

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

COUNCIL

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2010

Present: Baroness Morris of Yardley (in the Chair), Ms Vicky Annand, Mr Tim Crook, Mr Geraint Fox, Ms Donna Hartwell (Secretary), Mr Hugh Jones, Professor Caroline Knowles, Mr Gerald Lidstone, Mr Michael Metelits, Mr David Mungall

Apologies: Ms Annette Bullen (usually in attendance), Mr James Haywood, Professor Simon McVeigh

1. MINUTES

Resolved :

that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2010 be approved

2. STANDING ORDERS

Received :

the Standing Orders for the College (10.338)

3. COLLEGE POLICY ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Received :

the College's policy on Conflicts of Interests (10.339)

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP 2010-11

Received :

the Terms of Reference, Composition and Membership of the Committee for 2010-11 (10.537)

5. REVIEW OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS

Received :

a paper from the Committee Secretary checking the progress of ideas arising from previous discussions. (10.538)

As a publicly funded body, local procurement, however desirable, was not something we were able to commit to, being obligated as we are to deliver value for money. However the Committee noted that Lewisham Council were now running courses on procurement and wondered whether there was a role for us to play in this?

6. GOLDSMITHS' ENGAGEMENT WITH LONDON COLLEGES

Received:

a paper from the Pro Warden (Academic Development) Simon McVeigh, setting out the numerous and diverse relationships Goldsmiths has with other London colleges with a view to developing a more strategic, prioritised approach in future

This paper was to be seen in the context of the Browne Review and the pressure for change that this represented, and alongside the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills' view that more higher education should be delivered via Further Education Colleges.

Our strategy claims we're committed to strong partnerships – particularly with local institutions - but is currently being revised (due in March 2011) so the committee felt now was a good time re-evaluate this. While we might see local partnerships as a self-evident good, as a research led institution, did we really want to be strongly identified with Further Education?

Although the paper clearly sets out the many categories of relationship in which Goldsmiths is currently involved, the Committee felt what was less clear was their purpose. The Committee suggested that the various categories of relationship should be prioritised and from this could stem objectives and criteria for monitoring their future success. Not only would this provide a means of assessment, it would also provide clarity about where our efforts are best focused. Of lowest priority, for example, would be the kinds of partnership based on personal relationships and shared research interests because, although highly valued, they evolve naturally and therefore need little input from the central administration. It was acknowledged that there was still a lot of work to be done on this issue.

In the course of the discussion the idea arose of introducing a two year Law Degree possibly to be delivered via an FE College, which would be both radical and challenging and quite different than anything else. Tim Crook and Hugh Jones would develop this further.

Resolved :

Hugh Jones would report the views of External Relations & Development Committee on developing a more strategic approach to our relationships to the

next meeting of the Blue Skies Group, so that they could be incorporated into the development of the College's new strategy.

7. PUBLIC EVENTS

Received :

a discussion paper prepared by the Director of Development, David Mungall, surveying the range of events held at the College and how they are organised

This paper was born out of David's experience of some poorly publicised and poorly catered for events at the College and the feeling that an opportunity was being lost to bring the College's brand alive to stakeholders and the wider community.

The ensuing discussion centred around public events but not those with a specific function such as Presentation Ceremonies and Open Days. During an academic year, the College hosts numerous public events including lectures, art shows, concerts, seminars, film screenings, drama and readings and often feature interesting and well known speakers. However the standard varied widely with many apparently organised on an ad hoc basis, with very little publicity.

The Committee noted that departments often found it difficult to understand whether an event was parochial or suitable for a wider audience and that the cost and standard of catering was also a problem.

At a minimum, a solution might be to produce guidelines for departments organising events, with a 'menu' of options to choose from. The lack of ticketing should be addressed too, so that information about who's attending can be captured for future, more targeted marketing. The Committee agreed with David's proposal to introduce a flagship lecture series which all academic departments could feed into and felt this would be an excellent way of embedding a new model of good practice. Alternatively it may be simpler to introduce good practice via the regular Inaugural Lectures for new professors, organised by the Warden's Office.

While joining up services and providing more central support for events was very much the consensus of this discussion, the committee felt ownership of an event should nonetheless remain with the originating department.

Resolved :

- (i) Gather more information about what departments need (David Mungall)
- (ii) Consider whether the teams delivering event organisation, all currently separate, should be brought together (Hugh Jones)
- (iii) Consider issues around publicity and collection of data (Vicky Annand)
- (iv) Consider the introduction of a flagship lecture series (David Mungall)

8. NEXT MEETING

The topics for the next meeting will be 'Employability' (the Secretary will ask the Pro Warden (Students and Learning Development) to write the paper) plus a joint paper from Hugh Jones and Gerald Lidstone on 'Public Diplomacy'.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday 8 June, 2011 at 2.30 p.m. in Room 110, Deptford Town Hall.

DH
04.01.11