

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

COUNCIL
27 November 2008

Present: Mr Christopher Jonas (in the Chair - except for item 27), Mr Mark Baillache, Dr Virginia Brooke, Dr Philip Broadhead, Professor Geoffrey Crossick, Professor Alan Downie, Ms Althea Efunshile, Lady Goodhart, Dr Richard Grayson, The Earl of Harrowby, Mr Manoj Kerai, Mr Kenneth May, Professor Simon McVeigh, Mr Dick Melly, Mr Pádraig O'Connor, Professor Carrie Paechter, Professor Jane Powell, Dr Gareth Stanton, Ms Jess Tratt.

Apologies: Mr Jack Barnes, Dr David Barrett, Mrs Alyson McGarrigle, Baroness Morris, Ms Mary Stacey, Ms Colleen Toomey.

In attendance: Registrar and Secretary (Secretary), Head of Secretariat.

Item 27 below (re-appointment of the Chair of Council) was discussed in the absence of the Chair, who was replaced by Mr Kenneth May.

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2008 be approved.

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Received:

the College Policy on Conflicts of Interest, including in particular its committee section (08-303).

3 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

Received:

details of the membership of Council in 2008-09 (08-444).

4 STANDING ORDERS

Received:

the Standing Orders applicable for 2008-09 (last revised 1 September 2007) (08-304).

5 WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden gave an oral report, focusing on the College's financial environment in the light of recent developments, and in particular on the following issues:

- (i) Student recruitment - which might be affected by the impact of changes in the global financial position, or of rising home unemployment, but in ways not easy to predict in detail;
- (ii) possible changes in the level of business investment in research and development, affecting business collaboration with universities;
- (iii) increased instability in public finance, and in particular government funding for higher education;
- (iv) pressure from pension commitments and pay claims, including a recent particularly high pay claim from UCU.

The Warden also drew Council's attention to the results of the Research Assessment Exercise due on 18 December 2008; however it was noted that the financial implications would not be known until March 2009.

The Warden's recent visits to India and Abu Dhabi in connection with the building of international partnerships were also reported.

6 REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR

Received:

a report on action taken by the Chair since the meeting of Council held on 26 June 2008 (08-445).

Noted:

that since the last meeting the Chair had taken action on behalf of Council by resolving:

- (i) that, with effect from 1 September 2008, a new Information Management and Systems Sub-Committee be set up with terms of reference and composition as set out in Appendix A to paper 08-445, to have oversight of matters concerning the IT Strategy, records management and information law compliance, and that the IT Strategy Steering Group be abolished;
- (ii) that, with effect from 1 September 2008, the terms of reference of Promotions Panels be amended as set out in Appendix B to paper 08-445;
- (iii) that with effect from 1 September 2008, Ordinances be amended as set out in Appendix C to paper 08-445;
- (iv) that the Earl of Harrowby be appointed a member of Audit Committee from 1 December 2008 to 31 August 2011;
- (v) that Dr Virginia Brooke be appointed a member of Information Management and Systems Committee (see (i) above), from 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2011;

- (vi) that from the Spring term 2009 return and until further notice, the Chair of Finance and Resources Committee be responsible for approving the Transparent approach to Costing (TRAC) return on behalf of the College;
- (vii) that the value above which an item of computer or audio-visual equipment must be included in the corporate inventory be lowered from an original cost of £500 to an original cost of £300;
- (viii) that the membership of the Appointment Panel for Heads of Academic Departments be varied, in the case of the appointment of the Head of the Department of Art, by the substitution of the Dr Philip Broadhead, Chair of the recent Review of the Department, for the Pro-Warden with more general responsibility for the Department (Minute 25 below and paper 08-489 refer).

7 INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

Received:

a report from the Registrar and Secretary (08-446).

