridy, Ms Joan Turner, Dr Marian Ursu

Apologies: Dr Catherine Alexander, Professor Dennis Atkinson, Professor Chetan Bhatt, Professor Rosalyn George, Dr Stella Harvey, Professor Janis Jefferies, Ms Mary Nixon, Professor Carrie Paechter

In attendance: Registrar and Secretary, Acting Academic Registrar, Director of Human Resources (for item 16), Head of Secretariat

Observer: Professor John Baldock (QAA Auditor)

OPEN BUSINESS

1 QAA AUDITOR

The Warden welcomed Professor John Baldock from the Degree Awarding Powers team, who was observing the meeting.

2 DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Hugh Jones announced that, with regret, Barry Douglas, Director of Finance, who had been away from the office for personal reasons, would not be returning to Goldsmiths.

Noted:

- (i) that Barry had been with Goldsmiths for eight years and had decided to move on to new challenges. Goldsmiths was very grateful for all Barry had done and wished him well for the future.
- (ii) in the immediate future, an Interim Director of Finance would be sought to steer the College through the next few months, followed by arrangements to recruit a new permanent Director of Finance.

3 ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANISATION

Noted:

that the Students' Union had requested that their views be considered during the consultation process on the proposed administrative reorganisation.

4 STANDING ORDERS

Received:

Standing Orders for 2008-09 (08-304).

5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

Received:

the College Policy on Conflicts of Interest (08-303).

6 TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

Received:

the terms of reference, composition and membership of the Board for 2008-09 (08-463).

7 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2008 (08-464).

8 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Received:

a report from the Academic Registrar on matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2008 (08-465).

9 WARDEN'S REPORT

Received:

a written report from the Warden on issues of concern and interest to the College (08-466).

The Warden particularly emphasised the following points:

- (i) Secretary of State's Review of Higher Education
 - a) that the Secretary of State's review of Higher Education was now available on the website.
 - b) that the new Chief Executive of HEFCE was Alan Langlands, currently Principal of Dundee University. This appointment was welcomed by the sector as he was very experienced .in both Whitehall and university management.
- (ii) Government Funding of Higher Education and Goldsmiths Financial Strategy
 - a) that the current credit crunch was unlikely to have a severe effect on universities ability to borrow as they were seen as safe places to lend to.
 - b) the economic recession may have an impact on postgraduate numbers as students seek to enhance their skills by staying at University rather than entering an unfavourable labour market. Possible impact on Research and Development (R&D) because businesses may cut back on R&D during the recession.
 - c) the real impact on Universities would be the consequences of the crisis in government funding. The majority of the reduction incurred through reduced taxes would be covered by spending cuts, resulting in significant reductions in government funding. The financial situation of the College was not as comfortable as it would like it to be in order to deal with reductions in funding, and the importance of the strategy for increasing overseas student numbers was emphasised.
 - d) the 8% pay claim from the UCU, if achieved at that level or anything near it, would have a very serious impact on Goldsmiths and one that would put in doubt the viability of the College.

Noted:

- (i) the ambitious target of 30 FTE's per masters programme but recognised that, although some masters were not cost effective, they brought other benefits in terms of flow through to research degrees or in terms of their intellectual integrity. Many departments were now thinking along the lines of having different pathways within a single masters degree in order to make smaller programmes viable. The Dean of the Graduate School was looking at the overall portfolio of masters programmes to see where savings could be made. It was intended that a new Marketing Department would play a more constructive role and hold a dialogue with departments about market demand rather than leaving Recruitment to try to sell the programmes that departments selected on

other grounds. Departments often don't have the robust financial information that informs them of the cost of launching a new programme.

- (ii) that although pursuing a joint venture with INTO was not currently an option, much had been learned about the character, potential and delivery of foundation programmes. The College would explore the way forward, including the 'in-house' option.
- (iii) that it was extremely unlikely that funding would be reinstated for Equivalent and Lower Qualifications.

10 NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY

Received:

a report on the results of the 2008 National Student Survey (08-428).

Noted:

- (i) that this was a very useful paper, and Denise Miller was thanked for compiling the report.
- (ii) the importance of taking the survey seriously as it had now been running for a number of years, with the UCAS website having a link to the information on the survey.
- (iii) that although there were a number of good results for the College, for example it had bucked the national trend on assessment and feedback, there were areas of concern, and coming joint 83rd overall was disappointing. Some issues must and had been addressed at institutional level, for example an additional £150k had been allocated to the Library Fund. In addition, the Senate House Library was an important facility that students often failed to acknowledge as part of the Goldsmiths' learning resources.
- (iv) the increased significance students attached to feedback, and the importance of the quality, timeliness and legibility of that feedback.
- (v) that although the Goldsmiths 3D Graduate Scheme was considered to be a market leader, Goldsmiths students did not seem to be engaging with it as much as they could be.
- (vi) that departments would be asked to reflect on the results of the survey in the next Planning Round, and that a forum had been established to permit the sharing of good practice, the results for Design and Social Work being particularly impressive.
- (vii) that departments would find it useful to know the category of questions under each heading.

