

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

**ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
26 March 2014**

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2014

Present: Professor Jane Powell (in the Chair), Dr Karina Linnell, Dr Derval Tubridy, Ms Susan Dixon, , Mr John Ginman, Dr Marco Gillies, Mr James Ohene-Djan, Mr Conrad Grant, Mr Soren Goard,

In attendance: Mr Chris Lloyd (Secretary), Mrs Cathryn Thompson, Mr Ben Fowler

Apologies: Mr Nick Crowe, Professor Adam Dinham, Dr Liz Moor, Dr Jennifer Gabrys, Mr Kieron Broadhead, M Geraint Fox, Mr Robert Howard

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2014

2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Received:

an updated list of actions (14-88)

Noted:

that the majority of the actions on the list were to be completed in time for the Summer meeting and so members were reminded to check the list and ensure they have taken any actions before then.

3 PG CERTIFICATE IN MUSEUMS & GALLERIES ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Received:

a proposal for a PG Certificate in Museums & Galleries Entrepreneurship, based on completion of two existing 30-credit modules which currently run separately (14-142)

Noted:

that this is a rational linkage of two conceptually related modules, and that the proposed title reflects this;

that the maximum interval between taking the two individual modules needs to be specified and agreed by PSSC.

Resolved:

that the programme be approved and progress to PSSC for final approval, including specification of the maximum interval between modules.

4 NEW PROGRAMME CONCEPTS

(i) MA of the Body from the Centre for the Body

Received:

a concept paper for MA of the Body from the Centre for the Body (14-89)

Noted:

- (i) that the paper outlines an innovative and highly interdisciplinary programme which draws on expertise across many departments, and that some departments additional to those specified here also currently run conceptually related modules. The programme team might explore whether some of these could also be available as options;
- (ii) that this broadly-based programme may have potential for attracting students with quite divergent interests. However there was a concern that the proposed title is so broad that it lacks clarity about the academic content and may not be easily recognisable or marketable. Relatedly, the lack of specificity makes it difficult to gauge the size of the potential market. It was suggested that identifying particular thematic 'pathways' and reflecting these in the title (e.g. MA Body: xxxx, MA Body:yyy) could help to address these concerns;
- (iii) that students on existing programmes which offer extensive module choice (e.g. BA Social and Cultural Studies) have reported that whilst this is an attractive feature in principle, it is critical for a good student experience that there are robust, straightforward, and academically supported processes for selecting modules;
- (iv) that the appointment of an overall programme convenor would be critical to ensuring the programme is well-managed, academically coherent, and gives students a high-quality experience. He or she would need to be supported by named contacts in each contributing department. These staff resources would need to be rationally costed within a future business plan;
- (v) that this programme might prove a good pilot for other interdisciplinary offers, and that the ProWarden Interdisciplinary Development (Prof Roger Burrows) had indicated his willingness to lead a working group to develop the proposal further;

Resolved:

that before a business case could be considered the various issues noted above should be addressed under the aegis of a working group led by the Pro-Warden for Interdisciplinary Development. The Committee would be pleased to consider an amplified concept paper in due course.

(ii) MSc Psychology of Social Relations

Received:

a concept paper for MSc Psychology of Social Relations (14-118)

Noted:

- (i) that this interesting proposed programme draws on existing research expertise within Psychology, and that its focus on contemporary theories of social relations would equip graduates with knowledge and skills relevant to academic and other careers; the team had consulted with the ESRC DTC to ensure that it included a strong core of training in research methods which would serve as a foundation for progressing to doctoral study.

However it is not an 'applied' programme which would confer a specific professional qualification.

- (ii) that the programme team is in discussion with IMS to explore whether management modules could be offered as options giving students who chose them some programme-relevant skills/training directly applicable within a range of relevant career pathways. The Committee suggested that the team also liaise with other departments across the College (e.g. Computing) to explore whether there are other relevant 'applied' modules that could be made available as options.
- (iii) that the team had decided against including placements as a formal part of the programme, though some students might undertake research projects in workplace settings;
- (iv) that consideration should be given to relaxing the entry requirements in order to open it, if academically appropriate, to students with a range of relevant disciplinary backgrounds.

