

**GOLDSMITHS  
University of London**

**COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 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 Gerald Lidstone, Mr Patrick Loughrey, Mr Dick Melly, Ms Jackie Morgan, Professor Richard Noble, Professor Jane Powell, Dr Barry Quirk, Ms Adrihani Rashid, Mr David Richards, Ms Vanessa Sharp, Dr Derval Tubridy, Mr John Wadsworth, Mr Laith Whitwham, Ms Jessica Wanamaker, Ms Theodora Zemek.

Apologies: Ms Cathy Runciman, Mr Tom Wilson, Mr Phillip Wright.

In attendance: Registrar and Secretary (Secretary), Director of Finance, Director of Executive and Governance Services, Director of Estates (for item 26), Head of Secretariat and Legal Services, Executive and Governance Officer, Mr Daniel Nasr (Students Union).

Observers Mr Tom Henri (UCU), Mr Mark Rollinson (for item 25).

**OPEN BUSINESS**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair welcomed Mr Daniel Nasr to the meeting who would be replacing Ms Adrihani Rashid as representative from the Students union.

**Noted:**

- (i) that this was the last meeting of Council for Mr Dick Melly, Professor Roger Burrows and Ms Adrihani Rashid;
- (ii) that the contribution of Dick Melly was particularly noted for both the length of his service and the way in which he had made the link with Goldsmiths real; and
- (iii) that the Chair thanked all the departing members for their contribution.

**2. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Noted:**

that no additional items were starred for discussion.

### **3. APPROVAL OF ITEMS FOR FORMAL DECISION**

#### **Noted:**

that all formal decisions proposed in the circulated papers for Open and Confidential business were confirmed by members.

### **4. MINUTES**

#### **Resolved:**

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

### **5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **Noted:**

none.

### **6. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR**

#### **Noted:**

none.

## **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **7. \*WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Warden gave a report on matters of interest to Council.

#### **Noted:**

- (i) that the Green paper had been published and that it introduced a teaching excellence framework;
- (ii) that a consultation exercise on the paper was currently underway, with a deadline of 16 January 2016, and that Professor Elisabeth Hill was leading the institutional response;
- (iii) that in addition to the formal response, a "Gold" paper will be developed as a Goldsmiths response to Green paper;
- (iv) that the Nurse review had been published and announced the establishment of Research UK with emphasis on the sciences as expected;
- (v) that the Comprehensive spending review had proved less problematic than had been envisaged and that there were some

- helpful elements for Goldsmiths within it, particularly in relation to postgraduate loans and funding;
- (vi) that undergraduate recruitment had been strong, but that postgraduate recruitment had been weaker;
  - (vii) that the overall financial impact of the postgraduate recruitment would need to be managed through in year savings and robust strategies that addressed some of the identified issues around the post graduate recruitment;
  - (viii) that short courses were continuing to be developed and that enrolments had been increasing;
  - (ix) that collaborations were being developed internationally in Tomsk, South Korea and in China;
  - (x) the recent Equality and Diversity event had been a great success and was the result of great collaboration across the institution;
  - (xi) that the highly successful Goldsmiths award had been held recently; and
  - (xii) that the Goldsmiths Press was continuing to develop.

## **8. \*STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER**

### **Received:**

the Strategic Risk Register (15-464).

### **Approved:**

the Risk Management Policy, as recommended for approval by Audit and Risk Committee. (15-377R)

### **Noted:**

- (i) that in relation to SRR 7 (Student accommodation does not match demand) it was noted that the number of beds available still needed to be higher as part of the longer plan;
- (ii) that the option for an institution run lettings agency was an idea that should be investigated , led by the Students Union; and
- (iii) that the Local Council could be helpful in looking at what is on offer locally.

### **Resolved:**

that the various options be explored in more detail and brought back to a future meeting

## **9. \*SUSTAINING GOLDSMITHS**

### **Received:**

an update on Sustaining Goldsmiths from the Pro-Warden Research and Enterprise (15-469).

