

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2011

- Present:** Mr Christopher Jonas (in the Chair), Professor Catherine Alexander, Mr Mark Baillache, Mr Richard Bolley, Dr Virginia Brooke, Dr Philip Broadhead, Mr Patrick Loughrey, Professor Alan Downie, Ms Althea Efunshile, Mr Rupert Evenett, Dr Alison Henwood, Mr Brian Lymbery, Mr Kenneth May, Professor Simon McVeigh, Ms Bindz Patel, Professor Jane Powell, Ms Cathy Runciman, Ms Mary Stacey, Dr Gareth Stanton,
- Apologies:** Mr James Grierson, Professor Mark d'Inverno, Mr Dick Melly, Baroness Morris, Ms Colleen Toomey, Mr Tom Williams.
- In attendance:** Registrar and Secretary (Secretary), Director of Finance, Director of Human Resources, Head of Corporate Governance and Information Management.
- Observers:** UCU representation (items 1-19), Mrs Lucinda Parr (1-20), Mr James Haywood, Mr Dan Lambeth.

Mr Evenett and Mr Lymbery were not present for the item to which minute 25 refers.

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MEMBERSHIP AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that the 2011-12 Students' Union President, Mr James Haywood, and a new independent member, Mr Dan Lambeth, had been invited to attend the meeting as observers.

The following members were attending their last meeting of Council, and the Chair thanked them for their contributions to its work:

Professor Alan Downie
Baroness Morris
Ms Bindz Patel

2 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 April 2011 be approved.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(i) **LASALLE Institute of the Arts**¹
(Minute 23, 7 April 2011 refers)

Noted:

- (i) that Academic Board (15 June 2011) had given Institutional Approval to the partnership with LASALLE Institute of the Arts, in accordance with the procedures in the Collaborative Provision Framework, subject to five relatively straightforward academic conditions, one solicitor's report not expected to raise significant problems, and clarification of the regular reporting process concerning IT infrastructure;
- (ii) that it was intended that LASALLE students would be awarded Goldsmiths degrees and that Council was therefore being asked to approve the College's application to the University of London to exercise degree-awarding powers in this partnership (see item below).

4 REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR

Noted:

that since the last meeting the Chair had taken action as follows (11-286):

- (i) To recommend for approval an amendment to the Standing Orders, with effect from 1 September 2011, by adding an additional clause as follows:

4 QUORUM

4.2 Where, in the membership of any Committee, a member occupies two places (eg by holding two offices corresponding to *ex officio* places simultaneously) one of the places shall be counted as a vacancy for the purpose of calculating the quorum, and in the event of voting the member shall have only one vote (unless he or she qualifies for a second casting vote as Chair). *[And renumber subsequent clauses]*

- (ii) To amend a clause the Statement of Primary Responsibilities as follows, with effect from 1 September 2011 *[added text in bold]*:

"to approve recommendations made by a properly-constituted Redundancy Committee to make academic **and academic-related** staff redundancies"

- (iii) To approve an amendment to the Fraud Policy, as set out in Appendix A to paper 11-286

¹ This minute as circulated to Council with the agenda for the 29 November 2011 incorrectly referred to the award of University of London degrees rather than Goldsmiths degrees (although Minute 14 below and paper 11-270R make clear that this was not the case). This has been amended with the approval of the Chair of Council.

- (iv) To approve an amendment to General Regulation 6.6 (Fees) with effect from 1 September 2011, as follows:
~~(a) 'Higher Cost': BA Art Practice Extension, BA Art Practice, BA Fine Art~~
(a) 'Higher Cost': BA Fine Art Extension, BA Art Practice, BA Fine Art

5 WARDEN'S REPORT

Council received an oral report from the Warden, including the following topics:

