

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

ACADEMIC BOARD

STUDENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2010

Present: Dr Philip Broadhead (in the Chair), Ms Alison Ahern, Ms Mary Bright (*Items 17 to 24 only*), Dr Basem El-Haddadeh, Ms Bindiya Patel, Mr Matt Ward,

Apologies: Mr Brian Alleyne, Mr Jesse Fajemisin, Mr Graham Gaskell

In attendance: Ms Rheem Al-Adhani (Student Activities & Services Officer, Students' Union), Ms Shanaz Begum (Secretary), Ms Anne Francis (Head of Careers Service), Ms Ruth Gibson (Sports & Recreation Manager, Students' Union), Mr Denis Shukur (Democracy & Representation co-ordinator, Students' Union)

OPEN BUSINESS

11 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting on 3 November 2009 be approved.

12 ANNUAL CYCLE OF BUSINESS

Received:

a summary of all items to be normally presented at the first meeting of the Student Committee each year as part of an annual cycle of business (10-3).

Noted:

- (i) that the annual cycle would be amended to also include the following:
- Careers Service Annual Report (Head of Careers Service);
 - Departmental Student Coordinators Annual Report (Students' Union);
 - Counselling Service Annual Report (Head of Counselling Service) – to be presented at the *third meeting* of the Student Committee each year;
 - Any relevant material from the Learning & Teaching Quality Committee.
- (ii) that the list would be subject to continuous review and was not to be regarded as definitive.

13 COMMITTEE EFFECTIVENESS

Received:

a report on Committee Effectiveness in 2008-09 (10-4)

Noted:

that the report would be sent to the Corporate Governance and Information Management Department (CGIM).

14 MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

Received:

the Terms of Reference of the Mental Health Forum (10-5)

Noted:

- (i) that the guidelines relating to the College's Mental Health Policy were still being revised and yet to be launched;
- (ii) that concerned tutors were in the meantime being referred to the Director of Student Services or the Head of Counselling, and that the Medical Centre were also available to provide help and support;
- (iii) that the Mental Health Forum included student representation in the form of the Welfare & Education Officer, Students' Union, as well as departmental representation in the form of Departmental Senior Tutors;
- (iv) that the Chair of the Mental Health Forum would ask Departmental Senior Tutors to inform staff within their departments of their involvement in the Forum.

15 STUDENT EXPERIENCE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Received:

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

Noted:

- (i) that with reference to Employability & Entrepreneurship, the Action Plan would be updated to incorporate the College's pending Employability Strategy;
- (ii) that with reference to Accommodation and Catering:
 - (a) a review was still taking place on hall places, the outcomes of which would be available in 2010-11;
 - (b) there was concern about future hall provision for international students, including visiting students;

- (c) internet access to some halls was still a problem. Although measures to improve internet access in Surrey, Chesterman and Raymont were in the process of being implemented, a solution for Batavia had still not been found;
 - (d) the College had put out a tender for catering provision, but there was concern over a lack of student representation during the process.
- (iii) that with reference to ITS:
- (a) the aim to 'ensure accessible technology is rolled out onto all machines in the Library' would be categorised under 'ITS' and not 'Library';
 - (b) the word 'machines' would be replaced with 'computers'.

16 STUDENT TIMETABLE

Received:

a proposal to keep Wednesday afternoons free from academic activities (10-6).

Noted:

that previous resolutions made by Academic Board in 2005 had not been fully implemented.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Student Committee supported a re-commitment to the original resolutions made by Academic Board, and to that end, the Chair would email all academic departments to remind them of these resolutions;
- (ii) that the Student Committee would back the Students' Union if they wished to pursue the matter further by submitting a paper to Academic Board.

Recommended:

that the original resolutions be reviewed and that a revised class finish time of 1pm should be considered.

17 DEPARTMENTAL STUDENT COORDINATORS REPORT

Received:

a report on programme monitoring and issues identified by the Departmental Student Coordinators (10-7)

Noted:

- (i) that the outcomes of the report had already been conveyed to specific members of staff within academic departments;

- (ii) that the DSCs would present the findings to senior members of college staff in early March
- (iii) that in future, different feedback mechanisms would need to be considered for different subject areas;
- (iv) that the possibility of policing computers in the Library to ensure reduced personal use may need to be considered;
- (v) that on page 3 of the Report, the 'The Union has invested £12,000...' should be corrected to 'The College has invested £12,000...';
- (vi) that the positive work and presence of the Departmental Student Coordinators were widely acknowledged across the College.

Recommended:

- (i) that the Report should also be submitted to Departmental Boards for consideration as well as heads of support departments,
- (ii) that future reports should also contain details of positive aspects of the College in addition to highlighting areas of improvements.

The Committee thanked Mr Denis Shukur (Democracy & Representation co-ordinator Students' Union) for producing an excellent report and for his good work in the SU generally.

18 STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY

Received:

a proposal on student employability (10-8)

Noted:

- (i) that the issue of student placements would need to be considered carefully in light of the varying impacts it would have on different departments;
- (ii) that local employers would be invited to take part in discussions in this area.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Student Committee supported the development of a Student Employability Strategy for Goldsmiths;
- (ii) that the Chair would establish an Employability Working Group and submit a draft strategy to the next Student Committee meeting in May 2010.

19 LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the Library's Annual Report for 2008-09 (09-455)

20 IT SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the IT Services Annual Report 2008-09 (10-9)

21 STUDENT SUPPORT ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the Student Support Department's Annual Report for 2008-09 (10-10)

22 MEDICAL CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the Medical Centre's Annual report for 2008-09 (10-11)

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

23 STUDENT FEEDBACK

Received

- (i) summary of results from the International Student Barometer in 2007-08 (10-12)
- (ii) summary of results from the National Student Survey 2009 (09-341)

Noted:

- (i) that the College performed best in areas related to teaching, but weaknesses were identified in areas such as learning space, careers advice and work experience;
- (ii) that some of the results were in line with the findings in the Departmental Student Coordinator's Report;
- (iii) that the Director of Student Services was in the process of investigating concerns about the difficulties experienced by international students in opening UK bank accounts.

24 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 4 May 2010

Shanaz Begum
Bursaries and Scholarships Officer
February 2010