BIRKBECK
University of London

Minutes of the ACADEMIC BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

20 February 2014

Present
Professor Nicholas Keep, Mr Bob Westaway, Professor Philip Powell, Megan Reeves, Dr Jasbir Gill, Naina Patel, Professor Mirian Zukas, Robert Atkinson, Professor Li Wei, Keith Harrison, Professor Stephen Frosh, Professor Sue Jackson, Tricia King, Professor Philip Dewe (in the chair), Katharine Bock, Professor Patricia Tuitt.

Apologies for absence
Professor David Latchman, Professor Costas Douzinas, Professor Julian Swann.

9 MINUTES AND REPORT TO ACADEMIC BOARD
Noted:
9.1 The minutes of the meeting of 30 October 2013, which had been confirmed by members present at Academic Board on 28 November. Academic Board’s Report to the Governors following its meeting on 28 November (X 2013 08).

10 RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT
Considered:
10.1 The Report of the Research Committee following its meeting on 30 January 2014 (X 2013 09).

Noted:
10.2 Research Committee had considered and endorsed a proposal to establish a Centre for Politico Legal Theology in the School of Law. It had noted the potential for international and interdisciplinary collaboration and confirmed that there was a distinct difference between the proposed Centre and the Birkbeck Institute of Humanities. The Centre would genuinely contribute to the research culture of the College.

Recommended to Academic Board:
10.3 Approval of the proposal to establish a Centre for Politico Legal Theology in the School of Law.

Noted:
10.4 Research Committee also considered a draft research data sharing policy and endorsed its further development and implementation. The College will need to have a formal data sharing policy in place by 2015 to meet Research Council requirements. ABExCo also noted the parallel need to consider the ethical implications of data collection and sharing, which is being taken forward by the College Ethics Committee.
Research Committee has also started to review the reports on research grants and contracts in more detail. There is substantial variation in the securing of research grants and contracts from department to department and the Committee will be working to encourage and support colleagues to make more research grant applications. ABExCo noted that this is a complex issue that needs to be addressed, taking into account the different academic disciplines and the demand management procedures, involving School assessment of the quality of proposals before they are signed off.

### 11 STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND WIDENING PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

**Considered:**

11.1 The report of the Student Experience and Widening Participation Committee following its meeting of 12 February 2014.

**Noted:**

11.2 SEWPC had been monitoring recent HE policy developments, including the end of student number control from 2015-16, postponement of the implementation of the Strategy for Access and Student Success and delayed confirmation of university funding for 2014-15 in response to funding cuts.

11.3 In response to the changes in the HE landscape, the Committee had agreed a proposal to amend its title to Student Engagement and Widening Participation Committee and to revise its terms of reference to reflect the need to respond to the changing needs of the student body and to develop responses that worked for Birkbeck students rather than responses that reacted to regulation.

**Recommended to Academic Board:**

11.4 Approval of the new title of the Committee and revised terms of reference.

### 12 TEACHING AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

**Considered:**

12.1 The report of the Teaching and Quality Enhancement Committee following its meeting on 23 January 2014.

**Noted:**

12.2 TQEC had also discussed the impact of national policy changes, in particular the abolition of the Student Number Control and the potential impact and opportunities for Birkbeck, including expansion of three year degrees.

12.3 The Strategy for Learning and Teaching Enhancement (SLATE) was at the mid point of implementation. A focus for the work still to come would be flexible and blended learning. TQEC forwarded a draft document currently under development, which
outlined the learning elements that would comprise a model for flexible blended provision, to be used to guide further development of the online provision strategy. TQEC also reported on progress in a project to make standard lecture capture facilities more widely available, which was also part of the online strategy.

12.4 Following the conclusion of the three term learning project, TQEC would oversee an audit of three term learning in the College, including the termly assessment model that had been the focus of the project and other forms of three term learning being deployed. Dr Geoff Waters of the School of Management would take on the role of three term learning advocate.

12.5 TQEC had endorsed proposals for new and withdrawn programmes and the International Programme Regulations for Organizational Psychology and Human Resource Management.

Recommended to Academic Board:

12.6 Approval of the introduction and withdrawal of the programmes listed in the appendix of TQEC's Report.

12.7 Approval of the International Programme Regulations for Organizational Psychology and Human Resource Management.

13 **NEXT MEETING**

Noted:
The next meeting of ABExCo was scheduled for Tuesday 17 June 2014 at 2.00pm.