Present:
Prof D Latchman (Chair); Prof P Dewe; Prof J Annette; Prof S Frosh; Prof M Innes; Prof S Jackson; Prof H Fraser; Prof N Keep; Prof P Powell; Prof P Tuitt; Prof M Zukas; Prof M Wood; Dr C Bristow; Prof M Oaksford; Dr R Rayne; Prof Li Wei; Dr M Cook; Prof B Bowring; Prof H Downes; Prof A Finlay; Prof M Levene; Prof M Lorch; Prof R Smith; Prof J Swann; Dr T Fenner; Dr D Horn; Dr Zhu Hua; Dr G Roberts; Mr R Atkinson; Dr A Walsh; Dr J Mackintosh; Dr M Allen; Dr P Watt; Dr F Anscombe; Prof John Henderson; Dr B Zollner; Dr A Jacobs; Ms E Charles; Dr V Eatough; Dr E Davelaar; Dr P King; Dr K Thompson; Dr E Loizdou; Dr M Frenz; Mr B Alimi.

In attendance:
Mr D Pateman – Academic Registrar; Mr K Harrison - Secretary and Clerk to the Governors; Mr T Pearce - Deputy Academic Registrar (Academic Services); Mrs K Bock – Head of Governance and Corporate Support; Ms J Lerch – Corporate Support Intern.

Apologies for absence:
Apologies were received from 34 Colleagues.

1 MEMBERSHIP OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD
Confirmed
1.1 The members and co-opted members of the Academic Board for the 2010-11 session. (AB 2010 01)

2 MINUTES
Confirmed
2.1 The Minutes of the meeting of 16 June 2010.

3 REPORT TO THE GOVERNORS
Noted
3.1 Governors’ receipt of the Report of the Academic Board of 16 June 2010. (AB 2010 02)

4 MASTER’S REPORT
Noted
4.1 The Master’s annual paper on the strategic direction of Birkbeck, which had been endorsed by Governors on 13 October and presented to staff on 26 October. (AB 2010 03)

4.2 The Browne Review had reported on 12 October recommending removal of the HE tuition fee cap and revision of the student loan system. Students would finance the increased fees via state loans.

4.3 The government Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) had been announced on 20 October. There were 40% cuts in HE funding, with the expectation that institutions
would in future get their teaching income from increased tuition fees if the Browne Review recommendations were taken up.

4.4 An important positive aspect of Browne for Birkbeck was the recommendation that student loans for tuition fees should be available to part time students provided they were studying at 33% or more of full time intensity. The opening up of student loans to part time students, the successful outcome of Birkbeck’s long campaign for fair part-time support, had already been endorsed by Government.

4.5 The College was pursuing a dual strategy of lobbying to reduce the study intensity threshold to 25%, as many Birkbeck students currently studied at 25% intensity, and developing more modular provision at 33% intensity.

Note: On 8 December 2012, the Government announced its concession that student loans for tuition fees should be available to all students studying at 25% or more of full time intensity.

4.6 Academic Board agreed that the College would need to think carefully about its response to Browne and CSR and in particular future tuition fee and our fee strategy. Colleagues had noted in particular a drop in Certificate of HE module enrolments probably linked to ELQ fees.

4.7 It was confirmed that fees would be agreed via the Strategic Planning Committee and approved by Governors; and that SPC would be meeting with Executive Deans in the autumn term to discuss in detail the response to Browne and the fee strategy.

4.8 Much of the detail of the implementation of Browne was still to be resolved and Birkbeck would need to influence this wherever possible, for example with BIS and UCAS on areas including access to loans for ELQ students, older students and students already earning over the threshold for payback. With the cessation of HEFCE funding there would be no reason to charge differential ELQ fees, although it was not clear what access ELQ students would have to student loans.

4.9 Browne included a proposed mechanism for student numbers overall to be regulated using an entry qualification tariff along the lines of the UCAS tariff, although the extent and detail of regulation had not yet been determined. This was an area in which Birkbeck would seek to influence policy, stressing the importance of admitting students without traditional entry qualifications but with the aptitude to benefit from HE.

4.10 ABExCo had reported that while there would, inevitably, be diverse individual views on these major changes and their academic impact, the College as an institution would need to engage with the Browne recommendations to benefit from the opportunities they offered, including access to student finance for part time students and the opportunity to develop more innovative part time provision. ABExCo had discussed the potential negative impact on the arts and social sciences and had confirmed that the College should be developing on a broad front rather than focusing specifically on science or humanities.

4.11 The impact on research was not yet clear cut. The CSR cuts involved areas responsible for both the HEFCE QR budget and the research council budgets, although no announcement had been made about how the budgets would be administered or whether the new Higher Education Council would administer QR funding.
4.12 The most important short term imperative was to continue to expand student numbers - including fundable numbers - because it would take time for the post-Browne system to be phased in and the current system phased out. 2011-12 would be particularly challenging as the initial cuts would be made that year with the existing fee system still in place. A further worry was the potential time gap between the introduction of the new fees and the availability of loans to students, given that the new loan system would need to be passed as primary legislation, whereas the increase in student fees would not.

5 ACADEMIC BOARD GOVERNORS’ REPORT

5.1 Professor Julian Swann reported on Governors’ discussion in July of:
- The 2010-11 budget and Income Distribution Model;
- Governors’ commendation of the ambitious recruitment targets set by Schools;
- Discussion of how the College would deal with more students, including enhancing teaching space and the desirability of a large lecture theatre;
- Governors’ thanks to staff for their positive response to restructuring and relocations;
- A presentation by the architects of MAKE on the new building planned at Stratford.