**Noted:**

- (i) that an integrated planning and budgeting round was currently underway;
- (ii) that this was the first time that the College had undertaken it in this way and that it was critical to the delivery of the objectives of the programme;
- (iii) that Estates and Infrastructure would discuss the space challenges in relation to the growth strategy to enable the balance to be correct; and
- (iv) that Finances and Resources committee continued to scrutinise the programme closed had asked for specific metrics to be put place which would be brought to the next meeting of Council.

**10. \*FRS102**

**Received:**

an update report on the timetable for the implementation of the new financial reporting standard from the Director of Finance (15-343)

**Noted:**

- (i) that in relation to the USS pension scheme, it is currently accounted for as a defined contribution scheme, as permitted by UK GAAP, given that the share of scheme assets and liabilities attributable to Goldsmiths cannot be separately identified. Under FRS 102, a provision will need to be recorded to reflect commitments made by Goldsmiths in respect of the funding of the USS deficit. The meeting considered the impact of this as at the 1/8/14 transition date. A larger provision will be required as at 31/7/15, but USS's calculation tool was not yet available.
- (ii) that in relation to fixed assets, FRS 102 allows fixed assets to be revalued as at the 1/8/14 transition date. It will be most beneficial to revalue land, which is currently held either at cost or at valuations that are nearly 20 years old, as an uplift in carrying value can be recognised without any increase in depreciation charge. The meeting considered the provisional 1/8/14 valuation of land provided by third party independent valuers and it was noted that a significant uplift in the value of land would be recorded; and
- (iii) that in relation to going concern, the ideal target would be the HEFCE benchmark would be 90 days.

**11. \*QAA HER REPORT AND ACTION PLAN**

**Received:**

the final QAA HER report (15- 299) and action plan (15-300R) from the Pro-Warden Learning, Teaching and Enhancement.

**Noted:**

- (i) that there were three key areas that needed focus: post graduate research students, staff training and the understanding of management information and how it fed into Departmental planning; and
- (ii) that the actions identified had been met within the specified timescale.

**12. REPORT FROM AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

**Received:**

the minutes of the meetings of Audit and Risk Committee held on 12 October 2015 (I) and 12 November (J).

**13. INTERNAL AUDIT OPERATIONAL PLAN**

**Received:**

the draft Internal Audit Operational plan (15-333R)

**14. KEY INFORMATION SET**

**Received:**

the HEFCE audit report about the Key Information Set from the Registrar and Secretary (15-433)

**15. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL (AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY ONLY)**

**Received:**

reports and minutes from Council Committees (15-465).

- (i) Estates and Infrastructure;
- (ii) Estates and Infrastructure annual report;
- (iii) Finance and Resources Committee;
- (iv) Health and Safety Committee;
- (v) Human Resources and Equality Committee; and
- (vi) Nominations Committee.

**16. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

**Noted:**

that members considered any matters pertaining to Equality and Diversity which arise from the items on this agenda.

**MATTERS FOR DECISION**

## **17. POLICIES**

### **Approved:**

the following policies as recommended for approval by Human Resources and Equalities Committee (15-403).

- (i) Good practice for managing Fixed Term Contracts;
- (ii) Guidance on Annual Leave;
- (iii) Flexible and Early Retirement Policy;
- (iv) Guidance for managing action short of a strike and strike;
- (v) Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy;
- (vi) Disciplinary Policy;
- (vii) Managing Fixed Term contracts;
- (viii) Overpayments Policy;
- (ix) Personal Relationships; and
- (x) Conflicts of Interest.

## **18. COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION (AVAILABLE ONLINE ONLY)**

### **Approved:**

the amended Terms of Reference for Pay and Progressions Committee and Academic Promotion and Title Awards,

## **19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (OPEN)**

### **Noted:**

none.

## **20. FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

### **Noted:**

the following dates of forthcoming meetings in 2015-16 (at 4.00pm):

14 April 2016; and  
30 June 2016.