

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2009

Present: Professor Jane Powell (in the Chair), Professor Les Back, Mr Mike Metelits, Professor Carrie Paechter, Professor Len Platt, Professor Irit Rogoff, Professor Maria Shevtsova, Ms Lynda Agili (Secretary)

Apologies: Professor Robert Zimmer

Observer: A Visiting Researcher

OPEN BUSINESS

34 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2009

35 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

(i) Dedicated Research Support in Finance

that Ms Marie Fallon had now taken up the new post of Research Grants Officer in the Finance Office; this post will be dedicated to supporting College research activity

Noted:

(ii) Departmental Research Committee [DRC] network

that the first Departmental Research Committee [DRC] network meeting would take place on 1 July

that agenda items would include the new Research Strategy, a demonstration of Goldsmiths Research Online and a REF update

(iii) QR Allocation

that Goldsmiths' QR income has fallen by 2% despite an improved RAE performance

that QR income for STEM disciplines was ring-fenced nationally, resulting in diminished income for humanities, arts and social science subjects

that QR income to the Computing and Psychology departments had increased in light of their RAE2008 performances

that the Art and Design departments had suffered a reduction in QR income because of the relative decline in their RAE ranking and the national reduction in funding for arts-based subjects

that even though Sociology had maintained their position as one of the joint strongest departments nationally, its QR income has gone down because of the reduction in funding to Social Science UoAs

that transitional funding for 2009/10 will soften the impact of the bias towards STEM disciplines in the coming year

that some RAE panellists had commented that the Research Environment element of submissions had been used to distinguish between those whose outputs were of similar standard; this should be borne in mind in planning for REF

36 RESEARCH STRATEGY AND TARGETS

Received:

a draft Research Strategy and Targets for 2009-13 (A; 09-218)

Noted:

- (i) that the strategy was intended to be an organic document which would be updated annually in light of progress made and changes in internal and external factors
- (ii) that the strategy should incorporate aims relating to postgraduate research and business development, and that Key Performance Indicators should be set where relevant
- (iii) that the DRC network would contribute to development of the College research strategy so that it is reciprocally related to strategies at departmental level; the College strategy must be articulated in a manner which takes into account variation between the models of research in different disciplines, and which recognises different patterns of activity in relation (for instance) to grant funding
- (iv) that currently many departments do not have a formal research strategy, and that about half did not set any concrete targets for research activity in the present academic year; and that in future it would be desirable for all departments to formulate a strategy and specific discipline-appropriate targets against which their performance can be evaluated annually
- (v) that a 'vision statement' should preface the strategy, articulating the values and distinctive characteristics of Goldsmiths' research; DRCs will be asked for their input to the development of this statement

Resolved:

- (i) to establish a working group to construct the initial vision statement, with input from DRCs and other relevant parties
- (ii) to revise the strategy in the light of feedback from the DRC network and to reconsider it at RKTC in the autumn term with the intention of sending a finalised version of the strategy to Academic Board in December 2009

37 ANNUAL REPORTS FROM RESEARCH CENTRES

Received:

the annual reports from Goldsmiths 'soft' Research Centres and a tabulated summary of general issues arising from the reports (09-219)

Noted:

- (i) that whilst the original aim of establishing Research Centres had been to formalise interdisciplinary/inter-departmental research groups, a number of the current centres appeared to have membership only from their host departments; under the existing Guidelines, this would mean that they should be Units rather than Centres
- (ii) that not all Centres described Advisory Boards which comply with the requirements currently specified in the Guidelines
- (iii) that some Heads of the Centres' host departments had given qualified support, contingent on amendments or reviews taking place within the next academic year
- (iv) that most of the Centres provide lively focal points for discussion, generation, and dissemination of research and in some cases cross-disciplinary research grants have been linked to them

Resolved:

- (i) to establish a working party to review the existing Guidelines for Centres and Units with a view to clarifying constitutional and operational arrangements
- (ii) to provide feedback to the Centres on their annual reports, and to seek clarification of membership from those which have thus far identified members from only a single department
- (iii) that the fifteen existing Centres should be divided into three groups which will be reviewed by RKTC on a 3-yearly cycle; the first group will comprise those currently identified as priorities for review by the relevant HoD(s) or RKTC

38 ENTERPRISE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Received:

the summary of key recommendations from the Internal Audit Report on the Enterprise and Business Development at Goldsmiths (09-220); an oral report from the Director of Business Development; and a proposal for a new post, initially fixed

term, to facilitate joint working by the Business Development Office and Research Office in relation particularly to the development of knowledge transfer and collaborative funding applications (09-221)

Noted:

- (i) that Business Development Office had begun to address a number of the recommendations from the Internal Audit Report, as indicated in a structured workplan; a current focus was on improving financial procedures and communications with the Finance Office
- (ii) that Business Development Office and Research Office had jointly identified strategic value to creating an additional post working across the two offices with the purpose specifically of providing support for the development of Knowledge Transfer, Technology Strategy Board, RC and EU FP7 business-orientated projects. It would provide Goldsmiths academics with a 'one-stop shop' for assistance with such projects, and would facilitate co-working between existing specialist staff in the two offices who have specific and complementary expertise.
- (iii) that the proposed post was envisaged to be of particular importance to implementation of the Research Concordat framework, which was concerned with the development needs of early career researchers. Thus it would actively promote and develop opportunities such as CASE studentships and Knowledge Transfer projects which enable postgraduates and postdoctoral fellows to develop their skills and experience through relevant work placements.

