

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

**RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COMMITTEE
12 November 2008**

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2008

Present: Professor Jane Powell (in the Chair), Professor Carrie Paechter, Dr Len Platt, Professor Irit Rogoff, Professor Robert Zimmer, Ms Lynda Agili (Secretary)

Apologies: Professor Les Back, Mr Mike Metelits, Professor Maria Shevtsova

In attendance: Management Accountant, Academic

OPEN BUSINESS

1 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noted:

- (i) the new Chair of the Committee, Professor Jane Powell, has been appointed Pro-Warden Research and Enterprise from 1 August 2008
- (ii) the Chair welcomed Professor Irit Rogoff who has joined the Committee from August 2008 representing Group A disciplines

2 STANDING ORDERS AND CONFLICT OF INTERESTS POLICY

Received and noted:

the College Standing Orders (A; 08-304) and the College Policy on Conflicts of Interest (B; 08-303)

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP

Received and noted:

the Terms of Reference, Composition and Membership of the Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee (C; 08-413)

4 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2008

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

(i) Project Accounts

that the Finance Office is developing methods of monitoring externally funded project expenditure in more detail

that plans for post-award procedures between Research Office and Finance Office would be further developed in 2009

Noted:

(ii) AHRC Block Grant Partnership and Institutional Arts and Humanities Research Strategy

that the Goldsmiths bid had been submitted in September; feedback and queries from the AHRC were expected in December, and institutional responses should be returned to the AHRC in January

that results would be known in March 2009 and that Goldsmiths would hope to receive in the region of 36 studentships

Noted:

(iii) ORSAS termination

that the HEFCE decision to terminate the ORSAS awards has been petitioned against by the HEI community but there was no immediate likelihood of a revival of the scheme

that Commonwealth Fellowships had been reinstated – but they were much fewer and unlikely to be orientated towards arts and humanities disciplines

Noted:

(iv) “Transformations”

that a second edition of the research publication “Transformations”, compiled by the Communications and Publicity Department, was being planned for 2009 with an overall theme of Technology

Resolved:

that if members had suggestions for particular projects which might be highlighted in the 2009 edition of Transformations, they should contact the Chair before the end of term

6 PUBLICATION OF RAE 2008 RESULTS

Received:

the RAE Circular Letter 2008/01 (D; 08-414) outlining HEFCE plans for publishing the RAE2008 results

Noted:

- (i) that HEFCE would release to each HEI the results for its own submissions on the morning of 17 December, and the results for all submissions nationally a few hours later
- (ii) that all external dissemination of results was strictly embargoed until 0.01 on 18 December
- (iii) that Goldsmiths would post results on an internal webpage, initially with secure access to designated individuals only
- (iv) that all Heads of Department would have on-line access to the Quality Profiles relevant to their own department as soon as possible after Goldsmiths had received the information from HEFCE
- (v) that the Research Office, Planning Office, and Communications and Publicity Office would analyse and contextualise the outcomes and prepare press releases
- (vi) that the financial impact of the assessment would not be known until March 2009 when HEFCE would announce how QR funding will be distributed in relation to the quality profiles

7 DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH COMMITTEES

Received:

a proposal from the Chair regarding the roles and remits of Departmental Research Committees, and their relationship to this Committee (**E; 08-415**)

Noted:

that the proposal was considered to offer a constructive plan for developing stronger links between Departmental and College-level research strategies

Resolved:

- (i) that each Department should identify a specific individual (usually the Chair or another member of the Departmental Research Committee [DRC]) to serve as a point of contact for liaison between the DRC and the Research Office/Pro-Warden Research and Enterprise
- (ii) that this initiative to increase structured engagement with departments should be supported by a range of communication systems, including for example occasional Research Office attendance at meetings of Departmental Research Committees on request, to discuss relevant issues, and forums for sharing information and examples of good practice

8 COLLEGE FINANCE STRATEGY, REF AND FORTHCOMING RESEARCH STRATEGY

Received:

an oral update from the Chair on the College Finance Strategy and the current state of play regarding the Research Excellence Framework [REF], and an outline of how preparation for REF might: (a) be embedded within the new Goldsmiths Research Strategy; (b) be facilitated through effective planning and communication with departments; and (c) be monitored by this Committee

