BIRKBECK
University of London

Minutes of the ACADEMIC BOARD

27 February 2012

Present
Prof David Latchman (Chair), Professor Costas Douzinis, Professor Trevor Fenner, Professor Alison Finlay, Professor Hilary Fraser, Professor Sue Jackson, Professor Nicholas Keep, Professor Esther Leslie, Professor Marjorie Lorch, Professor Alexandra Poulavassilis, Professor Philip Powell, Professor Ron Smith, Professor Matthew Weait, Professor Miriam Zukas, Dr Karen Hudson-Edwards, Dr Andreas Liefooghe, Dr Maria Elena Placencia, Dr Gerald Roberts, Dr Linda Trenberth, Dr Frederick Anscombe, Ms Chiara Barontini, Ms Elizabeth Charles, Dr Virginia Eatough, Dr Marion Frenz, Dr Lisa McEntee-Atalianis, Dr Katherine Thompson, Dr Vincent Tong, Dr Barbara Zollner, Mr Robert Atkinson, Dr Alex Colas, Dr Jasbir Gill, Dr Richard Rayne, Dr Anita Walsh, Ms Tricia King, Mr Christopher Dimech, Mr Sean Rillo Raczka, Mr Joshi Sachdeo

In Attendance
Mrs Katharine Bock, Mr Keith Harrison, Mr Dean Pateman, Ms Roisin Lynch, Mr David McGhie

Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from 29 members

12 MINUTES
Confirmed
12.1 The Minutes of the meeting of 16 November 2011, subject to the amendment of Minute 10.1 from:

The Master as Chair of the Academic Board approved amendments recommended by TQEC and ABExCo, to amend the criteria for academic promotions to enable promotion on the grounds of excellence in teaching.

To:

The Master as Chair of the Academic Board approved amendments recommended by TQEC and ABExCo, to amend the criteria for academic promotions to give greater clarity to the criteria for academic promotion regarding excellence in teaching.

13 REPORT TO THE GOVERNORS
Noted

14 MASTER’S REPORT
Noted
14.1 The College had received the report of the QAA Degree Awarding Powers assessment team. The report was very positive and confirmed that Birkbeck was already successfully carrying out most of the functions required of a degree awarding institution. The final decision would be confirmed via QAA’s formal committees and the Privy Council.
It was important that as many applications and offers were made as possible during the recruitment round for 2012-13. UCAS applications for 2012-13 had been considerably higher than last year due to the introduction of several new programmes.

There was evidence that staff at the Student Loans Company were not yet well informed on the issues around financial support for part time students. Birkbeck had therefore launched a campaign to ensure that prospective part time students understand their entitlement to student finance. The ‘Our Promise to You’ campaign stated that if students fulfilled the eligibility criteria for a loan and applied, then the College would not pursue the student for payment while the application was being processed by the SLC.

15 ABExCo MINUTES
Confirmed
15.1 The Minutes of ABExCo’s meeting of 15 February 2012 (AB 2011 09), by the members of ABExCo attending Academic Board.

16 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES
Approved
16.1 The following, which had been considered and recommended by the Teaching and Quality Enhancement Committee:

- Approval of the Strategy for Learning and Teaching Enhancement
- Approval of the revised Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study relating to Concurrent Registration
- Approval of the proposal to amend the policy for the Operation of Boards and Sub-Boards of Examiners
- Approval of the proposal to amend the Mitigating Circumstances policy.
- Approval of the revised Break in Study policy
- Approval of the new programmes for 2012/13
- Approval of the final report on the Quality Strategy 2009-2012

Noted
16.2 The Code of Practice for Training and Research for Research Degrees would be revised further and brought back to a later meeting of the Academic Board.

Approved
16.3 The following, which had been considered and recommended by the Research Committee:

- Approval of the establishment of the Centre for Contemporary Literature as a Research Centre
- Approval of the establishment of the Birkbeck Institute of Film as a Research Centre
- Approval of the revised Regulations for the Research Degrees of MPhil and PhD
- Approval of the Policy on Write Up/Examination Only Research Students
- Approval of the Policy and Procedure for the Registration of Mixed Mode Students.

Noted

16.4 The report of the Student Experience and Widening Participation Committee (AB 2011 12)

17 ACTION TAKEN BY THE CHAIR

Noted

17.1 Action taken by the Master as Chair of the Academic Board to approve the Code of Practice on Free Speech (AB 2011 13)

17.2 Action taken by the Master as Chair of the Academic Board to approve the following Suspensions of Regulations and Approval of Regulations:

Approval of Regulations

University of London International Programmes

- BA Iberian and Latin American Studies 2012-13
- BA Philosophy 2012-13 (Old Regulations)
- BA Philosophy 2012-13 (New Regulations)

Suspension of Regulations

Break in Study (Research Students) Policy

- Permission for two students to re-enrol as research students after a break in study longer than the two years permitted by the policy.

Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study

- MSc Applied Statistics
  - Suspension of Regulation 5.2 to permit credit obtained more than five years ago to count towards the award

- MA World History
  - Suspension of Regulation 5.2 to permit credit obtained more than five years ago to count towards the award.

- MA Medicine, Science and Society
  - Permission for a student to re-enrol and complete after a break in study longer than that permitted by the Regulations.

- MSc Organizational Behaviour
  - Suspension of Regulation 27.1 to permit four students to be awarded the degree with compensated fails for one core module.
- MA Film Curating
  - Suspension of Regulation 27.1 to permit four students to be awarded the degree with compensated fails for one core module.

Programme Regulations
- MA Children’s Literature
  - Permission for a student to take a personal study module in place of an optional module.

- MSc Human Resource Development and Consultancy
  - Permission for a student to be examined by viva in place of a written examination, after having been supplied with the wrong paper at the examination.

18 DATES OF MEETINGS
Noted
18.1 The date of the summer term meeting:
  - Tuesday 19 June 2012 at 10.30am