



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

University of London
Senate House
Malet Street
LONDON WC1E 7HU

23 May 2014

Dear Colleague

I am writing to update you with further news regarding the University's School of Advanced Study.

I am delighted to say that following discussions at Wednesday's meeting of the University's Board of Trustees the Vice-Chancellor and I concluded that we need time to explore a wider range of options regarding the structure of SAS.

We still, of course, need to work towards achieving long term financial sustainability but we are now able to approach this on a more extended timescale.

This will enable us to engage more fully with all relevant stakeholders, identify options and work them through, beginning the discussion process with the meetings of the SAS Board and the Strategic Advisory Group next month and continuing into next academic year.

In the meantime, we will continue to run the Institute of English Studies and Institute of Musical Research in their current form.

In parallel, the Vice-Chancellor will discuss future levels of Special Funding for SAS with HEFCE. We reached a tipping point this year after some years of below inflation funding and then the wholly unexpected cut. This has created major financial difficulties for SAS. With our mission to support and facilitate research, we cannot compensate for HEFCE cuts in the way that many institutions can through increased levels of undergraduate fee income.

The response to our published proposals has revealed a hugely gratifying level of support for what SAS English Studies and Musical Research contribute to the academic humanities community. I hope the community will be fully supportive of our efforts to reverse the HEFCE cuts.

I believe passionately in the importance of humanities research which is why I am here. I need to make SAS and its services financially sustainable for the long term and I hope very much to have the support of yourself and others in the academic community in order to achieve that goal.

Yours sincerely

Professor Roger Kain FBA
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Dean and Chief Executive, School of Advanced Study