Noted:

- (i) that closer liaison with Departmental Research Committees [DRCs] would facilitate preparation for REF by providing a route for the exchange of central and disciplinary/professional perspectives
- (ii) that the Finance Strategy had set a target of increasing research income by 20% annually
- (iii) that since Research Council funding might be constrained by current economic and political considerations it would be vital for Goldsmiths to explore alternative sources of research funding
- (iv) that a strategic approach should be taken across all departments to encourage a higher proportion of academic staff to submit applications for external funding
- (v) that mechanisms to encourage discussion between departments should be developed to facilitate collaborative research and rapid responses to specific funding calls
- (vi) that the proposed structured engagement between RKTC and DRCs would provide opportunities to reshape departmental attitudes and practices with respect to the submission of applications for external funding
- (vii) that there should be a particular focus on encouraging and supporting early career researchers in developing and submitting strong grant applications, for example through working with DRCs to provide constructive mentoring systems
- (viii) that the Graduate School and Research Office had recently developed the Goldsmiths Research Incubation and Transfer Programme (GRIT) to provide post-doctoral researchers and final year PhD students with direct support in writing research proposals

9 RCUK CONSULTATION ON CODE OF CONDUCT AND POLICY ON THE GOVERNANCE OF GOOD RESEARCH CONDUCT

Received:

the RCUK consultation document and Goldsmiths' response (F; 08-416)

Noted:

- (i) that Goldsmiths must ensure that mechanisms for monitoring research conduct and training in good practice are robust and constant across each department

- (ii) that DRCs could be required by RKTC to monitor the progress and conduct of externally funded research projects, reporting to RKTC. This would strengthen and systematise current governance procedures
- (iii) that currently there are departmental variations in approaches to the ethics of student and staff projects, but that the Research Ethics Sub-Committee had established comprehensive procedures which should be adhered to by all disciplines

Recommended:

that the Chair of Research Ethics Sub Committee should become an *ex-officio* member of Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee with effect from 1 September 2009. This will ensure that future developments in our research governance systems take appropriate account of, and in turn are supported by, the work of the ethics committee.

10 RESEARCH COMMITTEE FUND

Received:

an update on the College Research Fund (**G; 08-417**)

Noted:

- (i) the College Research Fund should continue to include some support for the development of large scale research applications
- (ii) that in future years DRCs could be consulted by RKTC on mechanisms for encouraging early career researchers and interdisciplinary working

Resolved

- (i) that £7,500 of the £40K available in the Fund for 09/10 should be ring-fenced to support major research applications throughout the year, based on a judgement of the potential strength of the application and the need of the applicants for resources over and above those already available from their departments and through existing Research Office provision. RKTC will monitor the allocation of funding under this scheme
- (ii) that the Early Career Researcher competition for funds should continue to be run as in previous years, but the definition of 'early career' will be adjusted so that it applies to all academic staff who are on Lecturer A or B grades and are within five years of their appointment at Goldsmiths

11 APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS FOR EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING

Received:

- i. summary of applications and awards for the last 5 years (H; 08-418)
- ii. schedule of applications and awards for external funding made in the year ending 31 July 2008 (I; 08-419)
- iii. analysis of income and expenditure in the year ending 31 July 2008 (J; 08-420)

Noted:

- (i) that there had been a step increase in the amount of income provided by external research funding from £4.49 million in 2006-07 to £6.04 million in 2007-2008; this had partly been achieved by higher value grants being awarded
- (ii) that of the 128 applications made in 2007/08 only a small number were for over £500,000; and that in most departments the majority of academic staff had not submitted any grant applications at all
- (iii) that bearing in mind the target of a 20% p.a. increase in research income, the Research Office should analyse the applications and award data at Departmental level in order to develop strategies focused on (a) the development of strong and ambitious applications in areas which have the greatest potential for obtaining funding; (b) encouraging a higher proportion of academic staff to seek external funding; and (c) encouraging applications for very large and high profile grants, particularly where Full Economic Costs would be met
- (iv) that some departments/staff feel that the distribution of FEC 'overhead' (residual) income between central administration and the department in which the grant is held should be reviewed since there are cases in which the incentives to carry out externally funded research appear weak (e.g. if the investigators are not given the resources to 'buy out' the time they have to spend working on the project).