Resolved:

- (i) that the proposal for a new post to support research and knowledge transfer activities be endorsed
- (ii) that Business Development Office and Research Office should develop a business case to put forward to the Senior Management Team, utilising existing resources (including the accrued Roberts funds) held by the two offices to finance the post for an initial year

39 GOLDSMITHS RESEARCH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Received:

an oral report from the Head of Research Office on the development of the Goldsmiths Research Management System (GRMS), the Goldsmiths Research Online (GRO) repository and the GRO policy documents for the deposit of research outputs (09-222)

Noted:

- (i) that the Goldsmiths Research Online (GRO) repository was now ready to be rolled out to all departments and should be used as both a database for recording all research activity and depositing research outputs including full text research articles, sample book chapters, working papers, monographs, visual and digital art works

- (ii) that the repository would be used as the database for populating REF and was powered by EPrints 3, free software developed by the University of Southampton and used by numerous other institutions including UCL
- (iii) that a 0.5 member of staff had been employed by the library for one year to assist departments to populate the system and deposit research outputs
- (iv) that there would be a full demonstration of the system at the Department Research Committee network meeting
- (v) that the outputs deposit license statement had been used successfully by a number of other HEIs, although as stated in the policy, authors should ensure that they have copyright permission to deposit their published outputs in the repository. The final wording for the deposit license will be considered carefully to ensure it does not conflict with publishers copyright agreements but it is in keeping with an overall move in the HE sector towards Open Access publishing.

Resolved:

- (i) to take legal advice on the GRO outputs deposit licensing agreement
- (ii) to receive a full demonstration of Goldsmiths Research Online at the Autumn RKTC meeting

40 AHRC BLOCK GRANT PARTNERSHIP AND UPDATE ON ESRC DOCTORAL TRAINING CENTRES

Received:

an analysis of the AHRC Block Grant Award (09-223) and an oral report from the Dean of the Graduate School on ESRC Doctoral Training Centres

Noted:

- (i) that quota allocations of AHRC studentships had been reduced by 15% on average, but unevenly across different training mechanisms and subject areas: support for professional preparation MAs were particularly severely cut, and humanities subjects had been relatively protected
- (ii) that in many disciplines quotas were awarded only to the top five departments nationally
- (iii) that in this context, a number of Goldsmiths disciplines had done disproportionately well even though in absolute terms the number of quota awards may have reduced. Thus Media and Communications, Visual Anthropology and Goldsmiths Digital Studios received 25% of all research preparation awards and 37% of the professional preparation studentships in Film and Digital and Media production. In Fine Art, Goldsmiths was awarded a quarter of all professional preparation studentships; Drama was awarded 30% of all the professional preparation studentships in Dance, Drama and Performing Arts; and the Centre for Cultural Studies had received almost the same number of doctoral studentships as in previous years despite a 42% cut across this sector

- (iv) that where departments had fared badly, one reason cited by the AHRC was the apparent lack of a strong link between departmental training programmes and the central Graduate School programme. This is clearly an issue which will need to be addressed as a priority.
- (v) that the ESRC was changing its mechanisms for awarding studentships and would be creating a national network of Doctoral Training Centres (DTC) and Doctoral Training Units (DTU); a criterion for DTCs would be the capacity for at least 300 FTEs, necessitating the formation of cross-institutional alliances
- (vi) that full details of the scheme and application process would be published in July but that possible collaborations with other institutions were already being explored by the Dean of the Graduate School and the Pro-Warden Academic Development

41 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE CENTRE FOR GEO-CULTURES

Received:

A provisional proposal for a Centre for Geo-Cultures to be attached to the Department of Visual Cultures subject to external funding being obtained (09-224)

Noted:

- (i) that the prospective Director [Prof Rogoff] was intending to develop the Centre with income from one or more research grants for which applications are currently under review by various funding bodies
- (ii) that members of the committee considered the proposal to be of great interest, but it was not clear that Prof Rogoff wished to establish the Centre prior to the attraction of external funding even though this is not a formal requirement
- (iii) that a number of specific issues would need to be addressed at the stage of making a formal application to become a Centre (e.g. cross-departmental membership of the Advisory Board, formal agreement from the participating departments and especially Visual Cultures as the host department)

