

# Council 137 Minutes

7 October 2021

Held via Teams 3-6pm

**Present:** Dinah Caine (Chair), Frances Corner, Irene Adeyinka, Ronke Akerele, Sara Bafo (until item 5), Monika Barnes, Anna Carlile, Susan Dilly, Anna Furse, Elisabeth Hill, Andrew Laurence, Ravi Mahendra, Ben Morton-Wright, David Oswell, Lynn Percy, Aaron Porter, Pam Raynor, David Reddaway, Philip Stoltzfus, Naomi Thompson, Kiran Grewal (joined during item 8) and Elizabeth Williams

**In attendance:** Helen Watson (Secretary), Jeanette Batten (for item 10), Imran Chughtai, Matthew Cragoe, John-Dickinson-Lilley, Carol Ford, Stephen Graham, Holly Sorce, David Marks (for item 11), Tyler Harris, Kayley Darby-Philpotts

Starring indicates those matters on which discussion was expected.

## OPEN BUSINESS

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### 1 Apologies

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1.1 President of the SU offered apologies in advance for having to leave the meeting early to attend another meeting.

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### 2 Chair's Action

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**Noted:**

2.1 There were no actions taken by the Chair on behalf of Council to note.

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### 3 Minutes

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**Received:**

3.1 The full Minutes (Open, Closed & Reserved) of CNCL135- the Council meeting on 21 July 2021; and

3.2 The full Minutes (Closed & Reserved) of CNCL136- the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 7 September 2021.

**Noted:**

3.3 It was noted that a technical issue resulted in the President of the Students' Union not having received the invitation for CNCL136 and that this would be investigated further.

3.4 Some Members sought clarity regarding the use of names in the minutes from previous meetings of Council. It was noted that names are only normally listed if a Member requested their position regarding a particular item be noted and directly attributable to them. Otherwise Council minutes shall not generally reference any Member by name going forward.

**Resolved:**

3.5 Council approved the full Minutes (Open, Closed & Reserved) of CNCL135 from the 21 July 2021; and

3.6 Council approved the full Minutes (Closed & Reserved only) of CNCL136 from the 7 September 2021.

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## **4 Actions**

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**Received:**

4.1 The action tracker ("Tracker").

**Noted:**

4.2 Council noted the updated Tracker.

Secretary's note: item 5 was discussed as Reserved business.

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## **6 Council Terms of Reference, Schedule of Business for 2021-22 and Council Code of Conduct**

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**Received:**

6.1 Terms of reference for Council;

6.2 Code of Conduct; and

6.3 Schedule of business 2021-22.

**Noted:**

6.4 The terms of reference and Code of Conduct were noted.

6.5 Council member appraisal and feedback meetings will be undertaken by the Chair before the end of the current academic year.

6.6 Council approved the schedule of business for 2021-2022.

**Action:**

6.7 Council's Code of Conduct to be shared with all Council Committees as an expectation of behaviours for the coming academic year, as recommended to Council by the Nominations & Governance Committee.

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## 7 Warden's Report

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### Received:

7.1 The Warden's report to Council.

### Noted:

7.2 Thanks were given to the SU and GARA for their contributions and support with the Racial Justice consultations and confirmation that a new Co-Chair of the Racial Justice Strategy Board has been appointed.

7.3 A number of exciting projects are currently underway across the College leading up to the COP26 and in relation to the Green New Deal.

7.4 The Deptford Town Hall statue consultation's results will be provided to Council within the next calendar year once consultation and analysis has been completed.

7.5 The IHRA definition will be revisited in a future Council meeting with specific recommendations. The College is currently monitoring and reviewing the situation carefully.

7.6 It was noted that confirmation has been provided to OfS that the College refers to the IHRA within its policies.

7.7 It was noted that a number of projects will be developed as part of Lewisham's upcoming Borough of Culture.

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## 8 Chair's Report

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### Received:

8.1 A verbal update from the Chair of Council.

### Noted:

8.2 It was noted that the Chair of Council attended the Labour and Conservative Party conferences.

8.3 A very strong and growing emphasis on civic agenda and on higher education and further education working together was reported which aligns well with many of the initiatives covered in the Warden's report.

8.4 The current policy situation is rapidly changing and can keep changing at any time. At this point the following is in play. Differential fees are off the agenda. The lowering of the level that students have to pay their loans may reduce and the level of fees they pay may be reduced. A figure of £8500 has been discussed. The new Secretary of State has emphasised his commitment to evidence based policy which is welcomed. His predecessor was prone to policy supported by partial evidence. However, that evidence includes NSS, Proceed and the work that the OfS is focussing on regarding quality and standards. Continuation, completion and graduate outcomes are all key to this, particularly as this will relate to OfS and its new and strengthened powers to intervene to cap places and close courses and institutions. The College needs to focus on improving its performance on these as a priority as Goldsmiths is below benchmark on many measures. Consultation is due to be issued at CSR. This means that OfS focus, NSS and Proceed highlights the importance of metrics going forward and therefore the College must remain agile in light of the ongoing changes.

8.5 It was noted that the Chair is meeting with OfS next week regarding quality standards metrics in relation to certain industries and will report back to Council.

