

**GOLDSMITHS
University of London**

ACADEMIC BOARD

**ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
15 May 2014**

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2014

Present: Professor Jane Powell (in the Chair), Professor Adam Dinham, Ms Susan Dixon, Mr Geraint Fox, Dr Jennifer Gabrys, Dr Marco Gillies, Mr John Ginman, Dr Karina Linnell, Dr Liz Moor, Mr James Ohene-Djan, Dr Derval Tubridy, Mr Robert Howard (Secretary)

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

Apologies: Mr Kieron Broadhead, Mr Nick Crowe, Mr Conrad Grant

OPEN BUSINESS

1 MINUTES

Resolved:

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2014

2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Received:

an updated list of actions (14-174)

Noted:

that Dr Tubridy had liaised with the MRes Curatorial / Knowledge programme team and a business case for the programme would be submitted at the next meeting of ADC;

that the MSc Forensic Psychology and MA Computer Games Art and Design programmes had been considered by SMT on 13 May and both had been approved for launch in 2015-16;

that the Planning Manager was awaiting a response from the Music Department regarding the change of title for the MMus Studio Composition;

that work to take forward the Academic Development Strategy was ongoing and the preliminary analysis of characteristics of successful (high-recruiting) postgraduate taught programmes, to be undertaken by colleagues from the Recruitment team and presented at the next meeting of the Committee, would support this work.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

that the Planning Manager Chris Lloyd was due to leave Goldsmiths to take up a new position at the University of the Arts;

The Chair thanked Mr Lloyd for his immense contributions to the work of the Academic Development Committee during his tenure as Secretary and wished him well in his future career.

4 PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY

Received:

a paper summarising recent additions to the academic portfolio (14-175)

Noted:

that this paper was a useful document in aiding the Committee to keep abreast of developments to the portfolio and ensure that further additions were managed in a rational and coherent manner.

5 PORTFOLIO HEALTH CHECK

Received:

a paper on the ongoing strategic review of the College's portfolio

Noted:

that this paper and the healthcheck model which it documented enabled the Committee to retain an overview of programmes which were not recruiting strongly;

that those programmes, excluding pathways, which did need to be closely monitored would be subject to qualitative examination by the designated Associate Pro-Wardens, supplemented by discussions with relevant academic departments;

that once a fuller picture of 2013-14 recruitment had emerged, the Committee would need to make recommendations to SMT concerning the discontinuation of those programmes which were not deemed to be viable.

6 RECRUITMENT

Received:

an oral report on the current position regarding recruitment for 2014-15 entry

Noted:

that there had been a 16% increase in Home/EU undergraduate applications compared to this point in 2013, with a corresponding 9% increase in offers and a 12% increase in acceptances year on year;

that 39% of applicants were predicted or had already achieved qualifications which placed them in the margin category and the majority of these applicants had been made offers of a place;

that it was crucial to maximise conversion of margin applicants, but current predictions suggested that the final number of acceptances would leave the institution around 150 places short of its aspirational target of 660 for margin end of cycle UFs ;

that international undergraduate recruitment was buoyant and the number of acceptances was currently around 25% higher than at the same point in 2013;

that there was an opportunity to offset under-recruitment in the Home / EU margin with greater numbers of international students;

that resource was currently being focused on the internationalisation strand of the Academic Development Strategy and ways of making the curricula more attractive to international students were being explored;

that, in line with the rest of the sector, postgraduate taught recruitment was continuing to demonstrate a steady decline in the Home / EU market and that, after several years of growth, international recruitment to postgraduate taught programmes was also beginning to plateau;

that the forthcoming analysis of successful postgraduate taught programmes would be critical in assisting programme developers embed the most desirable aspects of the current portfolio into all new programmes of study;

that further consideration should be given to alternative methods of delivery, including distance learning and e-learning, as well as hybridised and blended delivery;

that greater flexibility in timetabling could help postgraduate students dovetail study with employment, though this could create tensions with staff needs and capacity;

that both GLEU and Education were currently experimenting with modules which were based entirely on distance or evening learning;

that block teaching, featuring shorter and intensive bursts of study, was another potentially successful model which would be explored further in the forthcoming development of the MRes Curatorial / Knowledge programme

Resolved:

that making learning accessible to all constituent markets would be one of the four principles underpinning the Academic Development Strategy and this would help to underpin the financial sustainability of the institution.

