MINUTES OF THE MEDIA ARTS PGR STAFF-STUDENT COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY DECEMBER 4, 2014 AT 11 BEDFORD SQUARE

Present: PGR Director Mandy Merck, PGR student representative Diego Sosa Ortega.

Agenda

1. Review of the Minutes of the 20 June 2014 meeting
2. Progress check on action points from that meeting
3. AOB: Student feedback and requests from Diego Sosa Ortega

Minutes

1. The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted and a detailed review of action points conducted.

2. It was agreed that the Summer Conference would return to two days, on June 11 and 12, and that students would be asked to nominate an invited speaker at the January 14 Staff-Student meeting. To avoid clashes with exam boards, the possibility of asking the visiting speaker for the Friday afternoon of the conference will be considered. Technical problems during the conference will be addressed by allocating time for speakers to conduct tests prior to panels, and by alerting technical staff to possible troubleshooting requirements during the event.

The September 2014 Induction was judged a success, but Diego proposed that future events should also include a sample research presentation from a student, as well as an evening social. It was agreed that the first suggestion would be taken up and that the second would be investigated – possibly uniting a PhD evening social with the annual one conducted for Media Arts MAs at Bedford Square.

The Pathfinder Lecture, given by Media Arts PhD Felicity Gee, will take place on Wednesday January 14 from 2 to 4 in the Management Building Lecture Theatre. The Spring term staff-student committee meeting will also take place that day, at a time and place tba.

The PGR Student Facebook group is not currently active. Mandy pointed out that the key means of communication between the department and PGR students was by emails through the PGR list. Yet a sample mailing to confirm attendance at the Pathfinder Lecture suggests that many students do not consult their college email. Students will be asked to connect their personal email to the college email immediately in order not to be miss important announcements.

Due to work requirements Clarisssa Jacob is no longer moderating the PGR student blog and no alternative moderator has come forward. Mandy will investigate the use of the department research website as an alternative means of publicizing research student events and perhaps even publishing student research articles.

AOB
1. The new student logbook is more complex than the previous version, and students will be warned to allow due time to make their entries into it before submission for their annual review.

2. Diego suggested that a training event be scheduled for Media Arts research students in the preparation of frame grab illustrations and video clips. Mandy will investigate an appropriate trainer. (This could be a combined staff-student event, given the demand for support in this area.) Another proposed training event is on public speaking. Mandy has asked Barry Langford, the new Director of Royal Holloway’s Graduate School, to investigate this provision.

3. An update on the current USS pensions dispute has been requested and will be given by Mandy at the staff-student committee meeting on January 14.

4. The prospect of any new resources for Media Arts students and staff in the new Library will be investigated by Mandy.

5. Two conferences have been proposed by Media Arts research students, one on 1970s radical screen media organized by Clarissa Jacob, Nick Helm Grovas and Ed Webb Ingall and one on the social media and the current crisis in Mexican politics proposed by Diego. Mandy has advised on fundraising for the former and has suggested to Diego that he get in touch with Miriam Haddu of Hispanic Studies at RHUL to discuss the latter.