

Our Ref: GSCC16-17/A8/07.09.2017

GRADUATE STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday 7 September 2017, 2.00 pm, Bragg Committee Room

Present: Professor Haniff (Chair), Sean Cormier (NP), Tejas Guruswamy (QS), Evelyn Hamilton (BSS), Jieyi Liu (TFM), Claire Malone (HEP), Bruno Villa (SP), Simon Wilkinson (CSC), Ms Khan (Secretary).

Apologies: Adrien Amiguez (QM), Christopher Ashcroft (Mole), Alice Allen (TCM), Arthur Henderson (SMF), Kamrad Javid (AP), Konrad Viebahn (AMOP), Leah Weiss (OE), Professor Parker (HoD), Ms Dann (Graduate Office), Dr Gripaios

1. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2017 were confirmed.

2. Matters arising

- i) Information for current graduate students – development of the application portal is a priority for the Graduate Office at present.
- ii) First year report update – members were informed that to date, 58% of first year reports had been viva'd.
- iii) Athena Swan – the survey of graduate students to inform the Athena SWAN submission was still outstanding.
- iv) Graduate training programme – the chair reported that workshops on the use of LaTeX would likely be organised for either Lent or Easter Terms 2018.

3. Chairman's business

- i) GSCC membership 2017/18 – the chair reminded members that student representatives in some areas were still required to replace those who had finished their course.
- ii) Cavendish III update – the Committee was updated on recent progress with the project, including a visual presentation of the plans as they stood and architect's impressions of different views of some of the internal spaces. The following points were made:
 - a. Of the original concepts presented by the architects at Stage 2 of the RIBA design process in summer 2016, the 'street' concept had been chosen as the basis for the development of the detailed plans now being presented in Stage 3.

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- b. Stage 3 (the detailed design phase) was scheduled for completion in December 2017, but the interior design had been ‘frozen’ on 1 September to allow for the Planning Application to be finalised for submission to Cambridge City Council on 29 September.
- c. Stage 4 of the project would consist of detailed, technical design involving the building contractor, before commencing Stage 5 which was the actual construction of the building. It was hoped that building work would start in autumn 2018, to allow for transfer from the current Cavendish buildings starting in 2021.
- d. The plans showed sections of the building, Phase 2A and Phase 2B, which were dependent on funding factors. It was hoped that Phase 2A would be affordable as part of the main project and be built at the same time, while Phase 2B would be built as the need for expansion developed and when new funding became available.
- e. The aim of the new building was to provide high quality and much improved spaces for every type of use – offices, laboratories, teaching and learning and social space. The maintenance load would be lower on newer buildings, and greater space efficiency would be achieved. The hard and soft landscaping within and around the building was designed to integrate it better into the environment than the current buildings.
- f. The Eastern wing of the building comprised the public zone, and would contain space for scientific exhibitions as well as the fruits of contemporary art-science collaborations. There would be less emphasis on the older historical features of the Laboratory.
- g. Members of the Committee expressed some misgivings about the ability for people to see through to labs and the Learning Resource Centre, and the impact of the new building on wildlife, especially birds, was also mentioned.
- h. The Cavendish III development was part of a wider Masterplan for the West Cambridge site, currently being revised. The Masterplan also included the Shared Facilities Hub building, which was being planned on the same timescale as Cavendish III, and would provide more, and more varied, catering options for everyone based at West Cambridge.
- iii) Welcome event for new Graduate students – this would take place on 5 October.
- iv) Postgraduate Open Day 2017 – this would take place on 3 November.
- v) Graduate Student Conference – the keynote speaker had been identified, but advertising was yet to get underway. Also needed were arrangements for the event to be photographed and further ideas about prizes.
- vi) Researcher development programme – most of the budget for this year’s programme had been allocated.

4. Graduate Student Matters

It was confirmed that, as the Department was not responsible for co-ordinating or providing oversight of supervision for Parts IA and IB of the Tripos (this being a College matter), this could not count as credit towards graduate students’ undertaking teaching in the Department.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.

6. Date of the next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the GSCC was on the 5 October 2017, and that the dates of meetings for the rest of 2017-18 were:

- 9th November 2017, 2pm, Bragg Committee Room (213)
- 18th January 2018, 2pm, Bragg Committee Room (213)
- 15th February 2018, 2pm, Bragg Committee Room (213)
- 15th March 2018, 2pm, Bragg Committee Room (213)
- 10th May 2018, 2pm, Bragg Committee Room (213)
- 19th July 2018, 2pm, Bragg Committee Room (213)