7 NEW PROGRAMME CONCEPTS

(i) Joint Masters in Translational Behavioural Science

Received:

a concept paper for a Joint MSc in Translational Behavioural Science (14-177)

Noted:

that this was a well considered and detailed academic proposition, with a strong sense of commitment from the three institutions concerned;

that the programme appeared to have a niche, elite market base which would be attractive to a small but highly qualified body of students;

that the marketing analysis suggested that the two year programme structure and peripatetic nature of delivery could be barriers to UK recruitment;

that the supply of students would be dependent on EU partner networks and there could be a resulting lack of diversity within the cohort;

that the evidence base for the attractiveness of the programme could be made more robust by conducting a small survey of current students;

that revenue and cost projections would be key elements in a successful business case for the proposition, particularly the extent to which costs would be offset by Erasmus funding;

that the requirement to deliver modules which did not adhere to the fifteen credit framework could be internally problematic;

that the intellectual rationale for the programme lacked clarity and coherence in places, particularly with respect to how methodological skills would be conferred by modular study, how the programme would be career-relevant beyond academic trajectories, how it was truly interdisciplinary rather than simply including a few non-Psychology options and how placements would be organised and embedded in the curriculum;

Resolved:

that the issues raised by the Committee would be fed back to the programme proposer with a view to developing an expanded concept paper and conducting further work on elements of a business case.

(ii) International Foundation Certificate in Management

Received:

a concept paper for an International Foundation Certificate in Management (14-178)

Noted:

that the programme addressed a particular demand which had been identified by international recruitment and admissions colleagues - Business and Management being the most popular discipline amongst international applicants to the UK - and it was felt that this would make this iteration of the IFC more attractive than other pathways which had not always recruited strongly;

that the English language elements of the programme would be co-taught with other IFC pathways, while the academic content would be delivered in IMS and Psychology;

that the target departments for this and other IFC pathways should be encouraged to court year zero students more proactively and colleagues in CELAW and the International team would be asked to provide summary reports of relevant students and their progress to these departments to aid this active consideration.

Resolved:

that the programme should be approved and a business case submitted to the June meeting of the Committee;

that the business case should contain a more robust endorsement of the programme from the relevant target departments;

that further clarification was required around the structure, content and delivery of the new constituent 30 credit Research Methods and Statistics module.

(iii) *English for Academic Purposes (Remote Teaching)*

Received:

a concept paper for a Goldsmiths EAP Pre-Sessional programme based in China (14-179)

Noted:

that the programme had infrastructural links with the Beijing Dance Academy and was mooted as an alternative base for applicants holding offers at Goldsmiths to complete their prerequisite pre-sessional language study;

that there were concerns over the lack of opportunity for cultural acclimatisation compared with pre-sessional language programmes delivered at Goldsmiths;

that students would not be able to apply for a visa from the UKVI until completing the pre-sessional programme in mid-September and the process would then take a minimum of three weeks, making it difficult for them to begin study on their substantive programme in a timely manner;

that the QAA Quality Code for Higher Education necessitated particular arrangements with collaborative providers and the nature of the arrangements with Beijing Dance Academy would require further investigation in this regard;

that it was felt that there were a number of practical issues which would prevent the programme from starting in 2014, but that the department should be encouraged to develop the case for a 2015 launch.

Resolved:

that a business case should be developed for the programme to start in 2015 and submitted to the June meeting of the Committee;

that clarification was required on the constituent number of modules;

that the department should address the issue of learning velocity around acculturation.

