

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2013

Present: Professor Simon McVeigh (in the Chair), Ms Rachel Soper, Mr Geraint Fox, Dr Liz Moor, Dr Marco Gillies, Dr Karina Linnell, Professor Sanjay Seth, Professor Les Back, Dr Jennifer Gabrys, Ms Vicky Annand

In attendance: Mr Chris Lloyd, Mr Kieron Broadhead, Ms Melanie Rimmer (taking minutes), Mr Alex Rhys-Taylor and Mr Kevin Jones and Professor Osita Okagbue (each for parts of Item 3); Dr Juliet Sprake (for Item 4)

Apologies: Mr Nick Crowe, Dr Dejan Djokic, Professor Adam Dinham, Mr Samson Osun, Mr Soren Goard

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2012 be approved.

2 LATEST ENROLMENT AND RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

Received:

a paper from the Director of Quality, Planning and Academic Governance (13-48).

Noted:

- (i) that UK/EU applications were up 12% on last year, but there were big differences between different departments and competition across the sector was great meaning that the conversion rate was expected to fall;
- (ii) that International applications are up across the board but that the conversion rate is expected to decline;
- (iii) that the provisional student number control for 2013/14 (the number of UK/EU students with entry qualifications below ABB) had been received from HEFCE and was slightly higher than expected;
- (iv) that Goldsmiths needs to recruit significantly more students with entry qualifications of ABB+ for next year and into the future in order to ensure sustainability but that this is not a natural recruiting ground for many of our programmes;

- (iv) that departments are being asked to make as many offers at ABB+ as possible with the expectation that the conversion rate will be down;
- (v) that the general feeling was optimistic but not complacent, acknowledging the significant conversion work to be undertaken.

3 NEW PROGRAMME CONCEPTS

Received:

a series of papers from departments (13-49).

Recommended:

- (i) that since BA Urban Studies risked spreading Sociology's core student numbers and being misunderstood as related to urban planning, the department be asked to consider two routes for its further development: either as a small programme that might contribute in the short term to consolidation of its overall recruitment, rather than bring significant growth, and would require thoughtful communication about content; or to input to the discussions currently taking place about developing Architecture within the portfolio and consider how the idea could contribute to a broader new portfolio initiative.
- (ii) that MA Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse would address important contemporary issues and attract a range of students from different professional backgrounds, and should be developed further with particular thought being given to a delivery model that enabled part-time and single module participation and to an appropriate programme title.
- (iii) that the proposal for MA World Theatres be considered within the broader package of PG programmes in Theatre and Performance as part of the forthcoming Periodic Programme Review in the department before it was developed any further.
- (iv) that the MMus Creative Practice in Popular Music be taken forward for further development.
- (v) that greater information from departments at the concept stage regarding their own sense of the anticipated scale of new programmes in terms of UK/EU and International recruitment levels would be useful for understanding the proposals.

4 ARCHITECTURE: POTENTIAL NEW PORTFOLIO AREA

Received:

an oral report on current thinking with regard to a new portfolio initiative.

Noted:

- (i) that developing new programmes in the area of Architecture would tap into and build on strengths in a number of different parts of the College, and that the proposal was

being led by the Design department in collaboration with a number of other colleagues;

- (ii) that there was a relatively crowded London market of Architecture programmes, but that Goldsmiths would have a credible reputation entering such a market, and could create a distinctive offer from the more traditional Architecture schools;
- (iii) that it was anticipated that any Architecture programme would be small (30 to 40 FTE) and selective rather than a mass recruiter.

Recommended:

- (i) that RIBA accreditation was essential for a serious offer even if a non-accredited option was available alongside it;
- (ii) that the idea be developed with input from the Estates and Marketing teams which could usefully shape proposals as well as consider their wider impact;
- (iii) that the idea be considered as a broad portfolio initiative that could incorporate a number of programmes and activities beyond a single new Architecture programme, including the MA Research Architecture but also other areas and ideas could be understood to be 'architecture- related'.

5 FUTURE OF POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION

Received:

The Executive Summary of a Higher Education Commission report and a paper with recent PGT student numbers (13-50).

Noted:

- (i) that there was a declining trend in UK students participating in postgraduate study that was expected to continue in future years, and that the College needed to consider ways in which it could minimise the decline in PG students.

Recommended:

- (i) that different modes of delivery, including part-time, evening, weekend and block teaching, should be considered to ensure programmes were accessible to students with other commitments;
- (ii) that financial support and enhanced scholarships, for both UK and International students, would make the College both more accessible and competitive;
- (iii) that scholarships and bursaries at post-graduate level should focus primarily on academic potential rather than financial need.

6 MASTER OF RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Received:

a paper providing numbers of recent enrolments on MRes programme (13-51).

Noted:

- (i) that further information about the College's MRes offer was needed to inform a future discussion.

7 GOLDSMITHS 2015 ACADEMIC REVIEW WORKSTREAM

Received:

a paper on the current status of the Workstream (13-52).

Noted:

- (i) that this matter would be returned to at a future meeting.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

To note that future meetings will be held on the following dates:

7 March 2013

2 May 2013

The 7th March meeting will review the business cases available for those programmes that the Committee has previously approved at the Concept Stage. The meeting will commence at 10am and be scheduled until 2pm. As this was the first time the Committee had done this it was not certain how much time would be required.

Melanie Rimmer
February 2013