- (i) The recent BIS White paper, *Students at the Heart of the System* (June 2011), and the redistribution of student numbers which it would involve;
- (ii) the growth of private sector competition to publicly funded higher education;
- (iii) the importance of employability-related issues in future strategic planning;
- (iv) the favourable recent media coverage of the Art Department degree show and the College's appearance in the top 50 within the Times Good University Guide;
- (v) the agreement that the Goldsmiths Students' Union would take over the management of the College Nursery.
- (vi) the submission to OFFA of the College's revised Access Agreement, on which an approval was awaited [*Secretary's note: this approval was given on 13 July 2011*]

On the issue of the increasing intrusion of private sector providers into higher education, the President of the Students' Union asked whether the College would be supporting the campaign of the University of London Students' Union against a particular private sector provider delivering University of London International Programme (formerly "External System") degrees in areas where Goldsmiths was lead College. The Warden replied that although such developments were clearly a matter of concern in principle, the activity of the institution concerned had so far been within the prescribed procedures of University of London International Programmes, and therefore no action could legitimately be taken.

6 COLLEGE BUDGET

Received:

the draft budget for 2011-12 (11-249R).

Noted:

that a revision of the Financial Forecast (see item 23 below) had been prepared in the light of these budgetary plans.

It was noted that the current external environment meant that a shorter planning horizon was necessary for the budget than would normally be desirable.

It was clarified that costing of educational provision was currently by programme (and not by course [ie module] as mentioned in paper 11-249R).

The Students' Union asked that in future budgetary proposals the effects of the mainstream and commercial aspects of the accounts relating to hall fees should be more clearly distinguished.

The question of the adequacy of proposed spending on the Estate was raised; however it was also pointed out that a fully worked-out implementation proposal for the master plan would be necessary to justify increasing the level of spend in future.

It was noted that the *Goldsmiths 2015* projects were expected to make important contribution to future efficiency savings and to provide a context for judgement about capacities for making economies in support services.

Resolved:

that the proposed draft budget for 2011-12 be approved.

7 STUDENTS' UNION BUDGET

Received:

the Students' Union budget for 2011-12 (11-251).

8 FEES POLICY

Received:

a paper concerning possible approaches to fee-setting in the context of the new funding regime (11-292).

It was generally felt that differential pricing was justified, based on similar considerations to the practice of setting of overseas student fees that was already established. However a cautious approach would need to be adopted while the effects of the new funding regime on student demand remained to be resolved, and in particular it would be unwise to assume too readily that low recruitment on a programme was due to an error in pricing.

It was noted that it had already been established as Government policy that any reductions in fee for a programme after it had been advertised would apply to all students, whether they were recruited before or after the fee reduction was announced.

It was noted that in a limited number of situations a reduction in grade requirement for entry could be implemented instead of a price reduction. However, the effects on market image would need to be carefully considered in such cases, and it was noted that some departments had adopted an opposite approach of raising grade requirements. In addition, since students with lower grades typically required more resource-intensive support, their admission could represent a financial burden.

9 OPEN DEBATE ON CAMPUS
(Minute 21, 7 April 2011, refers)

Received:

a discussion paper (11-293).

It was noted that respect for the right of others to express their opinions was implicit in the Mission and Values of the College and needed to be enforceable through staff contracts and (for students) Regulations. The problem of disruption did not only relate to public events (where the Freedom of Speech Policy and the General Regulation on Freedom of Speech already applied) but also to day-to-day teaching. It was noted that the redrafting of the Student Charter could take this into account.

The Students' Union asked that its policy on "no platform for fascists" to be taken into account in any future College policy on this issue.

10 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

Received:

the minutes of the meeting of Audit Committee held on 1 June 2011 (11-287).

11 RISK MANAGEMENT

Received:

a progress report on Risk Management (11-294).

Council asked that future development of the College's approach to risk should elucidate explicitly the connections which existed between risks and the categorisation of risks - in particular as between external and internal ones. It would also be useful to identify specific interactions with the "pillars" which formed part of the strategic planning initiative.

12 REPORT ON HEFCE ASSURANCE VISIT: DECEMBER 2010

Received:

the draft report from HEFCE on their assurance review on 14 December 2010, together with the Warden's response (11- 224R).

