

**GOLDSMITHS  
University of London**

**ACADEMIC BOARD**

**ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2010<sup>1</sup>**

**Present:** Professor Simon McVeigh (in the Chair), Dr Catherine Alexander, Ms Vicky Annand, Dr Lucia Boldrini, Mr Tony Dowmunt, Mr Geraint Fox, Dr Andrea Gilroy, Dr Helen Jones, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Professor Carrie Paechter, Ms Rachel Soper, Mr Matt Ward.

**In attendance:** PA to Deputy Warden, Professor Robert Zimmer (*vice* Professor Mark d'Inverno, Joan Turner (for Items 23-25), Ms Melanie Rimmer, Quality and Governance Administrator (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Professor Mark d'Inverno, Mr Jesse Fajemisin, Ms Bindz Patel.

***OPEN BUSINESS***

**23 MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2009 be approved.

**24 MATTERS ARISING**

Noted:

*Re item 18, Portfolio Review:*

- (i) that Academic Board had broadly approved the proposals set out by the Committee;
- (ii) that the Board felt further consideration should be given to the expectations of part-time students;
- (iii) that Board felt that it would be useful to consider cross-disciplinary approaches to research training, which would be met in part by the College's collaborative bid for an ESRC Doctoral Training Centre;
- (iv) that a plan was needed to implement the recommendations of the portfolio review;
- (v) that the Board had determined there was a need to retain a one-year research degree, although suggested that the MRes might not be the most appropriate qualification for this purpose;

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<sup>1</sup> Unconfirmed minutes

- (vi) that the Committee recognised that there were various issues with the current provision of the MRes degree, including the impact of ELQs and the different ways departments taught and packaged the MRes.

**Resolved:**

that the Graduate School be requested to conduct a survey of MRes provision in the College.

## **25 INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT STRATEGY**

The Committee noted that there was broad support for the proposals in the paper from the Chair (10-15), and that international recruitment was the most vital factor in the attainment of overall College objectives and financial sustainability for the future. However, the Committee noted that at all times the College needed to consider its academic footprint, and how to ensure that the College's portfolio was compatible with large-scale international expansion.

The Committee noted that there existed clear market synergies with some countries, and the College needed to consider how it presented itself in these markets to learn how better to engage with them; it was also vital that the College improved its profile overseas. Currently, the International Office was working to ensure that the very important role of academic staff members in the recruitment process was being addressed in a cost-effective way; this included, for instance, recruitment officers "piggybacking" onto academics' travel plans and encouraging academic staff to promote the College while attending conferences overseas.

It was noted that increasing the number of post-graduate students would result in the need for more labour-intensive services in both support and administration; this would be an issue in particular for practice-based programmes. In addition, there was the question of whether this growth would be sustainable without improvements to the College's estate.

The Committee noted that the College would need to consider how it taught overseas students; at the moment the College had a tendency to frontload its teaching which meant that overseas students were doing a lot of their work before their language skills were at their optimal level.

The Committee discussed the College's plans for the international pre-Degree and pre-Masters provision. It was felt that guaranteed progression onto degree programmes after completion of international foundation certificates would be a vital selling point, and was very successful where it was already in place on integrated degrees. However, putting guaranteed progression in place would mean that departments would need to be involved in the design of the certificates and approval of the progression scores needed. For practice-based subjects, students would have to produce a portfolio as part of their certificate.

The Committee noted the following practical points in relation to the plans:

- (i) that the College would need to consider the credit value of these programmes, and that it would be desirable for them to be modular so they had portability;
- (ii) that there was a need for staggered start times so these programmes were more compatible with overseas institutions which ran on calendar years;
- (iii) that pre-masters programmes were one area where it was not so clear whether there would be student demand, as they defeated the central attraction of a one-year masters programme;

- (iv) that it was vital, if these plans were to succeed, that the profile of the Language Studies Centre was raised, both in the College and elsewhere.

## **26 SUMMER SCHOOLS/SHORT COURSES**

Received:

an update on progress relating to summer schools and short courses (10-16).

The Committee noted that these proposals would be most successful and attractive if they had input from various departments, as well as industry partners.

## **27 REDEVELOPMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON EXTERNAL SYSTEM BA/DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH**

Received:

a report on the External System (10-17).

## **28 ESRC DOCTORAL TRAINING CENTRE BID**

Received:

a report from the Dean of the Graduate School (09-512).

## **29 PROPOSAL FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE MSC COMPUTER GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT AT ST. MARTIN'S INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN MALTA**

Received:

a proposal in line with the College's Collaborative Provision Framework (10-18).

Noted:

- (i) that the Department of Computing felt that this proposal had potential for serious income generation, and could be used as a pilot for further work with other institutions;
- (ii) that this proposal was coming to the Committee later than would be preferred, and would require significant amounts of work from the Quality Office to ensure it was approved before students began;
- (iii) that the College had been assured by the Institute that the previous concern about student numbers had been managed, and that they were extremely enthusiastic about the proposal going forward;
- (iv) that there was a need to determine who would be responsible for providing administrative support for this link, although it was felt that in the first instance it would be provided by the Department of Computing;
- (v) that the College currently had an excellent relationship with the Institute, and it was very important that this was sustained;

- (vi) that the proposal had potential merit, was in line with College strategy, had a sound business case, and did not engage the College in unnecessary risk.

**Recommended:**

**that the collaborative relationship between SMIIT in Malta and the Department of Computing proceed to the full approval process.**

### **30 UPDATE ON STUDENT NUMBERS AND STUDENT NUMBER PLANNING**

Received:

a paper from the Director of Quality, Planning and Academic Governance (10-13).

Noted:

- (i) that in the longer term, the College needed to plan student numbers in the context of government plans and priorities with respect to funding, contestability, employability and other agendas, as well as the College's ambitious growth plans;
- (ii) that the Planning office and the Senior Management Team were currently investigating options for development through this year's planning round, and that an outcome of the ongoing discussions with departments will be an agreed set of targets for the next five years;
- (iii) that there was a need to be more strategic in apportioning funded numbers to different Departments in the College.

### **31 PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS**

Received:

a paper from the Director of Quality, Planning and Academic Governance (10-14).

Noted:

- (i) that the College was not in a position to run masters programmes that were not financially sustainable;
- (ii) that new programme developments needed to be demand-driven and that it was important to consider closing programmes that were not doing well;
- (iii) that many new programme ideas were based on cross-departmental and interdisciplinary collaborations, which was very good, but the College needed to ensure it was able to deliver on the administrative aspects of these collaborations (for instance, by ensuring that money followed students).

### **32 STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY STRATEGY**

Received:

a paper detailing plans to develop a Student Employability Strategy (10-19).

Noted:

the paper's proposal that the Pro-Warden (Students and Learning Development) would establish an Employability Working Group and present its findings to Student Committee by the end of the academic year 2009-2010.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

***Exemption under the FOI Act 2000 (Section 43: Commercial Interests)***

### **33 FOUNDATION DEGREES**

Received:

a report on foundation degrees (10-20).

It was noted that the Committee generally endorsed the approach to foundation degrees presented in the paper, and recognised that they were the College's only opportunity for funded expansion. However, the Committee discussed a number of concerns, including:

- (i) the need for a College framework for foundation degrees;
- (ii) the need to determine a fee structure, including how finances would be arranged between the College and any relevant partners;
- (iii) the College's ability to deliver on fairly ambitious plans for foundation degree collaborations;
- (iv) the possible effect of diversifying our academic activities to the extent that it distracted from our primary drive towards international and postgraduate expansion.

### **34 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was noted that Jessica Pavlos, the Quality and Governance Administrator, would be leaving her role to take up the position of Research and Knowledge Transfer Officer at Goldsmiths. She was thanked for her work as Secretary to the Committee.

### **35 DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

To note that the next meeting will be held on the following date:

11 May 2010

Jessica Pavlos  
Quality and Governance Administrator  
February 2010