

**GOLDSMITHS  
University of London**

**ESTATES COMMITTEE**

**ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2014**

**Present:** Professor Kay Stables (in the Chair), Catriona Boulton, Richard Groves, Prof. Tim Valentine, Danny O'Sullivan, Andrew Lantry, Graham Gaskell, Nicola Hogan, Dr. Lynn Turner, Melanie Rimmer.

**Apologies:** Craigie-lee Paterson, Patsy Carter, Rachael Johnson.

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2013 were approved.

**2. ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW 2**

The Environment and Sustainability Policy Statement Review from the Energy & Environment Manager (13-468) was sent to the Estates Committee for consideration but was sent back for review on changes to "zero waste to landfill" targets.

RG stated that he will review the document and make targets clearer incorporating the various comments and suggestions made about the paper.

RG also asked the committee for any additional comments to be forwarded onto him asap for final editing of the paper.

**3. ENVIRONMENT UPDATES**

**ESTATES MANAGEMENT STATISTICS UPDATE : ORAL UPDATE TO BE RECEIVED FROM THE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT MANAGER.**

RG explained how an 18% reduction in energy use and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across campus had been achieved. This is as result of 2 main initiatives: (a) installation of Photovoltaic solar panels and (b) a milder winter. RG expects further reductions in gas use too as the installation of new pipework is now complete.

#### **4. EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

The Committee received an oral update on progress from the ESD chair, Kay Stables. KS stated that the ESD group had made significant progress in recent months. The ToR for the ESD has been submitted to the ESSC committee (14-148) and to Prof. Michael Young, Pro Warden of Student and Learning and Chair of the Learning Teaching and Quality Committee (LTQC).

Reports from the working group will be submitted to both LTQC and ESSC. ESD's ToR and membership list has been reviewed by SMT and has received management support but no financial support resulting in much of the work being done by the ESD group.

Membership of the ESD group include academic and research staff, staff from the Estates dept., GLUE and a Ph.D. student. This should result in its outputs undergoing constructive criticism.

To date, the ESD group have had 2 full meetings in relation to the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) / Higher Education Authority (HEA) document on guidance for embedding sustainability into the curriculum.

A sub group of Goldsmiths ESD met to decide on the 16 questions to be used in a survey. The survey is in relation to good practice and will be circulated to all academic staff after Easter 2014.

The plan is to produce an ESD Strategy and Action Plan which will be an annex to the Goldsmiths Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy. The ESD working group will examine where and how sustainability could be introduced and will propose CPD courses.

KS asked MR if sustainability is part of Strategic Projects, MR replied it could be, especially if QAA examines it.

It was agreed that Catherine Thompson should look at the survey also as she would know where and how to best include it as part of Quality & Assurance at Goldsmiths. Kay will e mail Catherine Thompson the QAA/HEA document on ESD.

#### **5. GENERAL UPDATES**

**To receive a paper update from the Energy & Environment Manager.**

RG submitted a paper (14-149). He has been working extensively on the "refit"; - ongoing across various buildings covering 55 buildings. Heating to each of the buildings is now controlled remotely. Installation has gone smoothly with the exception of a few IT issues and some light fittings not being the correct type. Overall the refit has gone well with fewer complaints of heating issues from staff.

RG added that there had been problem with the Lockwood Building and installation of new low energy light fittings (30-40,000 in total). The refit included

installation of air handling units and pipework that was previously leaking heat. Phase 2 of the refit should see significant energy savings. KS commented on tangible energy savings targets and RG will ensure that such targets are stated in the relevant policies and will keep all targets concise.

RG will circulate new targets to ESSC committee in time for next SMT meeting. RG to send energy saving data to Katie Hawcroft of comms. team for publicity.

**Oral update to be received from the Space, Environment and Sustainability Officer.**

NH discussed each of the issues on her updated paper (14-150). Her application to the Annual fund for Rain Gardens was unsuccessful. NH to invite Roishni Nagaria for next ESSC meeting as a student rep. NH to submit a smoking paper for next meeting

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

AL apologised for not submitting a paper update on the Ethical Investment Policy in time for the meeting but had just returned from a Treasury Management meeting at which a revision of the 2008 Treasury Management policy was discussed.

AL is working on making the policy clear and to further define its scope.

The revised TM policy is in draft stage and will be circulated to the ESSC for comment. AL added that Goldsmith does not invest directly in equities or in companies that invest in arms, cigarettes etc.

Goldsmiths portfolio is less than 2.5 million so is too small an institution to make major financial gains. (5-20 million is required to make significant gains, 50-100 million to be a market changer).

AL suggested a restatement of current policy to give managers piece of mind but it must be balanced.

Goldsmiths have a (a). Duty to conserve capital (not a priority to maximise returns) and (b). manage the cash we currently own.

Goldsmiths will invest cash in an Ethical Investment Fund with a low rate of return but as it is ethical, it's also low risk.

Andrew to e mail draft of Ethical Investment Policy to ESSC committee.

Recommendations on the policy must come from Council

Graham Gaskell raised the questions on other institutions that have invested in other long term funds, AL answered that Goldsmiths need to maintain liquidity in order to free up cash to fund refurbishments and new builds across campus.

Of the investments made by Goldsmiths, each have outperformed the cash

managers so Goldsmiths made the better choice.

Andrew is keen that's we don't promise and not deliver and that we stick to the broad principles of a conservative mandate adding that the more complicated the mandate the greater the risk, the higher the fees. Al then reminded the committee we need to be aware of our small portfolio.

Andrew added that Goldsmiths historically have invested in mutual funds regulated by a UK bank and that USSC (who we invest in) are sector leaders and that pensions are the biggest source of funds and the focus is on return.

## **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

18 June 2014, DTH 15:00

NH April 2014