

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2013

Present: Professor Simon McVeigh (in the Chair), Ms Rachel Soper, Dr Liz Moor, Dr Karina Linnell, Dr Jennifer Gabrys, Mr Nick Crowe, Dr Dejan Djokic, Mr Samson Osun, Mr Soren Goard

In attendance: Professor Jane Powell, Mr Chris Lloyd (taking minutes), Mr Kieron Broadhead, Mrs Cathryn Thompson, Mr Gareth Bodrell, Ms Lucie Gibson (For items 12-14)

Apologies: Professor Adam Dinham, Mr Geraint Fox, Dr Marco Gillies, Professor Sanjay Seth, Professor Les Back, Ms Vicky Annand

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2013 be approved.

2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

- (i) that the BA Urban Studies would continue to be developed but for a 2015 start;
- (ii) that a meeting to discuss development of a programme in Architecture would be taking place on Thursday 9th May at 10am with anyone interested welcome to attend;
- (iii) that a working group had been established to look at PG fee waivers, bursaries and scholarships with the work being led by Melanie Rimmer and Nadia Glassup;
- (iv) that the MSc Consumer Behaviour had been approved both strategically and academically for a 2013 start;
- (v) that the MMus Popular Music had been approved strategically by SMT for a 2014 start but had yet to be approved academically through PSSC;

- (vi) that the MA Understanding Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse had been approved strategically by SMT for a 2014 start but had yet to be approved academically through PSSC;
- (vii) that the MSc Data Science had been approved strategically by SMT for a 2014 start but had yet to be approved academically through PSSC;
- (viii) that the MRes Photography had been approved strategically by SMT but PSSC had required some amendments before it could academically approve the programme and had asked for the paperwork to be resubmitted to its meeting in October.

3 LATEST ENROLMENT AND RECRUITMENT INFORMATION

Noted:

- (i) that, as had been expected, it had been a difficult year for recruitment and, while there had been an increase in applications and there were no concerns at reaching the Student Number Control, it would take a concerted effort in order to achieve targets for off-quota students;
- (ii) that the areas of most concern regarding off-quota targets were those departments looking to recruit large cohorts with a high proportion of off-quota students such as Psychology and ECL;
- (iii) that the latest signals from the government suggests that they were looking to increase flexibility and competition in the market and were likely to do this based on the strength of an institutions recruitment history against the SNC;
- (iv) that there were further discussions underway regarding ABB+ equivalencies with the possibility of it being extended to include European qualifications and combinations of qualifications such as A-Levels with a BTEC;
- (v) that in order to achieve the necessary off-quota numbers for future years, including on the newly developed programmes, with a degree of certainty the College would need to increase off-quota applications by approximately 1500;
- (vi) that international UG acceptances were currently up by 3% with PG acceptances also slightly up;
- (vii) that Home PGT applications were down on the previous year but quicker processing of applications had led to a higher number of offers at this stage and, currently, more acceptances;

- (ix) that the first UCAS Decline by Default date was the 8th May at which point there would be more certainty in UG numbers.

Resolved:

that the Committee would consider how it could gather creative ideas for recruitment activity from staff and the Student's Union, with any ideas to be shared with Kieron Broadhead in the interim.

4 NEW PROGRAMME CONCEPTS

Received:

- (i) A Concept Paper for MA World Theatres (13-188)
- (ii) A Concept Paper for MSc Science of Psychology, Genetics and Education (Distance Learning Stream) (13-188)

MA World Theatres

Noted:

- (i) that this Concept Paper had already been considered twice with the Committee noting its concerns about the recruitment potential and the lack of a practical elements; these had been partially addressed in this improved version of the form;
- (ii) that as part of the Business Case the Committee would like a focus on marketing and recruitment, with a supporting marketing strategy being submitted, as some concerns still remain about the recruitment potential.

Resolved:

that the programme proceed to the Business Case stage in time for the October meeting, with the condition that a supporting marketing strategy be developed.

MSc Science of Psychology, Genetics and Education (Distance Learning Stream)

Noted:

- (i) that a resolution was still needed on whether the programme should be considered collaborative provision;
- (ii) that the College had minimal experience of offering distance learning and would need to decide if this was a strategy that it wished to pursue.