Resolved:

- (i) to approve development of a formal Business Case for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.
- (iii) *MRes Curatorial / Knowledge*

Received:

a concept paper for MRes Curatorial / Knowledge (14-119)

Noted:

- (i) that the proposed MRes was a response to the interest in this field of study from professionals and practitioners who are, because of their work commitments, unable to undertake the larger MPhil/PhD programme currently offered by Visual Cultures. It is thus constructed to offer short periods of intensive study which will lead to the MRes qualification;
- (ii) that the paper mentions a number of possible scholarship opportunities, about which more detail should be given in future developments of the proposal;
- (iii) that the recruitment team had expressed reservations about the size of the potential market, and that recruitment to the PhD of the same title had dropped last year. Further marketing research would be needed to gauge the level of interest in the MRes, and to clarify the form/level of marketing effort that would be needed to attract sufficient students for the programme to be viable;
- (iv) that clarification was needed about the relationship of this programme to existing PGT and PGR programmes within Visual Cultures (e.g. MA Global Arts) and Art (especially MFA Curating), and the extent to which they might either compete for the same students or offer opportunities for some shared teaching;
- (v) that the working group recently established to review MRes and other research Masters programmes, chaired by Dr Tubridy, should consider the present proposal and advise on its development in light of general principles concerning such programmes.

Resolved:

that Dr Tubridy would liaise with the programme team to advise them on the development of an expanded concept paper for consideration at a future meeting of ADC. It should address all of the issues identified above.

5 NEW PROGRAMME BUSINESS CASES

(i) MA World Theatres

Received:

a business case for MA World Theatres (14-90)

Noted:

- (i) that the paper still lacked any commentary from professional services on the potential market for the programme;
- (ii) that in the absence of impartial marketing intelligence it was not possible to evaluate the business case, since the projected fee revenue is based on unsubstantiated student numbers

Resolved:

- (i) that the business case cannot be recommended to SMT until there is rationally based market intelligence from our professional services which substantiates the financial projections.
- (ii) that the programme team should liaise with Kieron Broadhead (SALS) in the first instance so that appropriate information can be gathered.

(ii) MSc Forensic Psychology

Received:

a business case for MSc Forensic Psychology (14-91)

Noted:

- (i) that the programme was very clearly and persuasively articulated, and that it capitalises on existing departmental expertise.
- (ii) that the recruitment teams were satisfied that the programme would have a market, and that the student numbers projected in the business case were realistic and achievable;
- (iii) that the Department should designate a single programme convenor.

Resolved:

To give strategic approval to the programme and recommend it to SMT with a view to recruitment in 2015-16.

(iii) MA Computer Games Art and Design

Received:

a business case for MA Computer Games Art and Design (14-92)

Noted:

- (i) that the new title was markedly more distinctive than the previous one, whilst still retaining a clear connection to the related MSc;
- (ii) that the Department were confident that the programme was sufficiently different from those other programmes that they were unlikely to compete within the same student pool;
- (iii) that there was some potential for students to progress onto this programme from the new BA Digital Arts, as one of several possible recruitment avenues;
- (iv) that the programme team should liaise with Alison MacGregor, Goldsmiths' Work Placements Manager, regarding placements;
- (v) that as the programme had substantial set-up and running costs it would need to recruit around 20 students (at home fee levels) to be financially viable. The relatively high recruitment rates to related Masters programmes, including the MSc, and the clear vocational relevance of the programme, provided a reasonable degree of reassurance that the projected numbers – which exceed the minimum for break-even and include small cohorts of overseas students – were realistically achievable; however there was as yet no commentary from the international recruitment team concerning the overseas market;
- (vi) that it would be reasonable to list the companies engaging with the programme in marketing literature, subject to appropriate wording which does not imply that any individual company endorses the programme unless it has given its consent to this;

Resolved:

To give strategic approval to the programme and to recommend it to SMT with a view to recruitment in 2015-16.

