

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

STUDENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2010

Present: Dr Philip Broadhead (in the Chair), Ms Alison Ahern, Ms Mary Bright (*Items 25 to 30*), Mr Graham Gaskell, Ms Bindiya Patel, Mr Matt Ward (*Items 25 – 29*)

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

In attendance: Ms Sharon Alleyne (Student Funding & Information Office – *Items 25 to 27*), Ms Shanaz Begum (Secretary), Mr Adam Cresswell (Goldsmiths Learning & Enhancement Unit – *Items 25 to 30*), Ms Anne Francis (Head of Careers Service), Mr Limahl Macfarlane (Advice Services Co-ordinator – *Items 25 to 27*)

OPEN BUSINESS

25 MINUTES

Noted:

- (i) re minute 16, that the Chair had circulated an email to academic departments to remind them of resolutions made by Academic Board regarding the student timetable
- (ii) re minute 23, that discussions between the Director of Student Services and Natwest had taken place and the issue was in the process of being resolved.

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting on 26 January 2010 be approved.

26 ANNUAL CYCLE OF BUSINESS

Noted:

- (i) that the annual cycle would be amended to include a report from Residences, Catering and Conference Services;
- (ii) that the Chair and Secretary would meet before the next Student Committee meeting on 2 November 2010 to determine how the items would be presented during the course of the year.

27 MONEY DOCTORS

Received:

a progress report on the scheme for 2009-10 (10-165)

Noted:

- (i) that awareness of the scheme was gradually increasing;
- (ii) that there was potential to collaborate more with the Widening Participation team;
- (iii) that a more targeted approach to vulnerable groups could be taken;
- (iv) that the planned 'Moving from Halls to Private Accommodation' workshop should take place in a more central location rather than in one of the Halls of Residence;
- (v) that student feedback on the scheme would be submitted to next Student Committee meeting on 2 November 2010.

28 STUDENT FEEDBACK

Received:

a summary of results from the National Student Survey, the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey and the Student Barometer Survey (10-169)

Noted:

- (i) that the College performed significantly above average nationally in the area of 'the learning experience';
- (ii) that the College performed significantly below average in the areas of 'feedback' and 'personal development';
- (iii) that improving the area of personal development was part of the agenda of the recently established Student Employability Strategy Working Group;
- (iv) that academic departments should be more involved in personal development rather than devolving it to support departments;
- (v) that the Student Barometer should be commissioned for one further year before being reviewed.

29 STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY

Received:

a progress report on the Student Employability Strategy (10-166)

Noted:

- (i) that the Student Employability Strategy Working Group had recently been established, and that 3 members of the Student Committee were represented in that group;
- (ii) that the Working Group would, as part of its aims:
 - Encourage increased promotion of Personal Development Planning within academic departments, perhaps with input from departmental student societies;
 - Discuss ways to raise the profile of the Careers Service amongst both students and staff;
 - Look to increase student engagement with the Careers Service during the first term of the academic year;
 - Accept that some students in certain subject areas would not normally need to engage with the Careers Service e.g. PGCE students;
 - Submit a draft Student Employability Strategy to the next Student Committee meeting on 2 November 2010.
- (iii) That the Careers Service had re-established a summer placement scheme with Lewisham Borough Council.

30 GOLD AWARD

Received:

a progress report on the scheme (10-167)

Noted:

- (i) the Gold Award scheme would form an important part of the Student Employability Strategy;
- (ii) that the programme completion rate was slightly higher than average across the sector;
- (iii) that resource constraints caused delays in providing feedback to students, possibly affecting the completion rate;
- (iv) that resource issues would need to be addressed if the scheme was to be expanded, as well as the challenge of increasing academic staff involvement.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Student Committee supported the continuation and development of the Gold Award scheme, and that a recommendation to allocate additional resource to the scheme would be made within the Student Employability Strategy.

31 STUDENT EXPERIENCE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Received:

a revised Student Experience Strategy Action Plan (09-38R2)

Noted:

- (i) that a new Action Plan would need to be created and put in place for 2011-12 and beyond;
- (ii) that the new Action Plan would be published on the Student Services website and to that end, consideration would be given to the way it is written;
- (iii) that with reference to 'Provision of Financial Guidance, Support and Practical Advice', information on external funding (e.g. International Student House scholarships) would be advertised on the Student Services website;
- (iv) that with reference to 'The Goldsmiths Environment', the Safety Night bus had been successfully re-launched, with a view to expanding the service in 2010-11.

32 DYSLEXIA TEST FUNDING

Received:

a proposal on Dyslexia Test Funding (10-168)

[Secretary's note: This item was received after the agenda had been circulated]

Noted:

- (i) that the number of requests for dyslexia testing was dramatically increasing;
- (ii) that a review of the use of College discretionary funds was needed.

Resolved:

that the Student Committee approved the recommendations in the paper.

33 CAREERS SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the Careers Service Annual Report 2008-09 (09-511)

Noted:

- (i) that key developments had been made since the report was written, for example, in the relocation of the department to more spacious and accessible accommodation and the development of Key Performance Indicators;
- (ii) the Student Committee thanked the Careers Service for their continued work and looked forward to seeing greater student engagement with the service in future.

34 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked Jesse Fajemisin, Students' Union President for his participation in the committee this year, and looked forward to welcoming his successor Bindiya Patel into the role next year.

35 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 2 November 2010

Shanaz Begum
Bursaries and Scholarships Officer
May 2010