AGREED

5.2 To invite the Stratford architect to give a presentation on the development of the Stratford campus building.

6 ABExCo MINUTES

Received and confirmed by members of ABExCo

6.1 The Minutes of ABExCo’s meeting of 25 October 2010. (AB 2010 04)

7 COLLEGE POLICY ON THE ACCREDITATION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Approved

7.1 The revised College Policy on the Accreditation of Prior Learning, which had been endorsed by the Academic Board Executive Committee and the Teaching and Quality Enhancement Committee. (AB 2010 05)

7.2 The revised Policy prohibited re-use of credit that has already been used towards an award at an equivalent or higher level than the one applied and permitted re-use of credit towards a lower-level award (for instance exit awards such as Cert HE or PG Diploma) at a higher level award. Credit for modules compensated or condoned elsewhere would not normally be considered for APEL purposes, but credit for whole awards gained elsewhere would be considered, even where this includes credit gained for condoned / compensated modules.

8 COLLEGE RESEARCH STRATEGY

Approved

8.1 The College Research Strategy which had been amended following discussion at Research Committee and ABExCo. (AB 2010 06)

8.2 It was confirmed that in the new structure research income, including overheads, was distributed directly to Schools. Additional policy on the distribution of overheads within Schools would be developed as appropriate.

9 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

Noted
9.1 The Reports of the Research Committee, the Teaching and Quality Enhancement Committee and the Student Experience and Widening Participation Committee. http://www.bbk.ac.uk/committees/abexcomm/20101025/index.html

Approved

9.2 Dates of term for 2016-17
Autumn Term Monday 3 October to Friday 16 December 2016
Spring Term Monday 9 January to Friday 24 March 2017
Summer Term Monday 24 April to Friday 7 July 2017

9.3 University of London International Programme Regulations for the PGDip/MSc Organizational Psychology/Human Resource Management (OPHRM) for 2010/11

9.4 Establishment of a new Centre for the Study of British Politics & Public Life

9.5 Inclusion in the Institutional Repository of publications produced by academic staff who had left the institution and publications produced by academic staff joining the institution that were published before their joining date.

Noted

9.6 Matters reported to ABExCo by Teaching and Quality Enhancement Committee:

- Details of the approval of new programmes;
- Details of programmes that had formally been withdrawn or suspended and reported to the College Programmes Committee;
- Details of revisions to the programme approval guidance notes and associated documentation for 2010/11;
- Details of the Institutional Audit report;
- The initial overview report on the outcome of the 2010 National Student Survey;
- Revisions made to the College’s Quality Assurance/Enhancement Code of Practice for the 2010/11 academic session that had been agreed by the Chair of the TQEC;
- The Annual Report to the University Senate on Visiting Examiners’ Reports and Quality Assurance Processes;
- The research-related teaching survey;
- Annual reports from the Assistant Deans (Learning and Teaching) regarding their engagement with the College Learning and Teaching Strategy and all areas of their learning and teaching activities;
- Reports from the Assistant Deans (Learning and Teaching) on progress with the College's Learning and Teaching Strategy project 1;
- Summary of points raised following Internal Reviews of: History, Classic and Archaeology; Psychosocial Studies; Media and Cultural Studies; Management;
- Department responses received following Internal Reviews of: Organizational Psychology; History, Classics and Archaeology; Psychosocial Studies;
- A report of the TQEC Panels, which scrutinised a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programme reports on the 2008/09 academic session.

10 EMERITUS TITLES
Considered

10.1 Proposals for Emeritus titles for academic staff who had recently retired.

Noted
10.2 In accordance with the agreed procedure, support for proposals had been confirmed by the Master and the relevant Executive Dean.

**Recommended to the Governors**

10.3 Conferment of the following titles:

**Emeritus Professors:**
- Professor Samuel Guttenplan, Professor of Philosophy until his retirement on 30 September 2010;
- Professor Boris Mirkin, Head of the Computational Intelligence group in the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems until his retirement on 30 September 2010.

**Emeritus Reader:**
- Dr Roger Johnson, Reader in Computer Science until his retirement on 30 September 2010.

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**MATTERS FOR REPORT**

11 **NOTE OF CHAIR’S ACTIONS**

Noted

11.1 Action taken by the Master as Chair of the Academic Board to approve the following Suspensions of Regulations:
- BSc Economic and Social Policy: permission to undertake reassessment;
- Linguistics and Analysis module: permission to undertake reassessment;
- Linguistics Analysis module: permission to undertake reassessment of this module;
- BA History/BA History and Archaeology: permission for reassessment, to six students;
- MSc Financial Engineering: permission to take the dissertation module late;
- MSc Organizational Psychology/Human Resource Management (external programme): permission for registration to the MSc before having completed the cognate PG Diploma programme;
- Graduate Certificate in Group Analysis: permission to register without normal entry qualification, to two students;
- MSc Management: permission for reassessment, to seven students;
- PhD Classics: re-commencement of a student’s registration;
- MA Archaeology: permission to submit dissertation late;
- MSc Advanced Information Systems: permission for third and final attempt at dissertation;
- Restrictions of access to PhD thesis, for two students.

12 **DATES OF MEETINGS**

Noted

12.1 The dates of meetings for the remainder of the session:
- Wednesday 23 February 2011 at 2p.m.
- Tuesday 21 June 2011 at 2p.m.