

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

COUNCIL & ACADEMIC BOARD

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 May 2011

Present: Mrs Alyson McGarrigle (in the Chair), Ms Alison Ahern, Ms Vicky Annand, Dr Philip Broadhead, Ms Siobhan Finnegan, Mr John Ginman, Ms Heather Mendick, Mr Chris Pearson, Ms Eleanor Saunders, Ms Marcia Williams, Mr Barry Hayward (Secretary).

Apologies: Ms Sharon Alleyne, Ms Jennifer Bain, Ms Colleen Toomey.

In attendance: Ms Patsy Carter, Rev'd Adele Rees, Ms Rachel Soper, Ms Ellen Tsang.

1 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2011.

2 REPORT OF THE DISABILITY COORDINATOR

Received:

a report from the Disability Coordinator (11-185).

Noted:

- (i) that further work was needed to ensure students could continue to be assessed for dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties whilst limiting the demands on the disability budget;
- (ii) that the Coordinator should seek to maintain or even reduce the fee paid to psychologists, perhaps by offering a preferred provider contract.

3 ANNUAL MONITORING OF RACE, GENDER & DISABILITY

Received:

a report from the Director of Planning, Quality and Academic Governance (11-208).

There was a wide ranging discussion about the detail and scope of monitoring information the Committee requires.

Noted:

that numbers of disabled students listed only reflects those in receipt of Disabled Students Allowance.

Resolved:

that the Disability Coordinator will coordinate discussions on the scope and format of the monitoring to be provided at future meetings.

4 REPORT OF THE ESTATES & FACILITIES DEPARTMENT

Received:

a verbal report on access improvements to the College from the Head of Administration, Estates & Facilities.

The Stairmate Major portable platform lift reported on at the last meeting has been purchased. The Estates Department is working on training for the staff in DTHB who will be responsible for operating the equipment.

Work to provide refuge points in the Richard Hoggart Building and alarm systems will commence in the 2011-12 financial year. More details on this will be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

Improved signage within the Richard Hoggart Building will be completed in Summer 2011.

Automatic doors had been fitted to the Rutherford building entrance, although unfortunately these were out of action. Estates had also improved the visibility of the glass gates within the entrance.

Two gender neutral toilets had been identified. Further work is required to determine the appropriate signage.

Discussions were underway with DisabledGo an organisation that can provide details of disability access at Goldsmiths and make images of the campus available through the web site. An audit of accessibility would also be provided.

6 REPORT ON EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES – PROPOSED CHANGES TO ASSESSMENTS REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS PROCESS AND GUIDANCE RELATING TO STUDENTS WITH LONG TERM HEALTH CONDITIONS

Received:

a report from the Disability Coordinator (11-186).

There was a discussion concerning whether the Committee was able to approve the recommendations. It was felt that the proposals needed Academic Board approval.

Resolved:

That the Disability Coordinator and Pro-Warden (Students and Learning Development) will coordinate a revised paper containing the proposals for Academic Board.

Recommended:

that the changes to the Assessments Reasonable Adjustments process be approved by the Academic Board.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Heather Mendick reported that this was her last meeting as she is leaving Goldsmiths.

8 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Noted:

The 2011-12 meetings:

19 October 2011, 2pm in DTHB 110*

2 February 2012, 2pm in DTHB 110

9 May 2012, 2pm in DTHB 110

*Subsequently changed to 26 October 2011, 2pm in DTHB 109

Barry Hayward
May 2011