Resolved:

The Committee resolved that a decision on the Concept be deferred while the College considered the option of offering distance learning. Discussions would be held with the department in the interim to consider some of the related concerns.

5 NEW PROGRAMME BUSINESS CASES**Received:**

a business case for the MA Human Rights, Globalization & Justice (13-189).

Noted:

- (i) that the department had amended the programme title in light of feedback from the Committee, which showed improvement, but that the Committee would like to suggest the title MA Human Rights and Social Justice;
- (ii) that the fee appeared to be relatively low when compared with competitors but that it was in line with fees within the department;
- (iii) that the Committee felt consideration should be given as to whether more assistance should be given to students in finding placements and the alternatives should a student be unable to find a placement;
- (iv) that consideration should be given as to whether the draft marketing copy contained in the business case emphasises the academic elements of the programme sufficiently;
- (v) that with the correct title the programme had recruitment potential but that the department had had some difficulties with home PGT recruitment this year so a strong recruitment strategy would be required.

Recommended:

that SMT strategically approve the programme, subject to consideration of the proposed new title, a discussion with MRC regarding recruitment, further consideration of the tuition fees and consideration of the recommendations listed above.

6 MASTER OF RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

Received:

a paper from the Planning Officer outlining Goldsmiths' current MRes provision (13-190).

Noted:

- (i) that Anthropology, Sociology and Psychology MRes have all been developed as part of the Doctoral Training Centre with a '1 + 3' model;
- (ii) that there needs to be a delineation between what is offered by an MRes and an MPhil;
- (iii) that discussion of the MRes offer might usefully inform the work that the Graduate School was currently doing to improve PhD completion rates, providing students with a research option that didn't require a commitment to a full PhD;
- (iv) that the requirements of the AHRC and ESRC differ which would need to inform any discussions;
- (v) that Psychology Department had noticed a decline in applications since their MSc was converted into an MRes.

Resolved:

that further consideration of the MRes portfolio, and the communication of the offer, should be undertaken with involvement from the Graduate School.

7 ACCESS AGREEMENT 2014-15

Received:

a paper from the Director of Quality, Planning and Academic Governance and a copy of the College's Access Agreement 2014-15 (13-191).

Noted:

- (i) that the College will be required within the next year by the funding council to submit a Widening Participation Strategy for publication that covers Home UG and PGCE students;

- (ii) that the Access Agreement in question would be implemented in two years' time allowing time to work on the commitments made, particularly with the Students' Union on student consultation;
- (iii) that the small £1000 bursaries were withdrawn from the Access Agreement as it had been felt that these had little impact on WP when considered in line with the £9000 fees and the money had instead been committed to improving services that would improve access such as childcare and disability services;
- (iv) that there were measures in place to assess the 'merit' of students who apply for fee waivers but as the Access Agreement was an instructional document they were not listed there.

8 REVIEW OF THE NEW PROGRAMME APPROVAL PROCESS

Received:

a paper from the Planning Officer detailing plans for a review of the Programme Approval Process (13-192).

Noted:

- (i) that sufficient programmes had been through the strategic stages of the new programme approval process for a meaningful review to be undertaken;
- (ii) that there was a need to review how the numbers in the business case were reflected once the programme was running, although it was too early for this element of the process to have been tested;
- (iii) that there was a need to be mindful of the workload of PSSC through the year when finalising the process;
- (iv) that the deadlines for submitting forms should be stuck to more strictly going forward to allow members sufficient time to review their content.

Resolved:

that a review of the programme approval process would be undertaken led by Chris Lloyd and the Planning Office.

9 PROPOSAL FOR ON-GOING PORTFOLIO HEALTH CHECK

Received:

a paper from Director of Quality, Planning and Academic Governance with a proposal for an on-going strategic review of the College's portfolio (13-193).