(iv) *BA Contemporary Religion and Belief*

Received:

a concept paper for a BA in Contemporary Religion and Belief (14-183)

Noted:

that this programme proposal had been developed by Professor Adam Dinham (STaCS) and Dr Abby Day (Sociology) in the context of the RCUK Religion and Society Programme, with a joint investment from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Economic Social Research Council (ESRC) of £12 million;

that the programme proposer was to be commended on the interesting intellectual rationale for the programme;

that there were synergies with areas of expertise in other departments such as Media and Politics, but the programme as mooted was proposed to be led by Sociology, which had yet to confirm its position, though had expressed some reservations based on fit with its current strategy for portfolio development;

that the market for undergraduate programmes in this area was small and declining and that as there were direct local and high prestige competitors such as SOAS and KCL. Recruitment was unlikely to exceed 10 – 15 Home / EU and 2 – 4 International students;

that consideration could be given to developing a Masters' programme in a similar area.

Resolved:

that pending clear support from a lead academic department, the Committee was unable to progress this proposal to the business stage;

that if and when the programme proposer had worked closely with Sociology or an alternative lead department to develop a proposal which evidenced strategic fit with that departments' portfolio of programmes, the Committee would welcome an expanded concept paper.

8 WORKING GROUP ON RESEARCH MASTERS

Received:

An oral report regarding the working group on Research Masters' programmes

Noted:

that it was felt that MRes degrees offered an opportunity to boost postgraduate recruitment without the set-up costs of new programmes;

that such programmes could attract practitioners who were not able to commit to full scale PhD study;

that a three stage incremental strategy for postgraduate research study had been mooted, with possible awards of an MRes after one year of full time study, an MPhil after two years and a PhD after three years;

that greater and more positive utilisation of the MPhil award was felt to be desirable, as currently it was often awarded only in circumstances where PhD students were unable to complete their proposed programme of study;

Resolved:

that in order to allow time for more in-depth dialogues with relevant parties, a more detailed paper would be submitted to the first Autumn term meeting of the Committee.

9 MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Received:

An update from the working group on market intelligence (14-180)

Resolved:

that an expanded paper with a detailed process map would be submitted to the June meeting of the Committee and a pre-final version would be circulated to relevant colleagues in advance of this for their input.

10 LASALLE ANNUAL REVIEW

Received:

a paper on the Annual Review of LASALLE College (14-181)

Noted:

that the relationship with Lasalle had developed favourably to the point where the institution was able to deliver programmes robustly at an appropriate level;

that there were now in excess of 1200 students undertaking a degree validated by Goldsmiths;

that following the conclusion of the review there had been a renewed sense of trust and confidence in Lasalle's delivery of the validated programmes;

that despite the associated resource demands, the partnership with Lasalle had strong strategic, reputational and financial benefits for Goldsmiths.

11 INSTITUTIONAL PANEL VISIT TO NORDOFF ROBBINS

Received:

The report from the recent institutional panel visit to Nordoff Robbins (14-182)

Noted:

that as part of the formal process required for Institutional Approval, which preceded the programme validation process, a Panel visit to Nordoff Robbins had been undertaken on 6 and 7 May 2014;

that the collaborative provision partnership for which Nordoff Robbins had applied was intended to lead to the validation of music therapy programmes delivered on its two campuses from September 2015;

that the Panel concluded that Nordoff Robbins had met the criteria for Institutional Approval and invited the Committee's approval for recommendation to Academic Board;

that QAA accreditation, which would in itself be a prerequisite for a UKVI licence to recruit international students, could prove prohibitive in terms of cost but that this would need to be explored;

Resolved:

that the Committee would approve Nordoff Robbins' application for approval as a Partner Institution of Goldsmiths and recommended formal approval at Academic Board.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Secretary's Note:

Where a business case receives strategic approval at ADC and is recommended to and endorsed by SMT, the standard documentation must also then be submitted to PSSC, as detailed at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/quality/prog-approval/> in order for the proposed programme to receive due consideration by the Committee. PSSC meets several times a year at dates published in the committee timetable and in order for a proposal to be

considered by the Committee, the department must submit all paperwork to the Committee Secretary Amie Ouzman by email, at least two weeks before the date of the meeting, though it would be beneficial for all parties if the paperwork is submitted earlier than this, to allow for evaluation of the documentation and to make suggested revisions where necessary.

13 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Noted:

that a future meeting would be held on the following date:
Wednesday 25th June, 10.30am

Robert Howard, May 2014