



## Report – Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama

### Amendments to the School's governance arrangements

*To be presented on Thursday, 5th March 2015*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

#### **SUMMARY**

1. In order for the Guildhall School of Music & Drama to exercise the grant of taught degree awarding powers by the Privy Council, the Board of Governors recommends that the School's Academic Board be recognised as the authority on academic matters with the power to confer degrees, diploma, certificates and other academic distinctions.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

2. We **recommend** that the amendments to the Instrument and Articles of Government for the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, recognising the academic authority of the Academic Board and its power to confer academic distinctions, be recommended to the Privy Council for approval.

#### **Main Report**

##### **Background**

1. In April 2014, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers (TDAP) by the Privy Council, following consideration by the Quality Assurance Agency of the TDAP scrutiny report which made reference to the School's current governance arrangements, and the School's written assurances in respect of specific queries arising from the report, one of which referenced the Board of Governors.

### **Current position**

2. The Board of Governors identified two issues which are essential to allow the School to award its own degrees. First the need to establish the locus of responsibility for the exercise of taught degree awarding powers within an academic committee of the School, and second to clarify the relationship of that committee to the Guildhall School Board of Governors. The School already has a Teaching & Learning Board responsible for all academic matters but the current Instrument and Articles are silent on its relationship to the Board of Governors.
3. It has been determined that the Teaching & Learning Board should be renamed the Academic Board, and it is recommended that it is recognised within the Instrument and Articles that taught degree awarding powers reside with the Academic Board. The establishment of the locus of responsibility for the exercise of these powers, in a manner cognisant of sector practice, is vital if the School is to exercise its taught degree awarding powers and retain them longer term.

### **Proposals**

4. That the amendments to the Instrument and Articles of Government for the Guildhall School, recognise the academic authority of the Academic Board and its power to confer academic distinctions, be recommended to the Privy Council for approval.

### **Conclusion**

5. Having considered the options available it is proposed that approval is given with immediate effect recognising the Academic Board's authority on academic matters and power to confer academic distinctions in order to embed degree awarding powers within the School's governance structure

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2014.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

**Alderman David Graves**

Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama