

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

STUDENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2010

Present: Dr Philip Broadhead (in the Chair), Ms Alison Ahern, Ms Francesca Bancarino, Mrs Mary Bright, Dr Basem El-Haddadeh (*from Item 10*), Dr Richard Smith

Apologies: Mr Brian Alleyne, Mr Graham Gaskell, Ms Bindz Patel, Mr Matt Ward

In attendance: Mr Steve Baker (Deputy Chief Executive, Students' Union), Ms Shanaz Begum (Secretary), Ms Anne Francis (Head of Careers Service)

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MINUTES

Noted:

- (i) that following the success of the 24 hour opening pilot scheme during the main exam period last year, the Library would open for 24 hours during the same period in 2010-11, as well as for an additional period in January;
- (ii) that the Careers Service had passed Matrix accreditation as part of The Careers Group, University of London.

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting on 24 April 2010 be approved.

2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- (i) re minute 28, that an agreement was in the process of being negotiated with I-Graduate about the number and frequency of surveys in future, as well as the manner in which the results would be presented and used.

3 ANNUAL CYCLE OF BUSINESS

Noted:

- (i) that many items that were due to be presented at this meeting were missing and would be presented at the next meeting on 15 February 2011.

4 STUDENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the Student Committee Annual Report to Council for 2009-10 (10-428)

Resolved:

that the report be approved.

5 STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY

Received:

a draft Goldsmiths' Student Employability Strategy (10-429)

Noted:

- (i) that the Strategy was approved by SMT on 1 November 2010;
- (ii) that implementation of the Strategy would be formally overseen by the Student Committee, and to that end, would be placed as an item on the agenda of all future meetings until further notice by the Chair;
- (iii) that the proposed changes in the Strategy would be applied with immediate effect with a view to fully implementing the action plan by 2011-12;
- (iv) that all departments would be expected to fully cooperate with the aims of the Strategy and to implement changes as appropriate;
- (v) that additional resource was recommended in the Strategy, and that SMT would ultimately make a decision on this;
- (vi) that as part of the Strategy, the 3D graduate programme would be resurrected in a less complex form and with increased personal tutor involvement;
- (vii) that the Students' Union would investigate and develop further links with local volunteering organisations;
- (viii) that establishing a College placements system could significantly benefit students from disadvantaged backgrounds who would otherwise may not have been able to source placement opportunities themselves.

6 CAREERS SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the Careers Service Annual Report for 2009-10 (10-430)

Noted:

- (i) that there did not appear to be a noticeable increase in student engagement with the Careers Service compared to other London universities;
- (ii) that this was thought to be due to the course profile of Goldsmiths, where students on certain programmes (e.g. PGCE, Art) did not naturally seek Careers Office engagement;
- (iii) that a recent survey of non-users indicated that one of main reasons for non-engagement was their perceived lack of need for assistance;
- (iv) that the DLHE results were disappointing in terms of the number of undergraduate students securing employment after study completion, thus lending greater importance to the graduate attributes outlined in the Student Employability Strategy;
- (v) that as the DLHE measured graduate destinations after only 6 months of graduation, the possibility of implementing a institutional alumni monitoring system over a greater length of time should be explored;
- (vi) that greater engagement between academic departments and alumni was encouraged in the Student Employability Strategy.

7 REVIEW OF THE WIDENING PARTICIPATION AGENDA

Received:

A report from the Widening Participation Review Panel (10-431)

Noted:

- (i) that the Students' Union were currently trying to address the issue of inclusivity within the organisation, for example, by attending all induction talks at the start of term;
- (ii) that government student finance announcements made since the report pointed to increased financial help for part-time students which would support the widening participation agenda;
- (iii) that the Committee supported any initiatives that improved the student experience for all rather than one particular group;

- (iv) that the Director of Student Services would submit a report on Induction activities in 2010/11 at the next meeting on 15 February 2011.

8 STUDENT EXPERIENCE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Received:

the current Student Experience Strategy Action Plan (09-38R2)

Noted:

- (i) that the general strategic direction of the College was being reviewed by the Warden;
- (ii) that a revised Action Plan for 2011-12 and beyond could not be considered until College strategies, including the Student Experience Strategy, were reviewed;
- (iii) that changes to fees and funding regulations from 2012-13 would change student expectations in terms of their student experience;
- (iv) that the Student Experience Strategy would be reviewed by the Committee at the next meeting on 15 February 2011.

15 RESIDENCES, CATERING & CONFERENCE SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the Residences, Catering & Conference Services Annual Report for 2009-10 (10-432)

Noted:

- (i) that the current recruitment policy of guaranteeing hall places to visiting students for one term only was continuing to cause loss of revenue for the department;
- (ii) that with reference to the current academic year 2010-11, a number of students had not received a place in halls by the time they enrolled, leading to stress and anxiety at the start of term;
- (iii) that all students who applied for accommodation before or shortly after the prescribed deadline had successfully received places in halls;
- (iv) that it was unwise to consider building new accommodation without being confident that additional spaces would be filled for at least the next 25 years;
- (v) that future accommodation trends and demands were difficult to predict, especially in light of potential tuition fee increases which could lead to greater numbers of students continuing to live in their parental homes;

16 LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the Library Services Annual Report 2009-10 (10-433).

17 COUNSELLING SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the Counselling Services Annual Reports for 200-09 (10-434) and 2009-10 (10-435)

18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Noted:

That with reference to the College Policies on Dignity at Work and Dignity in the Learning Environment:

- Council resolved in a meeting on 1 December 2009 'that a working group composed of representatives of Human Resources Committee and Student Committee be set up to review both policies together after a year's operation, and report to the Spring term 2011 meeting of Council, with a view to any amendments taking effect on 1 September 2011'.
- Ms Alison Ahern, Ms Francesca Bancarino and Dr Richard Smith would represent Student Committee in the working group.

19 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 15 February 2011

Shanaz Begum
Bursaries and Scholarships Officer
November 2010