8.6 The REF results will be published on 12 May 2022.

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## 9 Student Union's Report

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### Received:

9.1 The Sabbatical Officer Priorities for 2021-2022.

### Noted:

9.2 The President of the Students' Union ("SU") had to leave the meeting early due to an emergency meeting therefore this item and so the report will be presented in the next meeting of Council to be held in November.

### Action:

9.3 Members requested that the SU provide the following as part of their deferred report at the next Council meeting:

- 9.3.1 Factual evidence linked to the Proceed metrics was requested for discussion when the paper is presented to Council in November;
- 9.3.2 Further information be presented by the SU at the next meeting regarding the Political Education Centre; and
- 9.3.3 Further information about how the SU democratically consults with all of its members to form opinion and reach decisions on behalf of its members. In particular, how it does this on issues that affect every member.

Secretary's note: item 10 was discussed as confidential business.

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## 11 Retention & Completion Metrics Information

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### Received:

11.1 Report on the latest metrics on student retention.

### Noted:

11.2 Council noted the latest metrics on student retention.

11.3 It was noted that the report included information regarding the financial impact of non-continuation at the College.

11.4 Members discussed the data used in analysing the reasons for students leaving the College.

11.5 It was noted that the Access and Participation Plan work focuses on gaps not just in continuation but also attainment which includes the EDI strategy.

11.6 Local differences across the departments and the College was discussed in relation to the variation of retention and continuation data by department.

11.7 Concern about the financial strain on students and approaches to dealing with external circumstances was voiced by some Members.

11.8 Council was concerned about the statistics regarding student retention and requested regular reports from Academic Board on the actions taken to improve areas of poor performance.

### Action:

11.9 Council to receive regular reports via Academic Board regarding actions the College is taking to improve areas of poor performance in relation to retention and completion statistics.

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## 12 Academic Board Report

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### Received:

12.1 The report from Academic Board.

### Noted:

- 12.2 It was noted that many of the topics covered in the report have been discussed at length by Members during the meeting.
- 12.3 The implications of the Quality and Standards review means that a significant number of regulatory changes will need to be implemented in parallel which add to the challenges ahead.
- 12.4 Members noted the amount of work already completed with regards to Quality and Standards across the College.
- 12.5 Information around the delivery mechanisms of the new programmes and approach to current students not feeling left out were highlighted as areas for consideration by Members.
- 12.6 It was noted that the College is taking a flexible approach that takes into account technology while always taking the metrics discussed into consideration in the changes that are happening now across the College to deal with student recruitment and retention.

**Resolved:**

- 12.7 Council noted the OfS Quality and Standards review appendix of the Academic Board report.
- 12.8 Council noted the PROCEED appendix from the same.

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### **13 Comprehensive Curriculum Review**

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**Received:**

- 13.1 Goldsmiths' Comprehensive Curriculum Review ("CCR") Update.

**Noted:**

- 13.2 It was noted that Academic Board ("AB") agreed with the continuation of the approach of the CCR.
- 13.3 Clarity was provided when referring to the 'Curriculum Review' as consisting of curriculum, pedagogy and assessment.
- 13.4 AB has now approved the strategic curriculum framework and common curriculum which will result in an entire re-approval of all programmes based on the new model offered across the College.
- 13.5 The update on the College's CCR was noted by Council.

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### **14 Strategy Report 2018-2023**

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**Received:**

14.1 An update against the College's progress in implementing Goldsmiths' 2018-2023 Strategy; and

14.2 A revised set of high level operational objectives, articulating and summarising the College's priorities through to the end of the current strategy's lifetime.

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## **15 Complaints Update**

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### **Received:**

15.1 The Student Complaints and Appeals report to Council October 2021.

### **Noted:**

15.2 Council noted the work undertaken by the Students Complaints and Appeals team on appeals against assessment (for the summer 2021 assessment period), and complaints received in the 2020-21 academic year.

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## **16 Committee Membership**

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### **Received:**

16.1 Council Committee membership and Terms of References and composition of Council Committees.

### **Resolved:**

16.2 Council approved the Council Committee membership for 2021-22, as recommended by the Nominations and Governance Committee.

16.3 Council approved the Terms of Reference and composition of Council Committees as recommended by the Nominations and Governance Committee.

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## **17 Proposed Changes to Ordinances**

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### **Received:**

17.1 Proposed changes to the College's Ordinances.

### **Resolved:**

17.2 The Committee approved the proposed changes to the College's Ordinances, following the recommendation of the Nominations and Governance Committee and Academic Board.

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## **18 Finance and Resources Committee Report**

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### **Received:**



18.1 The Finance and Resources Committee report.

**Noted:**

18.2 Council noted the Finance and Resources report.

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## **19 Nominations and Governance Committee Report**

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**Received:**

19.1 The Nominations and Governance Committee report.

**Noted:**

19.2 Council noted the Nominations and Governance Committee report.

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## **20 Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee Report**

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**Received:**

20.1 The Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee report.

**Noted:**

20.2 Council noted the Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee report.

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## **21 Any other business**

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**Noted:**

21.1 No other business was noted.