

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2010

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

In attendance: Di Lockyer, Ms Annette Hayton (for Item 40), Ms Melanie Rimmer (Secretary).

Apologies: Dr Helen Jones, Mr Tony Dowmunt, Professor Mark d'Inverno

OPEN BUSINESS

36 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2010 be approved.

37 MATTERS ARISING

Noted:

- (i) that a final version of the Short Course Framework, governing short courses and Department-run summer schools, would be reviewed by SMT in the next few weeks;
- (ii) that a model for a centrally-organised summer school was in development;
- (iii) that the External System BA in English had now been approved;
- (iv) that positive feedback had been received regarding the ESRC DTC bid, and the final decision was expected in early August;
- (v) that the Malta collaboration did not proceed on the timeframe originally agreed, although the Computing Department remained interested in pursuing for 2011 if timing allowed;
- (vi) that Committee members seek to raise the profile of the employability agenda where the opportunity arose.

38 STUDENT NUMBER PLANNING

Received:

a paper from the Director of Quality, Planning and Academic Governance (10-203).

The Committee noted the bid for ASNs in Computing and Design. Some concerns were raised regarding recruiting the additional students and the burden this might place on certain programmes, and it was queried whether there would be an issue regarding monitoring progression rather than completion given that the funding was only for one year. However it was generally recognised that bidding for the ASNs was an important indicator of Goldsmiths' engagement with the STEM agenda.

The Committee noted that Level Zero provision would in the future be focussed on Integrated Degrees rather than Access courses.

39 PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

Received:

a paper from the Deputy Warden, Director of Quality, Planning and Academic Governance, and the Planning Manager (10-205).

The Committee noted the proposal for a Goldsmiths Business School. It was felt that, with a well-defined niche, there would be great potential for such a venture. The Goldsmiths niche would lie in cultural and creative business development and management, and it was also suggested that there was high market demand in the areas of marketing, PR and advertising. The experience of the BA Design programme was noted, which trained students in non-traditional business approaches but had a high employability rate. It was felt that a Business School could link with and build on a number of programmes and activities that already exist around the College. Its name and its presentation and marketing would need to strike a balance between the traditional expectations of a Business School and highlighting Goldsmiths own approach.

The Committee noted the proposal for a BA Humanities, targeted mainly at the North American market and using current provision in a number of Departments. Some uncertainty about the market for such a programme was expressed. Concerns were also raised about the student experience on a programme which would be spread over a number of Departments without an identifiable home and with students principally from one region. It was noted that the BA Social and Cultural Studies in PACE already covered some of the proposed ground.

The Committee noted the need for the College to consider how it might tap into the STEM agenda without developing completely new provision. Proposed developments in the Computing Department were an example. Catherine Alexander offered to put together some thoughts on this for a future meeting.

The Committee noted that some of the new programmes approved for development during the recent Planning Round would benefit from cross-Departmental development, and this approach was something that should be encouraged. It was suggested that brief presentations by each Department at the regular senior staff Away Days would be a way to share ideas. It was also noted that this Committee was a good forum for considering ideas in development and taking an institution-wide overview.

Recommended:

- (i) that the proposal for a Goldsmiths Business School be more fully developed, bearing in mind the discussions noted above;**

- (ii) that the market for a BA Humanities be more fully explored, and consideration be given to whether the aims of the proposal might be met within what we already offer;**
- (iii) that a cross-Departmental, thematic approach be taken to portfolio development in the future.**

40 WIDENING PARTICIPATION

Received:

a paper from the Head of Widening Participation (10-204).

It was noted that a review of the College's overall strategy with regard to widening participation was currently on-going. Consideration would need to be given to how objectives fitted with wider recruitment objectives, particularly in view of the fact that funded student numbers are capped and likely to remain so. It was noted that the review would need to consider how activities feed into published performance indicators. The Committee praised the initiative with the Art Department which was seeking to identify best practice strategies to address the widening participation agenda in disciplines that traditionally do not attract such students.

41 INTERNATIONALISATION STRATEGY

Received:

a paper from the Deputy Warden and the Head of Student Recruitment, Admissions and International (10-206).

It was noted that an Internationalisation Strategy was about much more than international recruitment, and demanded a major shift in both the approach to international students and the content of programmes. It further noted that internationalisation involved recognising the difference and value that students from around the world could bring to the Goldsmiths experience, as well as aiming to produce graduates with skills and knowledge that might be applied globally. It was suggested that some international students come to the UK to learn about British and Western culture, and noted that internationalisation might mean different things for different disciplines. Overall, the development of an Internationalisation Strategy was welcomed.

Recommended:

- (i) that dialogue with academic departments be undertaken to feed into the Strategy and test current attitudes;**
- (ii) that a clear outcome for what the Strategy was to achieve, and ways of measuring progress towards that outcome, be defined.**

42 POSTGRADUATE PORTFOLIO REVIEW

It was noted that exit routes at PG Certificate and Diploma levels were now being built into all programmes in response to the feedback from Academic Board to the Postgraduate Portfolio Review. It was further noted that the needs of part-time students were being considered at individual department level, and justifications for existing MRes programmes had been satisfactory.

43 FUTURE OF JOINT DEGREES

Received:

a paper from the Deputy Warden (10-208).

The problems around joint degrees for both the student and the Departments involved were well known, but joint degrees did have a particular recruitment appeal. It was noted that there was a difference between joint degrees as currently understood and an interdisciplinary academic approach. Interdisciplinary approaches were more favoured for future developments.

44 FRAMEWORK FOR THE APPROVAL AND MANAGEMENT OF DISTANCE LEARNING, SPLIT SITE AND COTUTELLE PHDS

Received:

a paper from the Head of Quality and Standards (10-174R).

It was noted that it was not this Committee's role to approve the Framework, but the strategic implications of it might be considered in the future.

45 SMITH POSTGRADUATE REVIEW

Received:

the Executive Summary of the Governmental Report 'One Step Beyond: Making the most of postgraduate education' (10-209).

46 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

35 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

To note that next year's meetings would be held on the following dates:

29 September 2010 (2pm)
10 November 2010 (10am)
9 February 2011 (2pm)
18 May 2011 (2pm)

Melanie Rimmer
Projects Officer
May 2010