

**GOLDSMITHS  
University of London**

**ACADEMIC BOARD**

**ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
13 December 2013**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2013**

**Present:** Professor Jane Powell (in the Chair), Dr Karina Linnell, Dr Derval Tubridy, Ms Susan Dixon, Mr Robert Howard, Mr Kieron Broadhead, Dr Jennifer Gabrys, Mr Geraint Fox, Mr John Ginman

**In attendance:** Mr Chris Lloyd (Secretary), Mrs Cathryn Thompson, Prof William Latham (For Item 5ii), Prof Anna Furse (For Item 6)

**Apologies:** Dr Marco Gillies, Mr Nick Crowe, Mr James Ohene-Djan, Professor Adam Dinham, Mr Soren Goard, Dr Liz Moor, Mr Conrad Grant,

***OPEN BUSINESS***

**1 MINUTES**

**Resolved:**

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2013

**2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**Noted:**

- (i) that following the previous meeting a decision had been taken to dissolve the 1994 Group and that the College were exploring opportunities for an alternative;
- (ii) that the Erasmus Charter had been approved and bids were now open for applications relating to student, staff and research mobility, with a deadline of March 2014;
- (iii) that four departments had agreed to be pilot departments for this Erasmus work: Media & Communications, Theatre & Performance, History and Visual Cultures;
- (iv) that the working group on distance learning would be convened in the new year;
- (v) that a timetable had been agreed for the collaborative partnership with Nordoff Robbins, with institutional approval expected in April/May and programme approval in September;
- (vi) that departments which had synergies with the work of Nordoff Robbins would be invited to be involved in discussions;
- (vii) that the working group on MRes had yet to meet but that the Deputy Warden and Dean of the Graduate School would be meeting shortly to discuss the constitution of this group and its remit;

- (viii) that the Deputy Warden was working with the Director of Students, Alumni and Library Services to co-ordinate a working group on market intelligence.

**Resolved:**

- (i) that as the Computing Department was planning to amend the content of MSc Data Science to reflect a stronger collaboration with the Sociology Department (rather than submitting a concept paper for a additional programme as previously planned), the committee would review the business case at its next meeting in the context of an effort to progress decision-making, and if appropriate implementation, as rapidly as possible;
- (ii) that a paper on Erasmus would be considered at the next meeting.

**3 LATEST ENROLMENT AND RECRUITMENT INFORMATION**

**Received:**

a paper from the Head of Strategic Planning on recruitment and student numbers (13-469)

**Noted:**

- (i) that following the initial submission of the HESES Return, showing 1093 core students against our Student Number Control upper limit of 1100, the College had received provisional notification that there would be no grant adjustment;
- (ii) that while the data in the paper provided a useful snapshot of the recruitment position, the position changes very rapidly at this time of year;
- (iii) that it had been announced that the national Student Number Control would be extended to include an extra 30000 places for 2014-15, and that the cap will be removed entirely from 2015-16;
- (iv) that while the full details and implications of these changes were yet to be clarified, there was optimism that they could be particularly positive for both growth and enhancement of quality, for example through widening participation initiatives and recruitment of high-quality students whose non-standard qualifications meant that at present they do not qualify as 'margin' (off-quota);
- (v) that Academic Board had discussed the proposed changes to the SNC and agreed that the most significant advantage of these changes would be in allowing the College to diversify its portfolio and add to the subject areas that it covers.

**Resolved:**

that at the next meeting the Committee would discuss the varying and competing demands in recruiting to different programmes and how the Committee could support and influence this work.

## 4 PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY

### Received:

a paper summarising recent additions to the academic portfolio and ideas currently under consideration or in development (13-470)

### Resolved:

- (i) that future versions of this document would group programmes by the stage of development they had reached;
- (ii) that consideration would be given to asking individual committee members to lead on the review of each new concept paper, presenting a summary of key issues as they perceive them at the meeting.

## 5 NEW PROGRAMME CONCEPTS

- (i) *MSc Forensic Psychology*

### Received:

a concept paper for MSc Forensic Psychology (13-471)

### Noted:

- (i) that the Concept Paper provided a clear rationale for the development of the programme, providing a good basis upon which to make a decision;
- (ii) that the Psychology Department was one of the few departments within which there was untapped Home/EU demand at PG Level due to resource limitations on the existing programmes, and so an additional programme could prove very attractive;.

### Resolved:

that the programme be approved to proceed to the Business Case stage.

