

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2010

Present: Professor Jane Powell (in the Chair), Dr Catherine Alexander, Professor Les Back, Professor Carrie Paechter, Professor Irit Rogoff, Professor Robert Zimmer, Ms Lynda Agili (Secretary)

Apologies: Professor Len Platt, Mr Mike Metelits, Professor Maria Shevtsova

In Attendance: Ms Diana Lockyer, Personal Assistant/ Pro Warden (Research and Enterprise)

OPEN BUSINESS

21 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Noted:

New Research Awards

that the Media and Communications Department had been awarded £886,000 funding from AHRC and EPSRC as a partner in the Framework for Innovation and Research in MediaCityUK (FIRM) project researching the Salford Media City development

that the Psychology Department were due to be awarded a 6.5 million euro grant from the EU as the lead partner of the consortium project The Collective Experience of Empathic Data Systems (CEEDS)

22 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2009

23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

(i) REF Consultation

that there was no official report on the consultation outcomes yet but there were signs that it is likely to be put back by a year or more because of issues connected with operationalising impact, and broader political considerations

that until there is a definitive statement on timescales for the next REF we will continue to follow our current workplan, maintaining focus and momentum across the college.

(ii) QR Funding

that HEFCE had adjusted the ratios for the allocation of QR funding to 1:2*, 3:3*, 9:4* with the effect that from 2010-11 onwards proportionately more funds would be given to departments with a high percentage of 4* activity

that given Goldsmiths' high proportion of 4* activity we might have expected a substantial increase in QR funding, but unfortunately this has been offset by the ringfencing of STEM subjects; we will see a net increase of only about £50k. However, it was noted that most members of the 1994 Group have seen net reductions in their QR so in relative terms we have done well

that HEFCE has made a decision to partially protect Psychology, along with Geography, from the adverse effects of STEM ringfencing; whilst the wording of their statement is somewhat unclear, it has been announced that funding to these disciplines will be increased. The implication is that they will be treated as 50% STEM, though what this means in straight economic terms remains to be seen.

Resolved

to circulate the REF consultation response document when it is published and to reconsider Goldsmiths' REF work plan at the next meeting in light of the response

(iii) Departmental research grant income targets

that following the discussion of external research funding applications and awards the PWRE and Head of Research Office had held departmental meetings with each HoD and DRC Chair and considered detailed department specific application and award data with the aim of establishing realistic grant application and income targets for each

24 RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE STRATEGY 2010 – 2014

Received:

the revised Research and Enterprise Strategy 2010-2014 (A; 10-56)

Noted:

- (i) that the Chair thanked the working party group including Professor Carrie Paechter, Mike Metelits and Lynda Agili for their help in developing the strategy
- (ii) that the document aimed to articulate a set of principles for guiding internal activity, but was also constructed to be an externally facing document which characterises Goldsmiths' research strengths and outlines our aims
- (iii) that the strategy should be treated as a working document which should be revisited by the committee at the beginning of each academic year in order to monitor progress towards strategic aims, and to specify priorities and adjustments for the forthcoming year

Recommended:

that subject to minor amendments the Research and Enterprise Strategy should be recommended to Academic Board for approval

25 RESEARCH GRANT “OVERHEADS” AND PHD STUDENTSHIPS

Received:

a paper circulated to Senior Management Team by the Pro Warden Research and Enterprise and subsequently discussed at WAG (B; 10-57)

Noted:

Revised system for distributing grant income

- (i) that at WAG, HoDs had welcomed the proposals to offer departments the choice between (a) receiving a fixed pro rata amount of funding to replace staff time costed into successful grant applications, at an appropriate level of seniority, and (b) a percentage share of the overheads, to use entirely at their discretion.
- (ii) that SMT had given its broad support for the proposal, dependent on further financial modelling of option (a) confirming its affordability
- (iii) that the intention of introducing this choice is to enable departments to increase their external research application activity, and that this will need to be monitored in order to gauge the success of the system and to guide future refinements

