

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2009

- Present:** Mr Christopher Jonas (in the Chair), Mr Mark Baillache, Mr Jack Barnes, Dr Virginia Brooke, Dr Philip Broadhead, Professor Geoffrey Crossick, Professor Alan Downie, Ms Althea Efunshile, Lady Goodhart, Dr Richard Grayson, Mr Manoj Kerai Mr Kenneth May, Mrs Alyson McGarrigle, Professor Simon McVeigh, Mr Dick Melly, Professor Carrie Paechter, Professor Jane Powell, Ms Mary Stacey, Dr Gareth Stanton, Ms Colleen Toomey,¹ Ms Jess Tratt.
- Apologies:** Dr David Barrett, The Earl of Harrowby, Baroness Morris, Mr Pádraig O'Connor.
- In attendance:** Registrar and Secretary (Secretary), Director of Finance, Head of Secretariat.
- Observers:** Student members-designate of Council for 2009-10, trades union representatives, Ms Rebecca Watts and a visiting researcher.

OPEN BUSINESS

54 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2009 be approved.

55 REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR

Received:

a report on action taken by the Chair since the circulation of agenda for the meeting held on 26 March 2009 (09-293).

Noted:

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

- (i) that Mr Robert Russell and Mr Frank Toop be appointed members of Audit Committee for three years from 1 September 2009;
- (ii) that the statement dated 21 June 2009, attached as Appendix C to paper 09-293, concerning detailed procedures for the financing of the Backfield Building, be signed on behalf of the College and presented to Lloyds TSB;
- (iii) that the Appointment Panel for the Director of Finance be as follows:

The Warden (in the Chair), the Chair of Finance and Resources Committee, the Registrar and Secretary and Ms Caroline Walker (Director of Finance at Loughborough University);

¹ Ms Toomey was accidentally omitted from the version of the minutes first published.

- (iv) that the Appointment Panel for the Warden be as set out in the report circulated by the Registrar and Secretary as paper 09-294 for the present meeting.

56 THE GOLDSMITHS ESTATE

Received:

an oral presentation by a representative of the master planning company John McAslan.

57 WARDEN'S REPORT

Received:

an oral report from the Warden, including the following issues:

- (i) the substantial reduction in government funding for higher education arising from the April 2009 national budget announcement, and the particular problems arising from the fact that the impact on individual institutions would not be known finally until July 2009;
- (ii) the prospect of further increasing private sector involvement in the coming years as a result of the worsening deficit in public funding;
- (iii) the comparatively favourable position of Goldsmiths, which could expect - despite the new funding cuts - to have a modest surplus budget in 2009-10, allowing the College time to position itself in relation to the longer-term worsening financial situation;
- (iv) the continuing unresolved position on the current round of pay negotiations;
- (v) the continuing negotiations at national level concerning the financial problems of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), arising from increased longevity, overall salary increases and reduced investment returns;
- (vi) progress on the development of Goldsmiths' inter-institutional partnerships, within the context of the newly-approved Collaborative Provision Framework and the hope that degree-awarding powers would shortly be awarded.

58 APPOINTMENT OF WARDEN

(26 March 2009, Minute 34, refers)

Received:

a report from the Registrar and Secretary on the appointment process for the next Warden (09-294).

Noted:

that Heidrick had been appointed as the recruitment consultancy for the appointment, which would be handled within the company by Ben Tucker;

Resolved:

that Lady Goodhart and Professor Paechter should continue in membership of the Appointment Panel for the Warden beyond the expiry of their terms of office on Council on 31 August 2009.

59 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL FORECASTS

Received:

a paper from the former Interim Director of Finance, updated by the Director of Finance in the light of discussion at Finance and Resources Committee (28 May 2009) (09-245R).

Resolved:

that the Budget for 2009-10, as set out in paper 09-245R, be approved.

[Secretary's Note: After the meeting, the Director of Finance provided additional information (09-314) concerning the budget for Residences, Catering and Conferences in response to an enquiry from members.]

60 BACKFIELD BUILDING

Received:

a report from the Registrar and Secretary, concerning the loan facility for the building (09-295).