Noted:

- (i) that particular attention should be paid to the recruitment of new programmes;
- (ii) that consideration should be given to how programmes interact with each other so that programmes that share a significant amount of modules were reviewed as a cluster;
- (iii) that it would be useful to have recruitment information such as conversion rates as part of the 'health check';
- (iv) that the 3 Associate Pro-Wardens who would be joining the Committee would be helpful in understanding the context within the departments and could usefully facilitate discussions on behalf of the Committee;
- (v) that consideration was needed as to how the health check links with the departmental planning meetings.

Resolved:

that the Planning Office co-ordinate the review, with any feedback from the Committee to be shared with Rachel Soper and Chris Lloyd.

10 DISTANCE LEARNING

Received:

a paper from Director of Quality, Planning and Academic Governance regarding a proposal to develop Distance Learning (13-194).

Noted:

- (i) that the ULIA programmes were a form of distance learning with the programme in ECL specifically considered to use the traditional model of distance learning;

- (ii) the College had been approached by an outside private organisation regarding offering distance learning of our existing programmes;
- (iii) that the OU was leading a distance learning initiative called Futurelearn;
- (iv) that the Computing Department offered a module on Coursera as a pilot to potentially offering more modules this way;
- (v) that distance learning could offer an opportunity to grow the College without the need to increase physical space;
- (vi) that consideration was needed as to whether the College could recruit to fee-bearing distance learning programmes whilst also offering modules for free through distance learning;
- (vii) that the College should consider whether its distance learning platforms were sufficient to provide high quality programmes.

Resolved:

that the issue be referred back to LTQC and the Pro-Warden (Students and Learning Development), with the suggestion that a working group might be established to review options regarding distance learning.

11 ERASMUS CHARTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Received:

a paper from Director of Quality, Planning and Academic Governance inviting the Committee's contribution to the College's Erasmus Charter application (13-195).

Noted:

- (i) that the College, through Lucia Boldrini, had an existing partnership in Malta which might provide a useful perspective going forward;
- (ii) that further discussion was needed as to how Erasmus opportunities were communicated to both staff and students, particularly given the increased opportunities to study in English across Europe.
- (iii) that members should share their comments on Erasmus with Alison Ahern and Rachel Soper.

12 PROPOSED NEW COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENT: NORDOFF ROBBINS

Received:

a paper regarding a new collaborative arrangement involving the validation of music therapy programmes at Nordoff Robbins (13-196R).

Noted:

- (i) that Nordoff Robbins was a charity that offers music therapy training but also focuses in other areas including community work and research;
- (ii) that the partnership with Nordoff Robbins was envisaged as going beyond a simple validation arrangement to include collaborative research and opportunities for community engagement;
- (iii) that the programme in question currently had 2 cohorts of 12 students, with a cohort in London and a cohort in Manchester, which they were looking to double over 2- 3 years; they would also look to double PGR numbers;
- (iv) that UKBA implications of admitting international students would need to be explored before making a full commitment.

Recommended:

that Academic Board give outline approval for the collaborative arrangement with Nordoff Robbins.

13 CAPITAL NORMAL UNIVERSITY: DUE DILIGENCE REPORT

Received:

a due diligence report in respect of the proposed study abroad year for students on the new BA International Studies and Chinese programme (13-197R).

Noted:

- (i) that it was ensured as part of the negotiations with CNU that this agreement would not be exclusive and that Goldsmiths would be able to collaborate with other institutions in China;

- (ii) that the University of Leeds currently collaborate with CNU and had provided reassurance regarding the institution;
- (iii) that the Committee had previously questioned the standing of the university and whether they would be a good partner for Goldsmiths, this was considered by the approval panel before they recommended approval.

Recommended:

that Academic Board approve Capital Normal University as delivery institution for a study abroad arrangement on BA International Studies and Chinese.

14 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Noted:

that Professor Simon McVeigh, Dr Dejan Djokovic and Professor Sanjay Seth would be completing their terms and the Committee thanked them for their contributions.

15 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Noted:

that future meetings would be held on the following dates:

Wednesday 9th October 2013, 10am
Thursday 7th November 2013, 2pm
Wednesday 19th February 2014, 2pm
Thursday 6th March 2014, 10am
Thursday 15th May 2014, 2pm

Chris Lloyd
May 2013