- (ii) *MA Computer Games and Entertainment*

### Received:

a concept paper for MA Computer Games and Entertainment (13-473)

### Noted:

- (i) that the programme would align with the existing MSc Computer Games and Entertainment - with 60 credits of shared modules, a shared lecture series, and joint working on final dissertations - but would be a distinct stand-alone programme;
- (ii) that it was important to ensure that the titles of the two programmes reflected their distinctiveness and that prospective students were clear about what they would be studying;

- (iii) that the department would seek a new member of staff to teach on this programme, utilising existing industry and academic networks to recruit someone appropriate;
- (iv) that the department considered this new programme a potential progression route for students on the new BSc Digital Arts Computing;
- (v) that the business case should give further detail of potential industry links, particularly in relation to opportunities for sponsorship.

**Resolved:**

that the programme be approved to proceed to the Business Case stage subject to further review, by the department, of its proposed title and/or that of the existing MSc Computer Games and Entertainment.

(iii) *BSc Architecture*

**Received:**

a concept paper for BSc Architecture (13-472)

**Noted:**

- (i) that as the introduction of an ambitious new development such as this in a new academic area for the College would be a major strategic investment decision the Strategic Projects Office would be co-ordinating and supporting an evaluation of its feasibility;
- (ii) that ADC was asked for its views on the preliminary version of the concept from an academic point of view, so that any initial issues or concerns can inform the broader scoping project and that should SMT consider there a basis for proceeding, in light of an initial evaluation by the Strategic Projects Office, the academic programme(s) would be further developed and returned to ADC for scrutiny/refinement in the conventional manner;
- (iii) that the Concept Paper, which had been written by the Design department in extensive consultation with colleagues from Visual Cultures and other departments and with input from an external subject specialist, articulated a vision for a programme which would be more innovative than the traditional architecture offer, making it very distinct from that offered by established London competitors by drawing on Goldsmiths' unique disciplinary mix;
- (iv) that the detailed assessment of the potential market for the proposed new programme suggests that it would be relatively small, flagging issues concerning the potential return on the substantial investment it would require;
- (v) that from an academic point of view, the committee felt that although the proposal was interesting it would need considerable further refinement and that the way in which it was framed should be tightened

**Resolved:**

- (i) that the concept paper be approved for further development, noting that on the basis of the market analysis provided thus far the committee had reservations about the existence of an adequate and sustainable market for the programme;
- (ii) that SMT be asked to consider ADC's role in this development to ensure that it provides useful, informed and timely input whilst not impeding the work of the Strategic Projects Office and SMT, and that the Deputy Warden report back on these issues at the next meeting.

**6 NEW PROGRAMME BUSINESS CASES****Received:**

a business case for MA World Theatres (13-474)

**Noted:**

- (i) that the department felt this could be one of its flagship programmes and has a number of networks through which to recruit to it, including most notably the London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT);
- (ii) that since preparation of the current business case the department had been in discussion with LIFT about promising opportunities for collaboration which it considers would be of significant benefit to students on the programme;
- (iii) that the Confucius Institute would be offering a module on Asian Theatre;
- (iv) that the anticipated start date would now be 2015/16 rather than 2014/15 as indicated in the present documentation;
- (v) that the Costing should be increased to allow for additional marketing spend in the year prior to its launch.

**Resolved:**

that the business case would be developed and resubmitted to a future meeting of the committee, with amplification of the sections on potential markets (in liaison with recruitment colleagues), on opportunities provided by the new LIFT connection, and on employability.

**7 PORTFOLIO HEALTH CHECK****Received:**

a paper from the Planning Office on the on-going strategic review of the College's portfolio (13-475).

**Resolved:**

that, due to time constraints, discussion of this item would be postponed until the next meeting.

## **8 LASALLE NEW PROGRAMME CONCEPTS**

### **Received:**

a paper from the Collaborative Provision Manager setting out the concept for new programmes at LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore

- (i) BA Entertainment Design & Production (13-476)
- (ii) MA Asian Film Studies (13-489)

### **Resolved:**

- (i) that, as no matters of concern relating to the viability or fit of the programme at La Salle had been drawn to the attention of the Committee, these programmes be approved;
- (ii) that the flowchart for the LASALLE Programme Approval Process would be shared at the next meeting.

## **9 TERMINOLOGY**

### **Noted:**

that Academic Board had recently passed a resolution that the term 'module' would replace the word 'course', so that all programmes are now described consistently as comprising modules rather than courses.

## **10 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

### **Noted:**

that future meetings would be held on the following dates:

Wednesday 19th February, 2pm  
Thursday 6th March, 10am  
Thursday 15th May, 2pm

Chris Lloyd  
Planning Manager  
December 2013