13 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

to approve further changes to terms of reference and composition of committees with effect from 1 September 2011 (11-288).

14 DEGREE-AWARDING POWERS

(Minute 23, 7 April 2011 and Minute 48, 25 March 2010, refer)

Resolved:

to approve an application to the University of London to exercise degree-awarding powers in respect of the College's intended partnership with LASALLE Institute of the Arts, Singapore, while remaining within the University (11-270R).

[Secretary's Note: The Trustee Board of the University of London (13 July 2011) subsequently resolved to approve the exercise of degree-awarding powers by Goldsmiths not only to LASALLE students but to any students studying in the context of collaborative partnerships.]

15 ORDINANCES (AND ASSOCIATED POLICIES)

Resolved:

- (i) that, with effect from 1 September 2011, amendments to Ordinances be approved as set out in paper 11-274R;
- (ii) that, with effect from 1 September 2011, the Consultancy Policy and the Conflicts of Interest Policy be amended as set out in Appendix A of paper 11-274R.

16 GENERAL REGULATIONS

(Minute 11, 7 April 2010, refers)

Resolved:

to approve further amendments to the General Regulations with effect from 1 September 2011 as set out in paper 11-273, with the exception of the changes proposed to clauses 8.5 and 10.7, where the need for further review was identified, with final changes to be approved by the Chair following the meeting.

17 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Resolved:

to approve amendments to the Financial Regulations with effect from 1 September 2011 (11-268).

18 ANNUAL REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Received:

the annual report of Remuneration Committee for 2010-11 (11-289).

19 APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CHAIR OF COUNCIL

(Minute 25, 7 April 2011, refers)

Received:

a report from the meeting of the Search Committee for the new Chair held on 20 June 2011 (11-295).

Resolved:

- (i) that Professor Kay Stables be invited to join the Search Committee;
- (ii) that an external member – such as a current chair of governors at another London university – be invited to join the Committee, and that Council members were welcome to suggest possible candidates;
- (iii) that the role description be finalised by the Search Committee following circulation to Council members and consideration of comments that arose;
- (iv) that the Search Committee be asked to consider how a student contribution could be made to its work;
- (v) that paid consultancy for the work of the Search Committee, should it be felt necessary, be undertaken only with the guidance of the Head of Procurement.

20 STRATEGY REVIEW

(Minute 19, 7 April 2011, refers)

Received:

a progress report on the development of the new institutional strategy (11-296).

Members of Council commented favourably on the departmental sections of the Strategy Review; however it was not clear whether all these departmental vision statements could be supported, and an implementation plan was needed. Similarly, it was not clear whether all possible partnerships could be taken forward, or how best to establish good practice in the initiation and development of partnerships. Council noted the importance of understanding what current students valued about their department, which was an increasing focus of the College' current approach to marketing and recruitment.

Resolved:

that the plans set out in paper 11-296 be approved as a basis for future development.

21 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Noted:

the following forthcoming meeting dates:

10 October 2011 (if required)

[Secretary's note: This meeting was subsequently cancelled]

29 November 2011

29 March 2012

19 June 2012

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS
*Exemptions 36 and 43 of the Freedom
of Information Act expected to
apply for a year*

23 REVISED FINANCIAL FORECAST

Resolved:

to approve revisions to the five year financial forecast as set out in paper 11-290, and the official submission of the updated forecast to HEFCE (following a provisional submission for information prior to Council approval).

*Exemption 40 of the Freedom
of Information Act applies*

24 HONORARY DEGREES AND FELLOWSHIPS

Resolved:

to approve recommendations for honorary degrees and fellowships (11-291).

25 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP 2011-12

Resolved:

- (i) that Ms Jessica Wanamaker be appointed a member of Council from 1 September 2011 to 31 August 2014 (11-301);
- (ii) that Mr Rupert Evenett and Mr Brian Lymbery be re-appointed members of Council from 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2015 (11-302).