

GOLDSMITHS
University of London

COUNCIL
24 September 2015

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2015

- Present:** Rt Hon Estelle Morris (in the Chair), Mr Nick Barron, Mr Ian Borman, Professor Roger Burrows, Professor Sean Cubitt, Professor Mark d'Inverno, Ms Marl'ene Edwin, Mr James Grierson, Professor Elisabeth Hill, Mr Patrick Loughrey, Mr Dick Melly, Ms Jackie Morgan, Professor Richard Noble, Ms Adrihani Rashid, Mr David Richards, Ms Cathy Runciman, Ms Vanessa Sharp, Dr Derval Tubridy, Mr John Wadsworth, Mr Laith Whitwham, Mr Philip Wright, Ms Theodora Zemek.
- Apologies:** Mr Gerald Lidston, Professor Jane Powell, Mr Barry Quirk, Ms Jessica Wanamaker, Mr Tom Wilson.
- In attendance:** Registrar and Secretary (Secretary), Director of Finance, Director of Human Resources, Director of Executive and Governance Services, Head of Secretariat and Legal Services, Director of Estates.
- Observers:** Ms Giorgia Cowan, Mr Tom Henri (UCU), Mr Mark Rollinson.

OPEN BUSINESS

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed Ms Marl'ene Edwin, Mr Ian Borman, Professor Sean Cubitt, Mr Laith Whitwham, Ms Theodora Zemek and the acting Directors of Finance Mr Ian Pleace and Mr Simon Mattison to the meeting.

Noted:

that since the last meeting Sally Townsend, Director of Finance had tendered her resignation and Mr Ian Pleace and Mr Simon Mattison were interim acting Directors of Finance until a replacement could be recruited

Resolved:

that the Chair would write on behalf of Council to thank Ms Sally Townsend for her contribution over the years.

2 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Noted:

that items 8 (Conflicts of interests policy); 12 (Equality and Diversity); and, 19 (Sustaining Goldsmiths Programme) would be starred for discussion.

3 APPROVAL OF ITEMS FOR FORMAL DISCUSSION

Noted:

- (i) that all formal decisions proposed in the circulated papers for Open, Confidential and Reserved Business were confirmed by members; and
- (ii) that item 22 (Student Accommodation Project) be moved into Open Business as the conclusion of the project was now in the public domain.

4 MINUTES

Resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2015 were approved (A).

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Noted:

that the full report of the QAA review , originally scheduled for this meeting, would be reported to the November meeting.

6 TERMS OF REFERENCE, COMPOSITION AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Received:

the committees' terms of reference, composition and membership of Council.

7 STANDING ORDERS

Received:

the standing orders in force for all Goldsmiths Committees from 1 September 2015

8 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS POLICY

Received:

the College policy on conflict of interest.

Noted:

- (i) that members would be asked to complete a declaration of interest form for this year.

9 REPORT ON ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE CHAIR

Noted:

None.

10 ANNUAL SCHEDULES OF BUSINESS FOR THE COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

Received:

the annual schedules of business for the committees of Council (B: 15-313)

11 ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

Received:

The list of promotions of members of the academic staff with effect from 1 September 2015 (C: 15-314)

12 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Received:

an oral report from the Equality and Diversity Advisor.

Noted:

- (i) that there should be a focus on enabling Council to be representative of the College and local community;
- (ii) that continuing to improve quality around the available data to record equality and diversity information was a priority;
- (iii) that the equality and diversity fora were in place to ensure that equality and diversity was an active issue in all that the College did;
- (iv) that a specific initiative around improving disabled access around the campus was currently being developed and further details would be announced at the Warden's open meeting with Students; and
- (v) that issues around of equality and diversity in relation to age were also something that needed to be considered.