Internal co-funding of doctoral studentships

- (i) that several departments had identified the importance of offering internal PhD studentships in order to remain competitive within their disciplines
- (ii) that implementation of the proposed matched funding scheme between departments and College would be attractive to some departments and could facilitate recruitment of strong students who would contribute to their overall research profile
- (iii) that consideration should be given to strategic fee waivers in order to enhance recruitment of students under certain circumstances
- (iv) that departments should engage with EU funding schemes which offer a number of options for the funding of doctoral study
- (v) that a consolidated cross-departmental approach to advertising studentships could have a greater impact in the media

26 PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER COMMITTEE (RKTC) AND THE BUSINESS AND ADVISORY SUB-COMMITTEE (BASC)

Received:

a proposal to reconfigure RKTC and BASC for 2010-11, and to rename RKTC ‘Research and Enterprise Committee’ [REC] (C; 10-58)

Noted:

- (i) that the issues addressed by BASC increasingly overlap with those addressed by RKTC, as reflected in the combined Research and Enterprise

Strategy and the current emphasis on research impact and knowledge transfer

- (ii) that it would facilitate communication and planning if BASC, which currently reports to RKTC and has different membership, were disbanded and all business were considered directly by RKTC.
- (iii) that in order to make nomenclature more internally consistent, RKTC should be renamed 'Research and Enterprise Committee'. This will then correspond with other extant titles (in particular, ProWarden Research and Enterprise; the College Research and Enterprise strategy)

Resolved:

to ensure that all business was adequately dealt with, the Research and Enterprise Committee should normally meet twice a term

Recommended:

that the proposal to reconfigure RKTC and BASC into a single Research and Enterprise Committee, and the revised terms of reference and membership, should be recommended to Academic Board for approval

27 ALLOCATION OF RKTC FUNDS 2010/11

Received:

the guidelines for the 2009-10 RKTC Funds competition and some suggested amendments for the 2010-11 competition and procedures (D; 10-59)

Noted:

- (i) that reports of research previously funded by RKTC should be considered by the committee, and that successful projects could be profiled on the Research Office website
- (ii) that the majority of the funds available in 2010-11 should again be focused on supporting Early Career Researchers, but there should also be some support for projects by any staff members which would extend or capture the impact of excellent underpinning research undertaken in our departments.
- (iii) that a small amount of RKTC funds should again be retained to provide support to the development of major and complex research applications as they arise, and at the discretion of the Research Office and PWRE; where such funding requests exceed £1000 RKTC would be consulted.

Resolved

- (i) to approve the proposed amendments to the application procedures and the proposal to invite applications for 'Impact of Research' projects
- (ii) to retain the upper limit for ECR applications at £5k and to cap Impact of Research applications at £2K
- (iii) that as last year, applications would be subjected to a triage process with Jane Powell, Robert Zimmer and Irit Rogoff producing a longlist of applications to be evaluated by all members of the committee; and that RKTC will decide on the awards at its next meeting

28 AN UPDATE ON BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICE ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Noted:

that in the absence of the Director of the BDO, this report would be considered at the May meeting

29 SURVEY OF HEI STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CONCORDAT

Received:

the UUK survey concerning the implementation of the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (E; 10-60)

Noted:

- (i) that the survey highlighted specific areas in which institutions need to become proactive
- (ii) that whilst in practice many institutions are already addressing important training and support needs of their researchers, the survey emphasises the need to embed key principles and ensure that academic staff and those in support departments are fully aware of their responsibilities
- (iii) that full compliance with all aspects of the Concordat will in future be a requirement for EU research funding
- (iv) that a Goldsmiths' Concordat Implementation Group [CIG] is currently being set up; this will have membership from Human Resources (Staff Development Unit), the Research Office, the Graduate School, the academic staff, and the researchers employed at Goldsmiths.

