

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2011

Present: Professor Simon McVeigh (in the Chair), Ms Vicky Annand, Mr Geraint Fox, Dr Andrea Gilroy, Professor Les Back, Ms Rachel Soper, Professor Mark d'Inverno, Mr Tony Dowmunt, Dr Catherine Alexander, Dr Dejan Djokic, Ms Bindz Patel, Ms Francesca Bancarino

In attendance: Ms Melanie Rimmer (Secretary), Di Lockyer

Apologies: Mr Gerald Lidstone, Dr Lucia Boldrini, Mr Matt Ward

OPEN BUSINESS

3 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2010 be approved.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

5 LATEST ON HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING

Received:

the latest communiqués about funding from HEFCE and the TDA, and regarding OFFA (11-33).

Noted:

- (i) that confirmation of the provision of loans for part-time students taking 25% of a full degree programme had just been received, although it remained unclear how progression and completion rates might be affected if people were able to collect credits towards degree without being enrolled on a full programme.
- (ii) that a genuine commitment to part-time study would require a move to evening, weekend, or block provision, which in turn would require a change in the support services; it might be that weekend and evening activity could be geographically focussed to prevent a sense of isolation.
- (iii) that departments had been asked for their thoughts on whether their discipline had a part-time market, and this information would be shared with the Committee.

- (iv) that the University's Minister's draft letter to OFFA had hinted at a broadening of definition of Widening Participation students, to include mature, part-time and distance learners, however if the College was serious in its commitment to WP then it should not become complacent to other types of WP student.
- (v) that information about the new fees system was not clearly understood by the public and the College should ensure its communications and publicity helped people to understand both the loans and fees, as well as any bursaries or fee waivers.
- (vi) that the number of Initial Teacher Training places had been significantly cut across the sector, and the College had suffered an approximately 20% cut in funded places.
- (vii) that further changes were expected with the launch of 'Teaching Schools', which would put the College in competition with other providers to partner and offer support services to in-school training.

6 CURRENT ENROLMENT REPORT

Received:

a paper showing the most up-to-date enrolment figures (11-34).

7 NEW ACADEMIC INITIATIVES UPDATE

Received:

a paper summarising new initiatives (11-35).

Noted:

(i) that the Business School, BA Liberal Arts, ULIP and CAST initiatives were currently undergoing market testing, whilst in the meantime ULIP was subject to further development with a possible Psychology opportunity being followed-up.

(ii) that internal work had begun to scope out the PGT re-structure and PT development initiatives and working parties may be set up to take these forward.

(iii) that Committee members should be involved in the on-going internal consultation and development regarding the initiatives.

8 GOLDSMITHS & (S.E.) LONDON

Received:

a paper exploring issues related to Goldsmiths' relationship with the capital (11-36)

Noted:

- (i) that internships were both a good way to build relationships with London organisations and to enhance the student experience and employability agenda.
- (ii) that a project was currently underway to identify opportunities and establish partnerships with key institutions and organisations and to better manage external relationships.

- (iii) that London should be highlighted and encompassed as part of programmes, and students could be encouraged to understand that their education takes place beyond the classroom as well as in it, with London's diversity and resources being a key part of that.

9 SHORT COURSE FRAMEWORK

Received:

the Short Course Framework (10-490)

Noted:

- (i) that short courses were a variant of the flexible offer being considered in other areas.
- (ii) that the Skillset experience had highlighted the need for dedicated responsibility and resource in order to generate the push needed to develop anything of significant scale.
- (iii) that the Framework had been developed in response to a desire in some departments to do more in this area, and that further organic growth might be expected.

10 ESRC DOCTORAL TRAINING CENTRE

Received:

a paper describing the new DTC to be established in partnership with QMUL (11-21)

Noted:

- (i) congratulations to the former Dean and other staff of the Graduate School who had worked hard to make the bid successful.
- (ii) that this was an opportunity to re-imagine and re-invigorate our research training provision across the College as a whole.
- (iii) that key to making the Centre work best for the College was the ability to attract the best students and to ensure that a good proportion of them apply for researchships based at Goldsmiths as well as Queen Mary; a strategy was being developed in this regard.

11 EMPLOYABILITY STRATEGY

Received:

the College's Employability Operational Plan (11-41)

Noted:

- (i) that a project was being set-up with the department of Marketing, Recruitment and Communications to take this forward, and a paper on that would be brought to a future meeting.

12 LASALLE COLLEGE OF ARTS, SINGAPORE

Noted:

- (i) Chair's Action, following the discussion at the previous meeting and the subsequent email consultation with all members of the Committee, to grant outline approval for the pursuance of the collaborative provision arrangement with LASALLE College of Arts, in line with Section 8 of the Collaborative Provision Framework.
- (ii) that the financial and business discussions regarding the potential collaboration had now been concluded and the proposal was going forward to the full approval process.
- (iii) that this would begin with institutional approval including a due diligence process and a report on its academic mission.
- (iv) that the Committee would be one of a number of bodies that would evaluate the findings of that stage and decide whether to pursue further.
- (v) that the final stage was programme approval, which would involve members from various academic departments around the College.
- (vi) that the collaboration would represent a useful foothold in the region for Goldsmiths, raising its profile in terms of recruitment and also provide opportunities for further academic collaboration.
- (vii) that the assessment process would include some input from current LASALLE students, but that it would necessarily need to recognise different cultural expectations in terms of student involvement and feedback.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

14 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting, currently scheduled for 18 May 2011 may need to be held slightly later in order to fit the schedule of the collaborative provision approval process. Members of the Committee would therefore be informed for the date of the next meeting by email as soon as possible.

Melanie Rimmer
Projects Officer
February 2011