Resolved:

- (i) that the College and academic departments should consider the appropriateness of their respective Learning, Teaching and Assessment strategies in addressing issues arising from student feedback including the NSS, and should revise their strategies and action plans appropriately.

- (ii) that a forum of Heads of Departments and Chairs of Departmental Learning and Teaching Committees, with student representation, should be established to consider how to address issues raised by student feedback.
- (iii) that the paper be circulated to Departmental Learning and Teaching Committees for consideration and response.

11 ANNUAL REPORTS OF ACADEMIC BOARD COMMITTEES

Received:

a summary by the Head of Secretariat of a recent review of committee reporting to Council (08-449R).

12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Received:

a report from the Equality and Diversity Committee on progress in relation to the Equality and Diversity Strategic Aim (08-451).

Noted:

that the Committee was now monitoring the returns on the Race Policy, Disability and Gender Schemes, and received regular reports from the Disability Co-ordinator.

13 LEARNING AND TEACHING QUALITY COMMITTEE

Received:

a report from the Learning and Teaching Quality Committee on the implementation of the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy (08-326).

Noted:

that the next stage was firmly to embed the Strategy and ensure the implementation through the formulation of Departmental Learning and Teaching Strategies, and to review assessments to see that the strategies line up with our assessment regulations.

14 RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COMMITTEE

Received:

a report from the Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee on progress in relation to the Research Strategic Aim, and the Business element of the Business and Community Strategic Aim (08-384).

Noted:

- (i) that the RAE results would be made public on 18 December and that the College would have access to them under embargo on 17 December. Unlike in previous RAEs

there would be no single way to rank order institutions, so several alternative rankings using the different indicators would be presented. Not until March 2009 would it be known how the results would translate into QR funding.

- (ii) that there had been an impressive increase in research income funded externally over the last three years. With respect to internal funding awarded by RKTC last year, priority had been given to early career researchers, and to support external applications for very large-scale funding.
- (iii) that an additional member of staff was to be appointed in Finance to support the increasing level of grant-related activity.
- (iv) that sending grant account information to grant-holders directly rather than via Heads of Departments would reduce the burden on Heads of Departments and enable grant-holders to manage their budgets more efficiently.
- (v) that there was no policy of discouraging staff from applying for funding from any source, but where awards did not cover the full economic costs of the research the rationale for the application needed to be carefully considered.

15 STUDENT COMMITTEE

Received:

a report from the Student Committee on progress in the implementation of the Student Experience Strategy (08-450).

Noted:

that an action plan had been prepared identifying the priorities to be brought forward, that a Student Charter had been created, and the Medical Centre relocated to more appropriate accommodation.

16 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS PROCESS

Received:

a paper from the Director of Human Resources on the proposed revisions to the academic promotions process (08-341R).

Noted:

- (i) there was a need to change the process and criteria for academic promotions following the introduction of the Framework Agreement and job evaluation and to comply with legislative requirements. The proposed changes would introduce good employment and career management practice. Furthermore, discussions had yet to take place with Union colleagues, and for this reason the promotions round would be delayed this year, but promotions would still take effect from 1 September 2009. It was intended to reduce administration and seek to concentrate on the quality of information and discussions with staff for consideration of promotion.

- (ii) that the process would no longer be competitive and promotion would take place on meeting the criteria to be established. Concern was expressed that this would mean more people meeting all the criteria and therefore more meriting promotion at a significant cost to the College. Members recognised that it was important to ensure that duties and responsibilities were effectively organised in departments so that the appropriate number of posts existed at each level.
- (iii) that this new process constituted a huge culture shift and would call upon Heads and their teams to be more vigilant and detailed in their assessment of staff who put themselves forward for promotion, and ensuring that the evidence presented sustained the case put for promotion. This might require Heads of departments to make assessments of staff different from those in the past. It was important to handle the transition sensitively.
- (iv) that professorial increases remained subject to the existing system until the performance development review system was consistently applied.
- (v) that any amendments to the proposals would come to Academic Board for comment but that overall approval was to the responsibility of Human Resources Committee and Council.

17 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Resolved:

to approve, on the recommendation of Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, the recommendations of the paper, provided that amendments were made to the proposal to take account of the comments of the Programme Scrutiny Sub-Committee (with the exception of point ix) (08-435).

18 GOLDSMITHS LEVERHULME MEDIA RESEARCH CENTRE: SPACES, CONNECTIONS, CONTROL

Resolved:

to approve, on the recommendation of Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee, the establishment of a Goldsmiths Leverhulme Media Research Centre: Spaces, Connections, Control (08-425).

19 AMENDMENTS TO QUORACY RULES

Resolved:

to approve an addition to the terms of reference of specific committees of Academic Board and some of their sub-committees with regards to quoracy rules with effect from 1 September 2009 (08-467).

20 AMENDMENTS TO ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

Resolved:

- (i) that the regulations be amended in accordance with Appendix II, revised Assessment of Honours for Course Unit Degrees, subject to the deletion under point 5 of reference to a recommendation being made to a designated Pro-Warden (08-364).
- (ii) that the current convention of quoting marks to two decimal points when calculating class of honours be abolished.