Resolved

Research Office would liaise with DRC chairs to explore ways of setting departmentally-appropriate income targets and providing support to staff to do so, bearing in mind the variation in funding opportunities between disciplines

12 HIGHER EDUCATION BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY INTERACTIONS SURVEY (HEBCIS)

Received:

a summary of key points from the HEBCIS 2006-07 (K; 08-421)

Noted:

- (i) that participation in user-led knowledge transfer activities, including collaborative and contract research, was an important aspect of Goldsmiths strategy
- (ii) that the HEBCI survey was a broad measure of third stream activity across College. Last year, the survey was a key determinant of our HEIF 4 allocation for the years 2008-11. That allocation is fixed, although continued good returns will stand us in good stead in any subsequent evaluation.
- (iii) that quantitative measures of knowledge transfer activity and income generation need to be provided and that the BDO would look to analyse this data further in the context of considering how best to capture the full range of IP across the College

- (iv) that the Business Development Office would be working closely with Research Office to develop strategies to encourage and support a broad range of knowledge transfer
- (v) that the forthcoming Research Excellence Framework would be likely to include measures for research engagement with non-academic organisations and it was vital that Departments identify routes to foster applied and community led research initiatives

13 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH GOLDSMITHS LEVERHULME MEDIA RESEARCH CENTRE: SPACES, CONNECTIONS, CONTROL

Received:

a proposal submitted by the Department of Media and Communications (L; 08-422)

Noted:

that the proposal was strong but would need amendment to specify the membership of the Advisory Board and clear research objectives

Recommended:

to approve the establishment of the Goldsmiths Leverhulme Media Research Centre: Spaces, Connections, Control, attached to the Department of Media and Communications, with effect from January 2009

14 A CENTRE FOR PHILOSOPHY AT GOLDSMITHS

Received:

the revised proposal for the Centre for Philosophy at Goldsmiths, formally approved by Academic Board at its last meeting, and a request for funding (M; 08-423)

Noted:

that Academic Board had approved the establishment of the Centre for Philosophy, with effect from June 2008, as a soft Centre in the Department of Visual Cultures

Resolved:

to award the Centre £1,200 to contribute to the travel and accommodation expenses of three international speakers at the inaugural conference

15 GRADUATE SCHOOL

Received and noted:

the minutes of the Graduate School Board (N; 08-424)

16 ANNUAL REPORT

Received and noted:

Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee Annual Report (O; 08-384)

17 RCUK CONSULTATION REVIEWING THE EFFECT OF FEC

Received and noted:

the Goldsmiths response to the RCUK FEC consultation (P; 08-425)

18 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY HORIZON SCANNING

Received and noted:

a report of major research initiatives currently open for application (Q; 08-426)

19 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Noted:

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

- (a) Prof F Bond, Dept of Psychology(12.1.09 – 19.6.09)
- (b) Prof S Day, Dept of Anthropology (12.1.09 –19.6.09)
- (c) Prof P Dunwoodie, Dept of English & Comparative Literature (22.9.08 – 27.3.09)
- (d) Ms J Gabrys, Dept of Design, (22.9.08-12.12.08)
- (e) Mr P Halliday, Dept of Sociology (12.1.09 – 27.3.09)
- (f) Dr F Krause, Dept of English & Comparative Literature (27.4.09 – 19.6.09)
- (g) Dr T Parnell, Dept of English & Comparative Literature (12.1.09 – 27.3.09)

Resolved:

To approve the reports following leave of absence: (R; 08-427)

- (a) Prof J Baily, Dept of Music
- (b) Mr K Potter, Dept of Music
- (c) Dr S Wastell, Dept of Anthropology

20 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting will be held on 4 February 2009 at 2.00 pm

LA

November 2008