8 FINANCIAL AND AUDIT STATEMENTS IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 2007-08

Received:

- (i) the draft Financial Statements (08-406R)(a further revision 08-406R2 being tabled at the meeting);
- (ii) a commentary from the Director of Finance on the Financial Statements (08-407R);
- (iii) the Audit Committee Annual Report to Council and the Warden (08-410R);
- (iv) the report of the External Auditor (Deloitte), incorporating responses from the College (08-408);
- (v) the draft Letter of Representation to the External Auditors (08-409).

Resolved:

that the Financial Statements for 2007-08 (08-406R), and the Letter of Representation (08-409) be approved.

9 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Received:

the Minutes of the meetings of Audit Committee held on 9 October (08-447) and 11 November 2008 (08-448).

[Secretary's Note: Approval of Audit Committee's recommendations to Council is minuted under the respective individual items.]

10 STUDENTS' UNION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Received:

the Students' Union Financial Statements for 2007-08 (08-383).

Members of Council congratulated the Students' Union on its good financial performance.

11 FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Resolved:

that the draft revised Financial Strategy (08-388R) be approved.

Council members noted that the Strategy would need to evolve in response to change, that accordingly more frequent updating might be expected than in the past, and that members of Council could make suggestions towards future drafts of the Strategy informally between meetings.

It was noted that, in particular in view of the difficulty of attracting sufficient student numbers by means of HEFCE-funded Additional Student Numbers (ASN) initiatives, it was important to be innovative in seeking new means of increasing numbers for students paying unregulated fees, that is to say postgraduate Home/EU students and Overseas students at all levels. Available means of seeking increased student numbers included considering appropriate partnerships, as well as making the College more attractive to prospective students through improvements in the admissions process and the student experience in general. It was noted that the Students' Union favoured expansion through in-house provision rather than partnerships with private sector providers. It was further noted that, in addition to any institutional level initiatives, the achievement of expanded student numbers would require a range of cultural changes at departmental level, and that the Pro-Warden (Academic Development) was currently undertaking a round of detailed discussions with departments about their plans for the future.

There were continuing concerns expressed about the availability of sufficient funds to cover necessary building work - a complex issue given that the outcome of the current Estates Master Planning Exercise might be that some buildings with high renovation costs would not be retained. It was noted that there would be a special item at the next meeting of Council on this topic and that the Chair of Estates Committee would be invited to attend.

12 FINANCIAL FORECASTS AND COMMENTARY

Received:

- (i) Financial forecasts, together with a commentary by the Director of Finance (08-389R) (revised annexes to this paper being tabled at the meeting);
- (ii) Financial forecasts prepared on the accounting basis required for submission to HEFCE as part of the "Single Conversation" (08-488).

13 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY

Resolved:

that the revision of Appendix III of the Treasury Management Policy proposed in paper 08-381 be approved, noting the intended change to a policy of investing with banks rated AA- or better (previously A-).¹

14 EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW OF COUNCIL

Resolved:

- (i) that the decision of Council in December 2003, that a quinquennial Effectiveness Review of Council be carried out in the current academic year, be confirmed, together with the broad scope of the Review as now outlined in paper 08-318R;**
- (ii) that the composition and membership of the Review Panel be as follows:**

**Dr David Barrett (Chair)
Lady Goodhart
Ms Jess Tratt
Professor Simon McVeigh
Professor Carrie Paechter**

15 ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Received:

a summary by the Head of Secretariat of a recent review of committee reporting to Council (08-449) and reports from Committees on activities in 2007-08, as follows:

Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee (08-384)
Learning and Teaching Quality Committee (08-326)
Student Committee (08-450)
Equality and Diversity Committee (08-451)
Estates Committee (08-386)

In relation to the Annual Report of the Learning and Teaching Quality Committee, it was noted that student interest in the 3D Graduate Project had been fairly low, and that this might be increased by support from the Students' Union, whose officers recognised its importance.

In relation to the Estates Committee report, it was noted that the Carbon Management Strategy still had fairly low visibility in the College, especially amongst students, and that it would be desirable for this to be remedied. (It was further noted however that the Carbon Management Strategy had recently been published on the College website.)

