BIRKBECK COLLEGE
University of London

MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (ABExCo)
23 February 2017

Present
Professor David Latchman (Chair), Professor Nick Keep, Professor Matthew Davies,
Professor Julian Swann, Ms Megan Reeves, Fraser Keir, Dr Jennifer Baird, Mr Keith Harrison,
Mrs Katharine Bock, Dr Joanne Leal, Ms Alexandra Brinker, Tommy Barnes, Dr Kate
McKenzie-Davey, Mr Robert Atkinson, Professor Diane Houston, Dr Eddie Bruce-Jones,
Professor Alison Finlay, Professor Anthony Bale

In attendance
Mr Kashim Barick

Apologies
Professor Stephen Frosh, Dr Dionysiss Dimitrakopoulos

11 MINUTES
Received and noted
11.1 The confirmed minutes of the ABExCo meeting of 27 October 2016 (attached)
11.2 The minutes of the Academic Board meeting of 14 November 2016 (X 2016 10)

12 MASTER’S REPORT
Noted
12.1 Members noted that the College’s recruitment drive was progressing very positively
particularly for the coming year and the College is also progressing with a large and
challenging estates strategy.

13 RESEARCH COMMITTEE
Received and noted
13.1 The report of the Research Committee meeting of 9 February (X 2016 11)
13.2 Members noted that the College has for the first time provided a research budget
which included the support for cross College competitions for the Leverhulme early
careers fellowship scheme.
13.3 The College received over 200 enquires and 60 formal applications. Following a
screening process, discussions with the Pears Institute and the School of SSHP
funding 2 applications from their own budget, a total of 9 applications have been put
forward.
Noted

13.4 Members noted that all Schools had increased the value of their grants and contracts portfolios compared to this time last year and the total value of the portfolio was over £46m which is a 15% increase from last year.

13.5 The College's grant application success rate has been falling over the past few years however, the total value of the portfolio is maintaining as the College brings in fewer but higher value grants.

13.6 Research Committee reported that the Research Output Census the College has been running as part of the information gathering process for REF preparations has been positively received with almost 100% participation in the census.

14 PGR REGULATIONS

Received

14.1 Members considered revised research degree regulations which had been endorsed by the Research Students Sub-Committee and, by email circulation, Research Committee (X 2016 12)

14.2 Members asked for clarification on the conditions for major revisions and resubmission and the rules for thesis length. These comments have been taken into consideration in the version of the regulations being presented to Academic Board.

Endorsed

14.3 Subject to these matters, ABExCo endorsed the research degree regulations for approval by Academic Board.

15 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (SEWP)

Received

15.1 The report of the Student Engagement & Widening Participation Committee meeting of 26 January (X 2016 13)

15.2 SEWP reported on student retention activities, supporting student engagement and the findings of the Red Brick research from the students' union research.

15.3 Members heard that the students' union research has categorised Birkbeck students into 5 broad profiles.

15.4 The students' union are currently in the process of identifying what the students from each profile would like the students union to offer and how needs could be specifically tailored to individual profiles.

15.5 Members heard that Red Bick research have worked with 139 HEIs across the UK and the profiles are consistent across the board with only the numbers varying from institution to institution. Birkbeck is unique with the largest cohort of students characterised by a love of learning.

15.6 Members heard that the SU is working on appropriate names for the five profiles that will resonate with students.
16. **TEACHING AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE (TQEC)**

Received

16.1 The report of the Teaching & Quality Enhancement Committee meeting of 15 February (X 2016 X 14)

16.2 Members received an update on the College’s Quality Assessment. The Schools’ annual quality monitoring reports were discussed at length at the Committee’s meeting. Reports received from all Schools were scrutinised with the aim of resolving issues as they fed directly into the student experience in the NSS. A College wide report will be produced in due course.

Noted

16.3 Members noted the report on Student Conduct and Representations for 2015/16 and the emerging trends for 2016/17.

16.4 ABExCo were asked to approve the Common Awards Scheme (CAS) regulations for 2017/18. The proposed changes arose through discussions at a meeting of the CAS working group in the Autumn term. The changes were not considered to be substantive.

**Endorsed**

16.5 ABExCo endorsed the CAS regulations for 2017/18 for approval by the Academic Board.

**Endorsed**

16.6 ABExCo endorsed the introduction, amendment, suspension and withdrawal of the following programmes for approval by the Academic Board:

Programme Approval:
- MBA (joint degree between Birkbeck and University of the Arts London)
- MPhil/PhD Criminology

Programme Withdrawal:
- Foundation Degree in Archaeological Practice;
- Cert HE World Arts and Artefacts;
- Cert HE Understanding Visual Arts;
- Cert HE History of Architecture and Landscapes

New programmes approved by Chair’s action:
Foundation year:
- BA Arts and Humanities (with Foundation Year)
- BSc Accounting (with Foundation Year) (now suspended for 2017/8)
- BSc Business (with Foundation Year) (now suspended for 2017/8)
- BSc Economics and Business (with Foundation Year)
- BSc Mathematics (with Foundation Year) (now suspended for 2017/8)
- BSc Biomedicine (with Foundation Year)
- BSc Structural Molecular Biology (with Foundation Year)
- BSc Psychology (with Foundation Year)
- BSc Social Science (with Foundation Year)
Degree Apprenticeship programmes:
  •  BBA Chartered Management
  •  BSc Digital and Technology Solutions
  •  Foundation Degree for Laboratory Science

Other undergraduate programmes:
  •  BBA Culinary Industry Management (collaboration with Le Cordon Bleu)
  •  BA Psychology for Education

Other postgraduate programmes:
  •  MA Digital Media (includes pathways MA Digital Media Design, MA Digital Media Culture, MA Digital Media Management)
  •  PG Cert Digital Media Management (major programme amendment)
  •  PG Cert Web Design and Development (major programme amendment)
  •  MFA Creative Writing
  •  MSc Mathematical Finance
  •  MSc Archaeological Practice (Economic & Social Research)
  •  MA Historical Research (Economic & Social History)
  •  MA Public Histories
  •  Professional Doctorate in Occupational Health Psychology (for Jan 2017)

17  COLLEGE BOARDS OF EXAMINERS
Received
17.1 The report of the College Boards of Examiners 2015/16 (X 2016 15)

Endorsed
17.2 The Academic Board Executive Committee endorsed the recommendations of the College Boards of Examiners. Recommendations will be discussed at the Academic Board on March 9th.

18  INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
Received
18.1 The report of the International Committee meeting of 13 February (X 2016 16)

Noted
18.2 Members note that the International Committee currently report through the Strategic Planning Committee however, there will be a proposal for the Committee to report through ABExCo in the future.

Noted
18.3 Members noted that the International Committee received a paper modelling the impact of Brexit on fee setting and recruitment levels. Feedback from the Committee on the different scenarios will be feeding into discussions at the Fees, Bursaries and Scholarships Committee meeting on April 4th.

19  TRIBUNAL NOMINATION
Noted
19.1 Members noted that the Master had delegated his authority under Academic Board Standing Order 3.7, to take Chair’s Action on behalf of Academic Board, to the Academic Registrar as Secretary of Academic Board. The action taken was to
nominate a member of academic staff, Dr Joanne Leal, for a Tribunal convened under the College Statutes.

20 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING
Noted

20.1 Members noted the date of the next ABExCo meeting:
- Tuesday 6 June 2017, at 2pm