

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

STUDENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2011

- Present:** Dr Philip Broadhead (in the Chair), Ms Alison Ahern, Ms Francesca Bancarino, Mrs Mary Bright, Mr Graham Gaskell, Ms Bindz Patel, Dr Richard Smith (*from item 6*)
- Apologies:** Mr Brian Alleyne, Dr Basem El-Haddadeh, Mr Matt Ward
- In attendance:** Ms Shanaz Begum (Secretary), Ms Anne Francis (Head of Careers Service)

OPEN BUSINESS

1 OPENING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Noted:

- (i) that discussions on the creation of a 'Student Centre' were taking place after the Warden expressed strong support for the project;
- (ii) that plans to open a 'Student Voice Centre' in the Richard Hoggart Building to improve survey feedback processes were being pushed forward by James MacGregor from Marketing, Recruitment & Communications;
- (iii) that the National Student Survey 2011 was currently underway, but as response rates were varying significantly between some departments, Committee members were urged to promote the survey in any way they could;
- (iv) that an open meeting for international students would be organised to discuss issues raised in the International Student Barometer (ISB) survey;

2 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting on 2 November 2010 be approved.

3 STUDENT EMPLOYABILITY

Received:

the Goldsmiths Student Employability Strategy (10-429)

Noted:

- (i) that the Strategy had been formally endorsed by Academic Board, subject to the 'Skills' section of the Graduate Attributes being revised so as not to begin with the word 'problem';
- (ii) that Academic Departments had been asked to consider how they would implement the Graduate Attributes to their undergraduate programmes;
- (iii) that an Implementation Team comprising of the Chair, Head of Careers Service, Head of UK/EU Marketing & Student Recruitment had already been formed, and would expand to include others including a representative from the Equality & Diversity Committee, a representative from the Students' Union and a number of academic members of staff;
- (iv) that a HEFCE consultation proposing a requirement for all Higher Education Institutions to publish key employability statistics in relation to each undergraduate programme offered by their institution was in progress. Mandatory statistics would include graduate employability rates and typical starting salaries;
- (v) that it would be beneficial for the College to create more employment opportunities and/or internal placements for students, perhaps by following the lead of RCCS who had a bank of students to call upon for paid events-related work;
- (vi) that the possibility of adopting the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR) for 2011-12 existed;
- (vii) that detailed guidance on placements and internships would be drawn up by the Implementation Team.

4 STUDENT EXPERIENCE STRATEGY

Received:

the Student Experience Strategy (07-402R)

Noted:

- (i) that the current Strategy was due to expire at the end of the current academic year;
- (ii) that much had been achieved as a result of the Strategy, for example, in improving the quality of service to disabled students, raising awareness of the College's environmental responsibilities and upgrading key IT functions and services;

- (iii) that as the general strategic direction of the College was being reviewed, a new Student Experience Strategy could not be drafted until that process was completed;
- (iv) that the possibility of integrating the Student Experience Strategy into the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy would be explored to reduce the perceived disjointed nature of the way strategies were normally written and implemented;
- (iv) that the following points would need to be considered if a new Student Experience Strategy was to be created:
 - Explicit reference to the induction process for newly enrolled students, including specialised induction for International students;
 - Importance of integrating learning and teaching objectives into the strategy, for example, timetabling, online module registration and accessibility to electronic resources in the Library;
 - Updating of legislative references cited in the current Strategy;
 - Reference to the experience of graduates and alumni;
 - Relationship between the Strategy and the Student Charter, and the possibility of shortening one or both documents;
 - Amending the College Mission statement to reflect commitment to the Student Experience;
- (v) That the Students' Union President would email the Chair with further thoughts and suggestions on the new Strategy.

5 RENT GUARANTOR SCHEME

Received:

A proposal on introducing a Rent Guarantor scheme (11-42)

Noted:

- (i) that the proposed scheme would stipulate a rent cap;
- (ii) that as this was such a specialist area, careful consideration would need to be given to the implications of offering such a scheme;
- (iii) that a scheme that assisted students with their accommodation deposits would perhaps be more useful, but that such a scheme would not be financially viable for the College;
- (iv) that the rent guarantor scheme would only be restricted to tenancies secured through the University of London Housing Service (ULHS).

Recommended:

- (i) that discussions take place between the Accommodation Services Manager, Students' Union President, Director of Finance and a representative from ULHS, and that a more detailed proposal be submitted directly to SMT for consideration.

6 STUDENT DEATH PROCEDURE**Received:**

Updated Death Procedure Policy (11-43)

Noted:

- (i) that the Committee endorsed the new Policy;
- (ii) that procedures had vastly improved compared to previous years;
- (iii) that academic departments had a significant role in reacting accordingly to news of a student's death;
- (iv) that the Director of Student Services would next consider the College's response to students who pass away after graduation.

7 DIGNITY POLICIES REVIEW**Received:**

A report from the Dignity Policies Review Working Group (11-25)

Noted:

- (i) that the recommendations of the Working Group had been endorsed by the Equality & Diversity Committee;
- (ii) that cyber-bullying was an additional issue that needed to be addressed in the Learning Environment Policy, but that the extent of College responsibility in this area was unclear (for example, when the bullying took place on social networking sites);
- (iii) that there was a lack of consistency in the terms used at the beginning of the policies with terms used at a later point:
 - (Page1) The Policy will be applied in a non-discriminatory way, irrespective of an employee's age, disability, gender identity, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief or sexual orientation'
 - (Page 3) Spreading malicious rumours, or insulting someone, particularly on the grounds of a person's sex, race (including their colour, nationality or ethnic origins), sexual orientation, religion or belief, disability or age'.

Resolved:

- (i) that the Director of Student Services would take on responsibility for redrafting the Dignity in the Learning Environment Policy in conjunction with the Working Group, and would submit a draft policy by the Winter Term 2011 meeting of the Student Committee;
- (ii) that Chief Executive, Students' Union, would forward examples of good practice and other relevant material to the Working Group to help address the issue of cyber-bullying.

8 IT SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT

Received:

the IT Services Annual Report 2009-10 (11-44).

9 STUDENT FEEDBACK

Received:

A summary of results of the National Student Survey 2010 (10-370)

10 STUDENTS' UNION ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Received:

The Goldsmiths Students' Union Annual Impact Report (10-322R)

11 NEXT MEETING

Noted:

that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 26 May 2011.

Shanaz Begum
Bursaries and Scholarships Officer
February 2011