

## Cancellation of meeting 23.3

Goldsmiths Professors Forum <PROFORUM@JISCMail.AC.UK>  
on behalf of  
Irit Rogoff <I.Rogoff@GOLD.AC.UK>

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To: PROFORUM@JISCMail.AC.UK <PROFORUM@JISCMail.AC.UK>

Dear Dinah,

Thank you for your message notifying us of the cancellation of our planned meeting on March 23rd.

Things are very difficult across the campus and staff are working exceptionally hard to teach, supervise, administer and provide pastoral care online to students who are anxious, some of whom are stuck in London and feel isolated. The result has been a considerable stretching of our human resources and a constant struggle with on line platforms that don't deliver. Staff are being positive and encouraging and putting themselves out for students who are exceptionally appreciative of this attention as they face uncertainty.

Over the past two days, work has been completed on ["Alternative Goldsmiths"](#) a college wide consultation bringing together the expertise of Goldsmiths staff with several external experts. It covers financial analysis, concerns about recruitment, ideas for developing future areas where we could shine and concerns about consultation and democratic governance. It's a document that comes from the deep knowledge and concern that we share about this institution. It demonstrates that across the board everyone is thinking about constructive change and pulling together to get out of the current financial difficulties. It is indicative of the intellectual, organisational and procedural resources that the College would have to hand if it really collaborated with its people. The worse the virus pandemic and its far reaching consequences become, the greater the need for us to work together and have trust in each other.

We are requesting that you circulate the document to members of Council. It was made available to Goldsmiths staff yesterday and will also be going out to the press with an attached statement. It is a serious, considered, exceptionally informed analysis of what has happened in the recent past and how we may be able to move forward to re-envision Goldsmiths. It would be good to see similar levels of detail, documentation and analysis in all other plans going forward.

Since we have been corresponding for some weeks about having a meeting and more and more issues are coming to the fore undiscussed, we thought it might be useful to provide a very brief timeline of what has transpired in order to set the agenda for our forthcoming meeting.

1. Academic Board was not consulted before Council approved Executive Deans and voluntary severance scheme, contravening College Statutes 4 and 4.20;
2. Academic Board have yet to vote for the changes in ordinance that would permit the new management structure;
3. Consultation rounds with staff began after a fully formed plan was launched;
4. The Warden is taking no measure to slow or pause EG implementation despite COVID19.

Finally we want to stress how important we think it is that Council, that holds ultimate responsibility for our institution, is fully informed of all the activities, proposals and mobilisations that are going on and that we are reaching them through our correspondence with you.

With best wishes for yourself as well at this difficult time,

The Professors Forum

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