

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

STUDENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2009

Present: Dr Philip Broadhead (in the Chair), Ms Alison Ahern, Ms Mary Bright, Mr Graham Gaskell, Ms Bindiya Patel, Mr Matt Ward.

Apologies: Mr Brian Alleyne, Dr Basem El-Haddadeh, Mr Jesse Fajemisin.

In attendance: Ms Sharon Alleyne (Student Funding & Information Office Manager) – in attendance for item 10, Ms Shanaz Begum (Secretary), Dr Roberto Di Napoli (Head of Goldsmiths Learning Enhancement Unit), Ms Anne Francis (Head of Careers Service).

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting on 5 May 2009 be approved.

2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

Re Item 8: that the word 'university' in paragraph 2 should be corrected to 'universities.'

Resolved:

Re Item 8: that the Mental Health Working Party would prepare a progress report and draft Mental Health Policy for the next meeting on 26 January 2010.

3 ANNUAL CYCLE OF BUSINESS

Noted:

- (i) that the Chair would, in a separate meeting with the Secretary, decide on a list of items to be presented at the first meeting of the Committee each year as part of an annual cycle of business;

- (ii) that the cycle would normally include a report on Committee effectiveness;
- (iii) that the cycle would normally include results of major student surveys.

Resolved:

that for the current year 2009-10, all annual items of business identified and set by the Chair would be produced for the next meeting on 26 January 2010.

4 MONEY DOCTORS

Received:

A proposal to continue College involvement in the Money Doctor's Scheme (09-421).

Noted:

- (i) that the College would continue its involvement in the scheme in 2009-10 and a report on performance would be produced by the Student Funding & Information Office Manager for the final meeting of the year on 4 May 2010;
- (ii) that the Student Funding & Information Office Manager would collaborate with the Students' Union, Widening Participation section and academic departments in promoting the scheme to students.

5 STUDENT EXPERIENCE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Received:

A revised draft Student Experience Strategy Action Plan (09-38R).

Noted:

- (i) that the Student Experience Strategy itself could possibly be subject to change in the future in light of changes in government policies;
- (ii) that with reference to the composition of services:
 - (a) the 1-stop-shop would now be referred to as the 'Student Centre';
 - (b) the units within the newly formed Student Services would be discussing the Student Centre during a departmental 'away day' on 10 December 2009;
 - (c) the likely location of the Student Centre would be in the Richard Hoggart Building
 - (d) the Student Centre would not be in place until 2011-12 at the earliest;
- (iii) that with reference to the Goldsmiths Environment:

- (a) the 'Dignity in the Learning Place' policy could be considered as part of the Action Plan;
 - (b) student perceptions of their personal safety levels were still negative according to recent I-Grad and Student Barometer survey results;
 - (c) the possibility of unifying the different policies listed in the Plan ought to be considered;
- (iv) that with reference to Accommodation and Catering:
- (a) developments in these areas depended on the recommendations of the Estates Master Plan, which were not available;
 - (b) a review was still taking place on the need for increased hall places and the outcomes would be available in 2010-11;
 - (c) that students who were not allocated a Hall place were referred to the University of London Housing Service for information on private accommodation, and that local landlords would be encouraged to register with the Service during Housing Week;
- (v) that with reference to Employability and Entrepreneurship:
- (a) the Action Plan did not contain clear objectives relating to careers and work experience;
 - (b) the Students' Union had now recruited a Volunteer Coordinator to administer their volunteering initiatives;
- (vi) that with reference to the Library, accessible technology had been successfully installed on all machines;
- (vii) that with reference to the Provision of Financial Guidance, Support and Practical Advice, achievement of objectives was still ongoing;
- (viii) that with reference to Health:
- (a) some details needed to be resolved with the Medical Centre before the contract could be signed;
 - (b) the SU Welfare & Education Officer had planned a series of events on welfare as well as targeted campaigns e.g. drug and alcohol awareness;
- (ix) that with reference to Disabilities, a budget was successfully secured for any student with a disability who was not eligible for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA);
- (x) that with reference to Childcare, a review was underway with outcomes due to be reported before the end of the year;
- (xi) that with reference to the Students' Union and the Student Voice, a full-time Democracy & Representation Coordinator had now been recruited.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Director of Student Services would take all the above comments into consideration when redrafting the Action Plan, and meet with relevant staff as necessary to agree on additional objectives;
- (ii) that the Secretary would circulate student feedback on safety issues at the next meeting on 26 January 2010;
- (iii) the outcomes of the accommodation service review would be presented at the first meeting of 2010-11;
- (iv) that the outcomes of the Childcare Review would be presented at the next meeting on 26 January 2010;
- (v) that the Student Experience Strategy Action Plan would be included on the agenda for every meeting for a period of time the Chair deems appropriate;
- (vi) that the Director of Student Services would circulate a Student Services organisational chart via GC Info as soon as it is final.

6 AIRPORT PICK-UP SERVICE

Received:

A report on the College's airport pick-up service (09-422).

The Committee thanked Shanaz Begum for coordinating the service. It noted that the recommendations in the paper would be implemented next year and that academic departments would also be informed of the service.

7 STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Received:

A report on College Accommodation 2009-10 (tabled; 09-530)

Noted:

- (i) that procedural improvements with allocation dates were made, and further improvements were expected upon the introduction of the new student records system;
- (ii) that the problems relating to emergency building work at Surrey House were being resolved following negotiation with the students affected

8 STUDENT CHARTER

Received:

The Goldsmiths Student Charter (08-77)

Noted:

- (i) that the Director of Student Services would meet with the SU Welfare & Education Officer to discuss any amendments to the Charter;
- (ii) the Secretary would upload a copy of the Charter on the Student Support homepage and email the link to academic departments

9 STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Received:

A report from the Students' Union on its achievements in 2008-09 (09-423).

Noted:

- (i) the committee welcomed the report;
- (ii) factual amendments were suggested in relation to the items on p.7;
- (iii) in future years it was suggested that a different format be used in order to make the Report more easily accessible to visually impaired readers

10 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 26 January 2010

Shanaz Begum
Bursaries and Scholarships Officer
November 2009