

**GOLDSMITHS  
University of London**

**ACADEMIC BOARD**

**ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2010**

**Present:** Professor Simon McVeigh (in the Chair), Ms Vicky Annand, Dr Lucia Boldrini, Mr Geraint Fox, Dr Andrea Gilroy, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Professor Les Back, Ms Rachel Soper, Mr Matt Ward, Mr Tony Dowmunt, Professor Mark d'Inverno, Ms Bindz Patel, Ms Francesca Bancarino

**In attendance:** Di Lockyer, Dr Victoria Korzeniowska, Ms Melanie Rimmer (Secretary), Ms Margaret Stern (for Item 16).

**Apologies:** Dr Catherine Alexander, Dr Dejan Djokic

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**1 NEW MEMBERS**

The Committee welcomed its new members: Ms Bindz Patel and Ms Francesca Bancarino, and noted Dr Dejan Djokic would also join the Committee from the Spring term.

**2 MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2010 be approved.

**3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Noted:

- (i) that the Internationalisation Strategy was to be worked on over the Autumn term, and would come to this Committee once discussed by SMT;
- (ii) that the ESRC bid had been neither rejected nor accepted, but that announcements had been delayed until January due to financial uncertainty.
- (iii) that the ASN bid had been successful in securing 45 additional numbers for Computing and 5 for Design. The extra places in Computing had all been filled through Clearing.

**4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY**

Received:

the College's Conflicts of Interest Policy (10-339).

## **5 STANDING ORDERS**

Received:

the standing orders for all College committees approved by Council with effect from 1 September 2009, together with an explanatory note from the Secretariat on the changes made (10-338).

## **6 TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP**

Received:

a statement of the terms of reference, composition and membership of the Committee for 2010-2011 (10-345).

## **7 NEW GOVERNMENT POLICY**

Received:

a paper containing recent policy statements and speeches made by the Minister of Universities and Science and the Business Secretary (10-346)

Noted:

- (i) that the Browne Review and the Comprehensive Spending Review were due in forthcoming weeks, but that recent press reports indicated a complete overhaul of HE funding, with a lifting of the fees cap and removal of the teaching grant for the arts and humanities; such changes would obviously hugely impact Goldsmiths.
- (ii) that the HE student body may change as a result of the expected changes, with greater demand for part-time courses, flexible pathways and collection of credits.
- (iii) that student expectation will change, with greater focus on value for money and future employability.
- (iv) that the model of provision will change, with greater demand for evening and weekend learning opportunities.
- (v) that the impact on facilities and administrative and support structures of the above will be significant.
- (vi) that decision-making processes would need to respond quickly and confidently in response to such dramatic changes.

## **8 WIDENING PARTICIPATION REVIEW**

Received:

the Report of the College-wide Review of the Widening Participation Agenda (10-347)

Noted:

- (i) that the Report and its recommendations had been endorsed by SMT and shared with the WP team.
- (ii) that success in implementing the WP agenda varied across the academic portfolio, as some subjects appeared to attract students from WP backgrounds more than others.
- (iii) that the WP agenda should be considered alongside the move to improve positioning in league tables through increasing entry profiles and tariffs.
- (iv) that any decision to remove the fees cap would have an impact on the WP agenda and this would need to be considered in any new fees policy.
- (v) that any move towards evening and weekend teaching would support the WP agenda.
- (vi) that feedback given to the Panel regarding the Students' Union should be shared with the SU.
- (vii) that until the full details of the funding changes were known it was difficult to make any commitments.

**Resolved:**

**to discuss the College's approach to WP in the light of the Review and its recommendations again once full details of the funding changes were known.**

## **9 2010 RECRUITMENT REPORT**

Received:

a paper from the Director of QPAG and the Director of MRC on recruitment to this year (10-348)

Noted:

- (i) that early Post-graduate and International student numbers were encouraging.
- (ii) that the growth in student numbers had caused housing problems, particularly for International and new Home/EU students. Measures should be put in place to minimise any reoccurrence of this situation in future years.

## **10 NEW PROGRAMME PROPOSALS**

Received:

a paper from the Planning Manager on the progress of recent new programme proposals considered in the 2009-10 planning round (10-349)

Noted:

that a number of programmes originally intended to start in September 2011 were still in development, which would likely affect recruitment to them; however it was acknowledged that the actual start date of a number of these programmes would be

deferred to a later year.

## **11 GOLDSMITHS INTERNATIONAL PATHWAYS**

Received:

a paper from the Projects Officer giving an update on progress with the development of Goldsmiths International Pathway programmes (10-350)

## **12 BUSINESS SCHOOL**

Received:

a paper from the Director of QPAG outlining current thinking on this potential area for growth (10-351)

Noted:

that any undergraduate degree would need a niche, offering something different than generic business degrees elsewhere. This would fit with Goldsmiths' particular brand and be important in marketing and recruitment.

two models might be considered: fitting 'business' into the current offer, or creating a new 'business' core and using current content as 'add-ons'.

that the structure of the MA Creative and Cultural Entrepreneurship could offer a model of core content and pathway options in other departments. A central cohesive experience for the students is important to making this work.

that language is a core part of many business degrees in other institutions.

that the US and Sweden should be looked at as potential competitors in this market.

## **13 STEM / HEALTH AND 3<sup>RD</sup> SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES**

Received:

papers from the Head of Computing and the Pro-Warden (Research and Enterprise) on potential for growth in STEM and Health and 3rd Sector areas (10-352 and 10-353)

Noted:

that Computing's Creative and Social Technologies Centre, due to launch in January, focuses on creative, socially-aware ways of using technology. It links with work being undertaken in areas such as art and media. There are other areas in the College that may also feed in, and this would be a way of incorporating STEM into Goldsmiths' overall footprint.

that the Government's proposed changes in the NHS provided opportunities for training and organisational management consultancy in areas that Goldsmiths' has expertise in. The right links with local authorities would need to be forged, although some are already in place.

**Resolved:**

that both STEM and Health and 3rd Sector opportunities should be further explored and formulated into more solid proposals for the College.

#### **14 EXPANSION OF EXTERNAL SYSTEM**

Received:

a paper from the Deputy Warden and the External System Administrator on potential growth in this area (10-354)

Noted:

that although the newly named University of London International Programmes was clearly geared towards overseas students, it had been mentioned in a speech by David Willetts as an alternative for home students too. It had been suggested that a home version may be rolled out in the future, and this might be something that Goldsmiths ought to consider pursuing with the University.

that Goldsmiths was in a position to offer new subjects areas to the University, which was looking to diversify its offer, currently dominated by the LSE and law subjects. Goldsmiths ought to move quickly as others would be recognising the same opportunity.

that continuing to undertake this distance-learning model through the University was preferable to the massive administrative burden of looking to do it independently.

#### **15 EMPLOYABILITY STATEMENT**

Received:

the College's Employability Statement recently submitted to HEFCE (10-355)

#### **16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **17 DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

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

10 November 2010 (10am)

9 February 2011 (2pm)

18 May 2011 (2pm)

Melanie Rimmer  
Projects Officer  
October 2010