21 JOINT EXAMINATION BOARDS REGULATIONS

Resolved:

to approve, on the recommendation of Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, regulations for the operation of Joint Examination Boards following the abolition of the College Board (08-365).

22 PHD IN ART AND POLITICS

Recommended:

to approve, on the recommendation of Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, a proposal from the Department of Politics for a PhD in Art and Politics with a practical component in addition to the thesis, and obtain further approval from the University of London (08-335R).

23 PHD IN CURATORIAL/KNOWLEDGE

Recommended:

to approve, on the recommendation of Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, a proposal from the Department of Visual Cultures for a PhD in Curatorial/Knowledge with a visual and/or aural component in addition to the thesis, and obtain further approval from the University of London (08-140).

24 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR

Noted:

the action taken by the Chair since the last meeting (08-468).

25 SCHEDULE OF REGULAR ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Received:

the schedule of regular items of business for Academic Board for the 2008-09 session (08-469).

26 ANNUAL CAREERS REPORT

Received:

the annual Careers Report (08-470).

27 DIGEST OF DEPARTMENTAL BOARDS

Received:

a digest of Departmental Boards 2007-2008 from the Academic Registrar (08-471).

28 ACADEMIC BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Received:

the minutes from the following committees of Academic Board:

- (i) Academic Development Committee, 21 October 2008 (08-473).
- (ii) Equality and Diversity Committee, 1 May 2008 (08-474).
- (iii) Information Management and Systems Committee, 15 October 2008 (08-475).
- (iv) Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, 14 May 2008 (08-476), 28 August 2008 (08-477), and 8 October 2008 (08-478).
- (v) Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee, 7 May 2008 (08-479).

29 PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Noted:

promotions and appointments with effect from 1 September 2008 (08-453).

30 PERIODIC PROGRAMME REVIEW OF SOCIAL WORK

Received:

the report of the Periodic Review of Social Work programmes in the Department of Professional and Community Education (08-429) and the response from the Department (08-430).

31 PERIODIC PROGRAMME REVIEW OF THE MA EDUCATION: CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND IDENTITY

Received:

the report of the Periodic Review of MA Education: Culture, Language and Identity (08-433) and the response from the Department of Educational Studies (08-434).

32 DATA TO SUPPORT STUDENT RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, PROGRESSION AND ACHIEVEMENT

Noted:

proposals on the use of data to support student recruitment, retention, progression and achievement (08-367).

33 VISITING FELLOWS AND RESEARCHERS

Noted:

the names of Visiting Fellows and Researchers invited by the Warden (08-472).

34 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

Noted:

that the Pro-Warden (Students and Learning Development) has approved the appointment of the following External Examiners:

BA Drama and Theatre Arts

Dr Emma Brodzinski
Senior Lecturer
Royal Holloway, University of London

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

BA Fine Art and History of Art

Mr Roy Voss
Senior Lecturer
University of West England

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

BA Politics / joint degrees

Professor Mustapha Kemal Pasha
Professor of International Relations
University of Aberdeen

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

BA Sociology / joint degrees

Dr Eamonn Richard Carrabine
Senior Lecturer
University of Essex

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

BMus Popular Music Studies

Dr Annette Davison
Lecturer and Director of Postgraduate Studies
University of Edinburgh

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

BSc Psychology

Dr Susan Lesley McHale
Senior Lecturer
Sheffield Hallam University

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

PGCE Primary

Ms Gianna Knowles
Programme Coordinator/Senior Lecturer
University of Chichester

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

PGCE Secondary Drama

Dr Andrew Kempe
Senior Lecturer/Course Leader
University of Reading

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

PGCE Secondary English

Dr Andrew Green
Course Director
Brunel University

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

PGCE Secondary Science

Mr Ian Longman
Senior Lecturer
Brighton University

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

MA Contemporary British Politics

Dr Andrew Russell
Senior Lecturer in Politics
University of Manchester

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

MA Cultural Studies / MA Postcolonial Studies

Dr Sanjay Sharma
Lecturer
Birkbeck, University of London

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

MA Design Futures

Dr Mazair Raein
Associate Professor
Oslo Academy of Art and Design

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

MA Education: Culture Language and Identity

Dr Emma Renold
Senior Lecturer
Cardiff University

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

Dr John Head
Visiting Senior Lecturer
Kings College, University of London

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

MA Geo-Sociology

Professor Jenny Robinson
Professor
Open University

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

MA Journalism

Ms Hilly Janes
Editor
Sunday Times

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

MFA Art Practice

Professor Michael Corris
Professor of Fine Art
Sheffield Hallam University

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

Professor Esther Leslie
Professor in Political Aesthetics
Birkbeck College, University of London

For a period of 3 years
from 1st November 2008
to 30th September 2011

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

MSc Music, Mind and Brain

Dr Alexandra Lamont
Senior Lecturer
Keele University

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

MRes English

Dr Andrew Lincoln
Reader
Queen Mary, University of London

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

MRes Media and Communications

Dr Cathy Johnson
Senior Lecturer
Royal Holloway, University of London

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

35 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2009 at 2pm.

AB/29

VT/December 2008