Resolved:

that RKTC should receive and consider an annual report from the CIG on activities undertaken at Goldsmiths to implement Concordat principles, and should advise SMT and Academic Board as appropriate on future strategic or resourcing issues

30 AN UPDATE ON ESRC DOCTORAL TRAINING CENTRES

Received:

an oral report from the Dean of Graduate School on the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre bid

Noted:

- (i) that the first full draft of the bid was now completed and that the potential proposals for inter-institutional collaboration looked very exciting for both Goldsmiths and Queen Mary
- (ii) that achieving excellent completion rates, and having in place effective underpinning systems, is of extremely high importance, particularly since the ESRC will be undertaking further investigations over the summer months before announcing the successful centres in September

31 FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING, DEVELOPING AND MANAGING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Received and noted:

Cultivating Collaborations: A Framework for Identifying, Developing and Managing Strategic Partnerships (F; 10-61)

32 PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE PROSPECT AND INNOVATION UNIT

Noted:

that the Department of Design have confirmed that they wish to establish a Unit for Prospect and Innovation with an Advisory Group including members from other Departments [Note: the Unit has subsequently been approved by Chair's action].

33 TIMETABLE FOR REPORTS FROM CENTRES & UNITS

Received and noted:

a schedule of reports from research centres and units to be considered by RKTC at future meetings (G; 10-62)

34 LEVERHULME TRUST DIRECTOR VISIT

Noted:

that Sir Richard Brook, Director of the Leverhulme Trust will be visiting College on 24 March 2010

35 AHRC DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH VISIT

Noted:

that Professor Shearer West, Director of Research and Laura Lugg, Head of Evaluation at AHRC will be visiting College in the summer term; a final date will be confirmed when the new Warden is in post

36 ANNUAL REPORT

Received and noted:

Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee Annual Report (H; 09-491)

37 RESEARCH ETHICS SUB-COMMITTEE

Received and noted:

the minutes of the Research Ethics Sub Committee held on 17 November 2009 (RESC/10)

38 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY HORIZON SCANNING

Received and noted:

a report of major research initiatives currently open for application (I; 10-63)

39 LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Received and noted:

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

- (a) Dr. T. Chamorro-Premuzic, Dept of Psychology (11.01.10 – 18.06.10)
- (b) Dr. K. Campbell, Dept of Sociology (26.04.10 – 18.06.10)
- (c) Dr. K. Dickinson, Dept of Media and Communications (01.09.10 – 31.03.11 funded by Leverhulme Programme grant)
- (d) Dr. D. Graeber, Dept of Anthropology (26.04.10 – 18.06.10)
- (e) Dr. R. Grayson, Dept of Politics (01.09.10 – 31.08.11)
- (f) Dr. F. Kramer, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (26.04.10 – 18.06.10)
- (g) Dr. C. Scott, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (11.01.10 – 26.03.10)
- (h) Dr. F. Spufford, Dept of English and Comparative Literature (26.04.10 – 18.06.10)
- (i) Dr. A. Traianou, Dept of Educational Studies (26.04.10 – 18.06.10)

ii. To note the following periods of unpaid leave approved by Chair's action:

- (a) Ms N. Wolf, Dept of Visual Cultures (11.01.10 -18.06.10)

Resolved:

iii. To approve reports following leave of absence (J; 10-64):

- (a) Prof. A. Blamires, Dept of English and Comparative Literature
- (b) Dr. M. Canova-Green, Dept of English and Comparative Literature
- (c) Dr. N. Fenton, Dept of Media and Communications
- (d) Prof. D. Keown, Dept of History
- (e) Dr. P. Kirwan, Dept of English and Comparative Literature
- (f) Prof. R. McDonald, Dept of English and Comparative Literature
- (g) Dr. P. Odih, Dept of Sociology
- (h) Dr. D. Osborne, Dept of Drama
- (i) Dr. D. Oswell, Dept of Sociology
- (j) Prof. B. Skeggs, Dept of Sociology
- (k) Prof. T. Valentine, Dept of Psychology

40 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting for 2009-10 will be held on:

20 May 2010 at 2.00 pm

LA, May 2010