Noted:

that Finance and Resources Committee had approved the proposals being made for increased borrowing, although with some reservations and on the understanding that a full review of the project management difficulties which had led to the increase in costs would be undertaken.

Resolved:

to approve an increase in borrowing, to finance the Backfield Building, of £4m.

61 REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW OF COUNCIL

(26 March 2009, Minute 33, refers)

Received:

the final report of the Effectiveness Review Panel appointed by Council (09-127R).

Resolved:

- (i) that the recommendations of the Effectiveness Review Panel be approved;**
- (ii) that meetings of Council beyond the regular three per year should take place only where there was a clear rationale in a particular instance;**
- (iii) that the members of the Review Panel be thanked for their work.**

62 COLLABORATIVE PROVISION FRAMEWORK

Received:

a report from the Head of Secretariat concerning the Collaborative Provision Framework approved by Academic Board on 3 June 2009, highlighting the implications for Council in terms of risk management and other issues (09-296).

Council noted that the Framework Document itself had been approved by Academic Board (3 June 2009), and expressed support for those general principles within the framework summarised in paper 09-296. It was further noted that the Framework Document took into account good practice as advocated by the QAA Code of Practice.

63 PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUST SCHOOL

Received:

a paper from the Registrar and Secretary presenting outline proposals for a future Trust School (09-297), including a consultation paper from Lewisham Council circulated as a supplementary appendix.

During a wide-ranging discussion, members of Council acknowledged that the proposed Trust arrangement might bring valuable benefits, both specifically and in terms of wider engagement with the local community, but that the case for this was not fully made on the basis of present evidence. It was further noted that members of the Goldsmiths Department of Educational Studies, who had been involved in consultation on this matter only recently, were not at present unanimously in favour of the proposal. Although Lewisham Borough Council envisaged the partnership as involving a wide range of Goldsmiths departments, it was clear that the support of experts within the Department of Educational Studies was particularly important.

Members of the Council were of the view that before entering into the proposed partnership it would be necessary to be clear that there was added value for both the schools concerned and Goldsmiths, involving meaningful day-to-day interactions, which could not be obtained within existing structures. It would also be important to be assured that the intended commitment to adopting the admission and exclusion policies of the Borough of Lewisham would be permanently binding on the proposed new Trust.

It was noted that, from Goldsmiths' perspective, the proposed Trust was intended to operate in the context of a broad agenda for engagement with schools and the local community - especially relating to widening participation - which would include both continuing and new relationships between the College and schools outside the proposed Trust.

64 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Received:

the minutes of the meeting of Audit Committee held on 2 June 2009 (09-298).

65 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

Resolved:

that proposed changes to the Conflicts of Interest Policy be approved as set out in paper 09-255 (09-255).

66 HEFCE ASSESSMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL RISK

Received:

a copy of a letter from HEFCE dated 31 March 2009, indicating that in the Funding Council's last assessment the College had been assigned the standard rating of "not at higher risk" (09-254).

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

Resolved:

that proposed changes to the terms of reference and composition of committees of Council with effect from 1 September 2009 be approved (09-299).

68 STANDING ORDERS

Resolved:

that proposed amendments to Standing Orders with effect from 1 September 2009 be approved (09-262).

69 AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCES

Resolved:

that proposed amendments to Ordinances with effect from 1 September 2009 be approved (09-263).

70 AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL REGULATIONS

Resolved:

that proposed amendments to General Regulations with effect from 1 September 2009 be approved (09-264).

71 AMENDMENTS TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Resolved:

that amendments to the Financial Regulations with effect from 1 August 2009 be approved (09-242).

