Minutes

Summary
These are the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of 13 May 2010.

Recommended Action
The Committee is asked to confirm these minutes

Trevor Pearce
September 2010
MINUTES OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
13 May 2010

Present:
Professor Stephen Frosh (Pro-Vice Master for Research; Chair), Professor Esther Leslie, Professor Alexandra Poulouvasillis, Professor John Kelly, Dr John Kraniauskas, Professor Martin Eimer, Professor Li Wei, Professor Patrick Hanafin

Apologies for absence:
Dr Tracey Barratt, Professor Sasha Roseneil, Keith Harrison, Dean Pateman, James Emmott

In attendance:
Carla Bull (Registry Officer), Robert Atkinson (Deputy Librarian), Liz Francis (Head, Research Grants & Contracts), Trevor Pearce (Deputy Academic Registrar (Academic Services), Mr Martin Hodkinson (School Manager)

38 MINUTES RC39 (2009/10)
Confirmed:
38.1 The Committee confirmed the minutes from the meeting of 12 January 2010

39 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES RC40 (2009/10)
Noted:
39.1 (i) That, following the approval of the Academic Board, the Research Student Sub-Committee had been established and would meet shortly; the Sub-Committee would consider items relating to the appointment of research degree examiners and the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey previously discussed by the Research Committee

40. REPORT TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD RC41 (2009/10)
Noted:
40.1 That the recommendations to establish the Research Student Sub-Committee, to approve the Commodity Finance Centre and the Centre for Law and the Humanities had been endorsed; the adoption of procedures for the consideration of research ethics was also endorsed subject to minor amendments.

41 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT
Noted:
41.1 That there were no issues to report other than items already featured elsewhere on the agenda.

42 RESEARCH CENTRE REVIEW RC42 (2009/10)
Noted:
42.1 (i) That the London Beckett Seminar, although listed as a research centre, did not meet the criteria defined by the College as a research centre; the Department of English and Humanities had requested that it be removed from the list;

(ii) that the Department of Geography, Environment & Development Studies considers the activities of the South East Regional Research Laboratory have now effectively been subsumed with other research units and centres, and has recommended that the laboratory is considered to be closed;

(iii) that the Committee was not clear whether the Robert Boyle Project met the criteria established by the College for Research Centres; its work was beneficial and of high quality but appeared to focus on one individual rather than bringing together research from different areas;

4(iv) that, the reports received from the following research centres: International Centre for Education for Democratic Citizenship, the London Knowledge Lab and the Robert Boyle Project, all indicated very strong activity.

42.2 Agreed:
(i) To remove the London Beckett Seminar from the list of Research Centres and to recommend to Academic Board that the South East Regional Research Laboratory be considered to have closed;

(ii) to discuss with Professor Hunter whether the Robert Boyle Project wished to continue with its designation as a Research Centre.

ACTION: Trevor Pearce

43 REF RC43 (2009/10)
Noted:
43.1 (i) That it was likely that there will be at least a one year delay within the REF timetable, resulting in the REF commencing in 2014 rather than 2013 as planned;

(ii) that the College was waiting on guidance from HEFCE regarding which Units of Assessment it would be possible to submit to; it was anticipated that this would be confirmed by the Autumn term 2010;

(iii) that the HEFCE pilot on impact had commenced and it was expected that the pilot would report back in Autumn 2010.

(vi) that various external reviews have been taking place concerning units of assessment. The Working Party will receive reports from external reviewers, who had been holding meetings with colleagues from the relevant Schools. The Working Party will use these reports as basis for a report to the Master with a full set of recommendations.;
44  COLLEGE RESEARCH SCHOOL REVIEW RC44 (2009/10)
Noted:
44.1 (i) That the final report contained most of the proposals contained in the interim report received at the last meeting of the Committee. Key changes included the change of name to Birkbeck Graduate Research School, and clarification of the operational base of the School within Registry Services and the reporting line to the Research Student Sub-Committee.

Agreed:
(ii) The Committee recommended approval for the final report to the Academic Board

45  COLLEGE RESEARCH STRATEGY WORKING GROUP RC45 (2009/10)
Noted:
45.1 (i) That the Research Grants and Contracts Office had already taken steps to implement the following two recommendations for immediate implementation:
• That the College consider establishing an automated process whereby a non-specialist description of each research grant application be forwarded to the Communications Unit for possible dissemination to the media, and
• That the College consider establishing an automated process whereby the final project report for all research-council funded projects be sent to Business Relations, to assist with the identification of commercialisation opportunities.

(ii) that it was anticipated that the Working Party would present a draft research strategy to the Committee in October 2010.

46  LIBRARY SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH RC46 (2009/10)
Agreed:
46.1 The Committee recommended that Academic Board approve the proposal that all research papers be deposited in the College’s institutional repository, to begin in 2011/12.

47  MEDIA SERVICES REVIEW RC47 (2009/10)
Noted:
47.1 That the idea of using podcasts to broadcast major events taking place at Birkbeck was welcomed as a method of potentially increasing the College profile in an efficient way.

48  SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEES RC48 (2009/10)
Noted:
48.1 The reports from the School Research Committees.

49  EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS RC49i-v (2009/10)
Noted:
49.1 The reports from the Research Grants and Contracts Office:
RC49 i  All Research Projects Current and Confirmed
RC49ii  Research Projects starting in 2009/2010
RC49 iii  Grant Applications 2008/9
RC49 iv  Grant Applications 2009/10
RC49v  Research Income – Financial Year 2008/9

50  FUTURE MEETINGS IN 2009/10
Noted:

50.1 Dates of future meetings would be circulated in the Summer.

Signed________________________________________________________

Date _________________________________________________________