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

13 WARDEN'S REPORT

The Warden gave an oral report of interest to Council:

Noted:

- (i) that welcome week had taken place this week and had been a great success;
- (ii) that the graduation ceremonies had been held two weeks ago and that honorary degrees or fellowships had been awarded to Fiona Rae, Ali Smith, Daniel Day-Lewis, Elizabeth Loftus and Howard Becker;

- (iii) that all of the honorands had agreed to return to work with students;
- (iv) that position in the recent Sunday Times League table had been disappointing and that good performance in this area was especially important for international recruitment;
- (v) that in relation to the National Student Survey (NSS) , institutional results had been poor but that the Departments of Design, Sociology and Social, Therapeutic and Cultural Studies had had a good results;
- (vi) that the quality of our teaching and learning remained high;
- (vii) that the College's performance in the QS world rankings had been extremely good and that Design had been ranked in the top 20 worldwide, with other Departments also performing well;
- (viii) that in terms of recruitment Undergraduate targets had been exceeded but that postgraduate taught recruitment remained challenging;
- (ix) that the accommodation project had concluded successfully and that this would be discussed in more detail further down the agenda;
- (x) that on the 22nd of October the Mayor of Palermo would be visiting Goldsmiths to launch a migrants charter; and
- (xi) that the Goldsmiths press was making good progress and would be reported on in more detail at the next meeting.

14 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

Received:

the Strategic Risk Register (D: 15-215).

Noted:

- (i) that SRR7 (student accommodation offer does not match need) would be reviewed at the next meeting.

15 COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

Received:

a progress report on the Council Effectiveness Review (E: 15-316)

Noted:

- (i) that the review was well underway and that a final report would be available to members at the next meeting;
- (ii) that the report would be published once completed; and
- (iii) that there was a need to raise the profile of Council and its function amongst stakeholders in the College community.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

16 POLICIES

Approved:

Goldsmiths' policies for 2015-2016.

17 REGULATIONS

Approved:

the General Regulations for 2015-2016.

18 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Approved:

appointments to Committees of Council (F: 15-317).

19 SUSTAINING GOLDSMITHS

Received:

an oral update on the Sustaining Goldsmiths programme from the interim Director of Finance Mr Ian Pleace.

Noted:

- (i) that significant progress had been made in relation to establishing a new school structure;
- (ii) that a school office had been established to enable colleagues from Human Resources and finance to be grouped in school teams to work together to support Heads of Departments more effectively;
- (iii) that work was also underway to identify and harmonise processes across departments to work more effectively at school level;
- (iv) that the introduction of a contribution model and more input on student numbers had enabled greater accountability at school level;
- (v) that the quality of information available to Heads of Departments within schools had improved significantly;
- (vi) that one of the benefits of the Sustaining Goldsmiths programme more generally had been to raise the profile of the institution's financial position;
- (vii) that a financial model had been developed to enable the diversification of income streams;

- (viii) that on-going work would focus on the quality of data to enable improved league table performance; and
- (ix) that a clearer articulation of why the project was beneficial to students would be helpful going forward.

22 STUDENT ACCOMODATION TRANSFER PROJECT

Received:

an update on the programme from the Registrar and Secretary.

Noted:

- (i) that this had now been completed and had achieved an initial capital receipt in excess of £20.3 million pounds, with a further sum anticipated by the end of the year;
- (ii) that in addition to the capital receipt a further £8 million of renovation costs had been secured as part of the agreement;
- (iii) that the project had been subject to a full OJEU process and had had input at various stage from the Chair of Estates Committee, the Chair of Finance and Resources Committee, the President of the Students' Union, a Campaigns Officer, the trade unions and relevant internal people;
- (iv) that as part of the negotiations there had been significant focus on ensuring that a range of rents had been covered and that future rent negotiations would be subject to the same process as Goldsmiths managed accommodation;
- (v) that the capital receipt was ring fenced to enable the on-going progress of the Estates Master Plan and that the first stage of that would be to build a new academic building;
- (vi) that Council recognised and commended the significant achievement of all those involved in enabling the process to be conducted in such a short time scale; and
- (vii) that the input of the Registrar and Secretary, the Head of the Strategic Projects Office and the interim Director of Finance, Mr Ian Pleace, were particularly recognised.

23 FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Noted:

The following meetings for the 2015-2016 session were noted:

4pm on 26 November 2015 in PSH 3.26
4pm on 14 April 2016 in PSH 3.26; and
4pm on 30 June 2016 in PSH 3.26

24 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (OPEN BUSINESS)

Noted:

None