72 AMENDMENTS TO THE PROCEDURE FOR DEFINING THE DUTIES OF THE PRO-WARDENS

Resolved:

- (i) that the document at Appendix A to paper 09-300, originally approved by Council in July 2003, and subsequently updated, be rescinded;**
- (ii) that the Warden be invited to produce revised documentation concerning the roles of the Pro-Wardens along the general lines set out in paper 09-300 by 31 August 2009, and to make them, or a summary of them, publicly available on the College website by the same date;**
- (iii) that, on the understanding that the Warden and his successors would produce, make publicly available and update promptly as necessary, appropriate documentation concerning the roles of the Pro-Wardens, the statutory powers of Council concerning the setting of a framework for the duties of the Pro-Wardens be not exercised until further notice;**
- (iv) that the Warden be required to make available any new versions of the documentation defining Pro-Warden responsibilities to a senior member of the administrative staff appointed by the Registrar and Secretary, who would be responsible for maintaining permanently an electronic archive of all versions of the documentation, in conformity with any current College policies on Records Management, and for making the appropriate current texts available for publication on College webpages relating to governance and the College Publication Scheme.**

[Secretary's Note: Under (iv) above, the Director of Human Resources was subsequently appointed as the designated member of staff responsible for archiving, until further notice.]

73 CODE OF PRACTICE ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Resolved:

that a draft Code of Practice relating to Equality and Diversity, replacing the existing Equal Opportunities Code of Practice, be approved (08-391R).

74 DIGNITY AT WORK POLICY

Received:

a proposed draft Dignity at Work Policy, intended to replace the existing Code of Practice on Bullying and Harassment (09-301).

Resolved:

- (i) that the proposed Dignity at Work Policy be revised in the light of comments from a member of Council, and presented for approval by Council in the Autumn term;**
- (ii) that for the time being the current Code of Practice on Bullying and Harassment should continue in force.**

75 INTERIM REPORT ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

Received:

an interim report from the Secretary to Health and Safety Committee (09-302).

76 NURSERY FEES

Resolved:

to approve Nursery fee arrangements for 2009-10 as set out in paper 09-239R.

77 STUDENTS' UNION BUDGET

Noted:

the proposed budget of the Students' Union for 2009-10 (09-240R).

78 STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL REPORT

Noted:

the Annual Report of the Students' Union on the year 2008-09 (09-303).

79 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Noted:

that the regular meetings of Council for 2009-10 had already been confirmed as follows, and would be held at 4.00pm (although earlier presentations not part of the formal meeting might be announced on any agenda):

1 December 2009

25 March 2010

29 June 2010

[Secretary's Note: Council also noted under this item a proposed date of 13 October 2009 for an additional meeting of Council; however subsequently it became apparent that this timing was not appropriate to the issues to be addressed, and that the meeting should instead be held on 26 October.]

80 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

On behalf of Council, the Chair thanked the following members retiring on 31 August 2009 for their respective periods of service:

Lady Goodhart

The Earl of Harrowby

Mr Manoj Kerai

Mr Pádraig O'Connor

Professor Carrie Paechter

Ms Jess Tratt

81 INDEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

Personal data relating to persons other than members of the College

Resolved:

that Mr Brian Lymbery be appointed a member of Council for three years from 1 September 2009 (09-304).

82 INDEPENDENT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEES

Personal data relating to persons other than members of the College

Resolved:

to approve recommendations from the Chair of Nominations Committee, on behalf of the Committee, for reappointments and new appointments to independent places on committees with effect from 1 September 2009 (09-305).

Noted:

that the Council Chair's Action report to the present meeting included the appointment of two new members of Audit Committee.

83 PROPOSALS FOR HONORARY DEGREES

Personal data relating to persons other than members of the College

Resolved:

to approve proposals from Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee for awards (09-306 - including a supplementary appendix).

RESERVED BUSINESS

84 HEADSHIPS OF ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Received:

a paper on progress in the appointment of Heads with effect from 1 September 2009, including the proposed appointment of a new Head (09-307).

Resolved:

- (i) that Professor Kay Stables be appointed Head of the Department of Design from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2012;**
- (ii) that the Chair of Council be given delegated authority to approve, during the Summer vacation 2009, a recommendation for the appointment of the Headship of the Department of Educational Studies, with effect from 1 September 2009.**

[Secretary's note: In the event somewhat different arrangements were made for the Headship of Educational Studies - to be reported to Council in the Autumn term 2009.]