¹ The wording in the draft resolution circulated to Council was corrected at the meeting, in the light of views expressed by members of Finance and Resources Committee.

16 RECRUITMENT AND ADMISSIONS REPORT

Received:

a report on student recruitment and admissions for the 2008 intake (08-371R).

17 CORPORATE PLANNING STATEMENT AND ANNUAL MONITORING STATEMENT

Resolved:

that the Corporate Planning and Annual Monitoring Statements be approved for submission to HEFCE (08-452).

Noted:

that these statements had hitherto customarily been submitted in July, and reported to Council at its Autumn term meeting, whereas under HEFCE's "Single Conversation" arrangements, they were submitted after the new late Autumn meeting of Council, permitting prior approval by Council.

18 MEETINGS OF COUNCIL IN 2009-10

Resolved:

that meetings of Council be held on the following dates in 2009-10:

**1 December 2009
25 March 2010
29 June 2010**

19 PRESENTATION CEREMONIES

Noted:

that presentation ceremonies would be held on 8, 9, 10 and 11 September 2009.

20 MEETINGS OF COUNCIL IN 2008-09

Noted:

(i) that meetings of Council for the remainder of 2008-09 would be held on:

26 March 2009 at 4.00pm
25 June 2009 at 4.00pm

(ii) that informal meetings of Council members would be held on:

19 January 2009
18 May 2009

21 PROMOTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC STAFF

Received:

a list of promotions of academic staff with effect from 1 September 2008 (08-453).

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Exemption claimed under Section 36 (Prejudice to the effective conduct of Public affairs of the Freedom of Information Act (2 years))

22 INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT 2007-08

Received:

the annual report of the Internal Auditor for 2007-08 (08-320).

Exemption under Section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the Freedom of Information Act (2 years)

23 INTERNAL AUDIT PLANS

To approve the updated Strategic Internal Audit Plan for the three years to 31 July 2008 (08-454) and the draft Operational Internal Audit Plan for 2008-09 (08-455).

24 MANAGING INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

To consider matters arising from recent UCEA communications (08-456).

Resolved:

- (i) to confirm the College's commitment in principle to taking part in national pay bargaining through new JNCHES in the current year, it being noted that final confirmation was not required until March 2009;**
- (ii) to indicate Goldsmiths' intention to communicate to its Trades' Unions representatives its policy with regard to managing industrial action, including withholding of pay, in the immediate future, at the same time as confirming in principle commitment to taking part in national pay bargaining through new JNCHES.**

RESERVED BUSINESS

25 APPOINTMENT OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Received:

a report on appointments due to be made to Headships of Department, and the recommendation of one Appointment Panel (08-489).

Resolved:

- (i) that Mr Richard Noble be appointed Head of the Department of Art from 1 January 2009 to 31 August 2011;**
- (ii) that Professor Frank Bond be appointed Head of the Department of Psychology from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2012;**
- (iii) that Professor Andrea Gilroy be appointed Head of the Department of Professional and Community Education (PACE) from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2012.**
- (iv) that the Chair of Council be given delegated authority to approve, during the Spring term 2009, recommendations for the appointment of Heads of the departments of Design, Educational Studies, Politics and Visual Cultures from 1 September 2009.**

26 REAPPOINTMENT OF PRO-WARDEN

Received:

a recommendation from the Appointment Panel for Pro-Wardens (08-490);

Resolved:

that Professor Simon McVeigh be re-appointed Pro-Warden (Academic Development) for the period 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2013;

Noted:

that on 23 June 2005 (Minute 33 refers) Council had re-appointed Professor McVeigh as Senior Pro-Warden from 1 September 2005 until he should cease to hold the office of Pro-Warden.

27 CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Resolved:

that Mr Christopher Jonas be reappointed as Chair of Council for the period 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2012.

RMH
December 2008