Resolved:

Chair of RKTC to liaise with Prof Rogoff to ascertain whether she would like the Committee to consider a formal proposal to establish the Centre irrespective of external funding. In this case she would be invited to submit a slightly revised proposal to a future meeting, addressing the issues flagged in point 41 (iii) above

42 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BALKANS

Noted:

that following approval by Academic Board on 4 March 2009 the Centre for the Study of the Balkans would be established as a soft Centre attached to the Department of History with effect from September 2009

43 BRITISH ACADEMY CEO VISIT

Noted:

that Dr Robin Jackson, Chief Executive of the British Academy will be visiting College on 1 July 2009

44 UNIVERSITY OF LONDON BOARD OF TRUSTEES VISIT

Noted:

that the University of London Board Of Trustees will be visiting College on 24 June 2009

45 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY HORIZON SCANNING

Received and noted:

a report of major research initiatives currently open for application (09-225)

46 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Noted:

- i the following periods of paid leave approved by Chair's action:
 - (a) Dr J Anim-Addo, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (11.1.10 – 26.4.10)
 - (b) Prof D Atkinson, Dept of Educational Studies (1.9.09 – 30.4.10)
 - (c) Dr J Cohen, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (1.1.10 – 31.3.10)
 - (d) Dr M Canova-Green, Dept of Professional and Community Education (1.10.09 – 31.12.09)
 - (e) Dr A Davies, Dept of Media and Communications (1.9.09 – 31.8.10; exact dates contingent on funding by AHRC Research Leave Scheme)
 - (f) Dr N Fenton, Dept of Media and Communications (1.9.09 – 31.12.09)
 - (g) Dr P Kirwan, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (21.9.09 - 11.12.09)
 - (h) Prof K Negus, Dept of Music (1.9.09 – 30.4.10; exact dates contingent on funding by AHRC Research Leave Scheme)
 - (i) Dr C Scott, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (1.1.10 -1.3.10)
 - (j) Dr A Schmetterling, Dept of Visual Cultures (1.9.09 – 30.4.10; exact dates contingent on funding by AHRC Research Leave Scheme)
 - (k) Dr M Simpson, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (11.1.10 - 26.3.10)

- (l) Dr D Tubridy, 0.5 Dept of English and Comparative Literature and 0.5 Dept of Visual Cultures (1.10.09 – 31.12.09)

Resolved:

- ii to approve the reports following leave of absence (9-226)
 - (a) Dr C Blinder, Dept of English and Comparative Literature
 - (b) Professor M Shevtsova, Dept of Drama

47 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Central Research Fund

Noted:

- (i) the impending abolition of the University of London Central Research Fund
- (ii) that the fund had provided much needed support to PhD students and early career researchers over the years and that there were a number of petitions being made to reinstate the fund
- (iii) that UoL's intention was to redistribute the budget across the Colleges so that they can make awards internally

48 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that meetings for 2009-10 will be held on:

22 October 2009 at 2.30 pm
18 February 2010 at 2.30 pm
20 May 2010 at 2.30pm

49 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS FROM RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COMMITTEE

Received:

applications for Early Career Research Awards (09-227)

Noted:

- (i) that there were a good number of interesting applications from a wide range of departments
- (ii) that some applications were weak and/or did not appear to have the required strong departmental support
- (iii) that several applications seemed to have requested the maximum amount of funds without adequate justification for the expenditure
- (iv) that in order to maximise the number of applications which could be supported, some of the successful applications where the costings appeared tenuous, excessive, or inadequately justified received less funding than requested
- (v) that the triage system for filtering applications appeared to have been effective, as had the rating system, making the process of decision-making time-efficient; there was a high level of consensus on the rank orderings and the awards made

Resolved:

to award College Research Funds to:

Ms A Carlile, Educational Studies
Qualitative and quantitative contexts: stories and statistics of teaching autistic children in a mainstream school and in a special educational needs school
£4,736.16

Dr A Hessayon, History
Jews and secret jews in early modern England
£2,964.10

Dr Y Kovas, Psychology
Assessing individual differences in specific numerical ability in 16-year olds: Validation study
£3,473.74

Dr M Kumashiro, Psychology
Partner Affirmation Under Situations of Conflicting Interests
£3,960

Dr V Obeid, Educational Studies

Cultural, linguistic and cognitive issues in teaching the language of literary texts for pupils with EAL in secondary schools
£4,199.04

Dr R Sansi Roca, Anthropology
Artworks, Documents, Products an Ethnography of Artistic Production in Barcelona
£2,216

Dr M Tham, Design
Metadesigning Fashion - from ownership to access
£4,356.40

Dr N Wolf, Visual Cultures
Images in Conflict. Film cultures and civil society in India and Pakistan
£4,861.26

LA
June 2009