- (iv) *General observations (not programme-specific)*

Noted:

- (i) that a key reason for needing confidence that new programmes will recruit cohorts of at least 8 students is that very small groups can be detrimental to the quality of pedagogy, for example because of reduced opportunities for dynamic group work and discussion.
- (ii) that the student members of the Committee were not aware of any complaints about this having been received by the Students' Union, but noted a related concern from those on programmes where small numbers have put them at risk of closure that this can result in a reduction in resourcing.
- (iii) that business cases should routinely consider the need for – and accordingly cost in - additional resources such as books and equipment, even where new programmes draw extensively on existing modules.

6 JOINT PROGRAMMES WITH CHINESE**Received:**

a proposal regarding the development of a suite of joint honours programmes in which one half is Chinese language and culture, provided by the Confucius Institute (14-93)

Noted:

- (i) that the title refers to 'Chinese' rather than 'Mandarin' because although the main focus is on language this will be contextualised by the study of broader cultural issues;
- (ii) that the first such joint programme, BA International Relations with Chinese, was initiated this academic year and has nine or ten students registered. It is now proposed to offer the same model by pairing Chinese with three other disciplines – Education, Computing and Sociology – and there was scope in future to include others;
- (iii) that if and when the numbers of students grow, consideration should be given to the capacity of Capital Normal University (CNU) to accommodate them during the year spent in China. It was noted that there is the possibility of involving additional partner universities;
- (iv) that students have the option of undertaking an additional fifth year (after obtaining their BA from Goldsmiths) at CNU. This could result in CNU awarding them a separate BA under their own regulations and independently of Goldsmiths.
- (v) that there is a sector-wide difficulty in recruiting to modern languages programmes, and none of the new programmes was felt likely to recruit more than a handful of students. Collectively however they might realistically be expected to yield in excess of 10-15 ftes so that in combination with the existing joint BA there would be a sizeable cohort of students enrolled in the Confucius Institute's language classes;
- (vi) the vocational relevance of studying Mandarin and Chinese culture was reasonably clear for students of Education and Computing but less so for Sociology students, and the Committee would like to see this more clearly explained in a future business case;
- (vii) that consideration should be given to whether a student would be eligible to transfer into the single honours programme should they struggle with learning Mandarin;
- (viii) that the overall management of these programmes and the integration of the two subject areas needs to be addressed explicitly in the narrative part of the business case for this suite of programmes; specifically, there should be a designated programme convenor and a named contact in each department;
- (ix) that the 2015 recruitment cycle had already begun and so if these programmes aim to recruit in 15/16 they will be relatively late to the market;

Resolved:

that the programmes be approved for development as an integrated suite, with an overall business case. John Ginman, APW associated with the CI, kindly agreed to assist the departments with this.

7 MA FILMMAKING**Received:**

a proposal from the Department of Media and Communications regarding changes to the structure and organisation of MA Filmmaking (14-120)

Resolved:

that the changes to the MA Filmmaking be approved.

8 CHANGES TO PROGRAMME TITLES

Received:

- (i) an updated paper from the Planning Office regarding the process for approving a change to a programme's title, amended in light of comments from members of ADC since the previous meeting (14-25R);
- (ii) a proposal from the Department of Music to change a programme title from MMus Studio Composition to MMus Sonic Arts. The Chair did not feel it appropriate to approve this without scrutiny by the Committee as the issues were more complex than in the other two cases listed below (14-121).

Noted:

that having received endorsement of proposed title changes from the Departments concerned and from the recruitment teams, the Chair had approved the following:

- MA Black British Writing, Performance and Drama to MA Black British Writing
- MFA Computational Studio Arts to MFA Computational Arts.

Resolved:

that the change of programme title from MMus Studio Composition to MMus Sonic Arts be approved, subject to endorsement by the External Examiner and consultation with the programme's student representative.

9 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Noted:

that future meetings would be held on the following dates:

Thursday 15th May, 2pm

Chris Lloyd
March 2013