

## Senate

Paper Title	Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 13 October 2016.		
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to <b>approve</b> the minutes of the last meeting		
Points for Senate members to note and further information	n/a		
Questions for Senate to consider	n/a		
Regulatory/statutory reference points	n/a		
Strategy and risk	n/a		
Reporting/ consideration route for the paper	Senate to approve.		
Authors	Jane Pallant, Deputy Academic Registrar		
Sponsor	Professor Simon Gaskell, President and Principal		



## Senate

## Minutes of 13 October 2016 (unconfirmed)

Professor Simon Gaskell (Chair) Professor Adrian Armstrong Professor Alison Blunt Dr Jenny Chamarette Professor Adam Fagan Dr Andrejs Ivanov Professor David Lee Professor Seán McConville Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas Professor Thomas Prellberg Dr Isobel Roele Professor William Spence	Sumeera Ahmad Professor David Arrowsmith Professor Frances Bowen Dr Colleen Cotter Dr Danë Goodsman Dr Robert Janes Professor Rebecca Lingwood Professor Peter McOwan Professor Mauro Perretti Dr kitt price Professor David Sadler Dr Christopher Tyson	Professor Robert Allaker Miranda Black Dr John Buchanan Professor Markman Ellis Professor Matthew Hilton Mahnur Khan Hashim Mastan Dr Kamyar Mehran Dr Chris Phillips Dr Mark Roberts Professor Adrian Smith
<b>In attendance:</b> Dan Burke	Jonathan Morgan	Jane Pallant (Secretary)
Apologies: Dr Russell Binions Dr Melania Capasso Professor Lucinda Hall Professor Boris Khoruzhenko Professor Sujoy Mukerji Jane Reid Dr Anwar Tappuni Professor Anthony Warrens	Professor Edmund Burke Professor Mike Curtis Professor Graham Hitman Professor Nicholas Lemoine Dr Sandra Nicholson Professor Julia Shelton Professor Steve Thornton	Professor James Busfield Dr Sebastian del Bano Rollin Dr Henri Huijberts Professor Spyros Maniatis Professor Richard Pickersgill Professor Robbie Shilliam Professor Wen Wang

## Part 1: Preliminary items

## Minutes of the previous meeting (SE2016.01)

2016.01 Senate **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2016.

## Matters arising and Chair's action (2016.02)

2016.02 Senate **noted** an update on a matter arising from the minutes of the last meeting in relation to the Teaching Recognition Project. The Steering Group was considering the procedures for the recognition of other qualifications, including those awarded internationally, together with details of an appeals process. The group would report to Senate once this work had concluded.

- 2016.03 Members **noted** that the President and Principal had **approved** by Chair's action the nomination of eight members of staff from the School of Medicine and Dentistry to serve on the Fitness to Practise Committee. The nominations were made in accordance with paragraph 48b of the Professional Capability and Fitness to Practise Regulations which stated that each meeting of the Fitness to Practise Committee would include *'one member of the academic staff from the School of Medicine and Dentistry, drawn from a list of those appointed annually by the Senate.'* The following members of staff were appointed to fulfil this membership category until the end of 2018-19: Dr Nicholas Croft, Dr Will Drake, Dr Richard Grose, Dr Judith Jones, Dr Helen Liversidge, Dr Clare Penlington, Dr Wendy Turner and Professor David Wald.
- 2016.04 Senate **noted** that the President and Principal had considered and **approved** by Chair's action a proposal for the establishment of a Centre of Excellence, funded by the Dr Hadwen Trust. The Centre would be based within the Centre for Cell Biology and Cutaneous Research, Blizard Institute, School of Medicine and Dentistry.

## Terms of reference and membership (SE2016.03)

2016.05 Senate **noted** its terms of reference and **approved** its membership for 2016-17. New members were welcomed to their first meeting of Senate.

## Indicative annual business plan (SE2016.04)

2016.06 Senate **approved** its indicative annual business plan for 2016-17, noting that additional items would be added to meeting agendas as appropriate.

## **President and Principal's Report**

- 2016.07 The President and Principal **reported** that:
  - (i) There was continued unease across the sector as the Higher Education Bill progressed through Parliament. The President and Principal had appeared before the Public Bill Committee along with other representatives from the sector, including Universities UK. There would be further consideration of the HE Bill by the House of Lords and the President and Principal would be involved in briefing members of the House of Lords prior to the next stage of discussions.
  - (ii) The Higher Education Bill raised concerns relating to the preservation of the reputation UK Higher Education since some elements of the HE Bill inadvertently jeopardised this hard-won strength; further, it was important to retain the concept of institutional autonomy. Senate members were advised that that these points had been made directly to ministers by individuals and through Universities UK.
  - (iii) QMUL was indebted to colleagues who had been involved in the recruitment of students throughout the year and during confirmation and clearing. Ambitious targets had been set for

2016 entry and staff had worked extremely hard to achieve many of these objectives. Planning for future recruitment cycles would be considered during the 2016-17 Planning and Accountability Review process.

- (iv) An all-staff email had been circulated in response to reports from another institution where a contractor had placed restrictions on the nationalities of academics who might be involved in the fulfilment of a contract to provide policy advice. QMUL had stated that it would not accept stipulations associated with research or contract funding that restricted academic involvement on any basis except expertise and experience.
- (v) Succession planning was underway for the appointment of a new Chair of Council to succeed Sir Nicholas Montagu. Further, the President and Principal had announced his intention to stand down from summer 2017. A specialist recruitment agency had been engaged to assist with the appointment of both roles and QMUL could be confident that the agency would identify candidates who understood QMUL and shared its values.

## Vice-Principals' Reports (SE2016.05a-SE2016.05F)

- 2016.08 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Health), (SE2016.05a). Members noted that:
  - (i) Following positive engagement with the General Medical Council (GMC) the School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD) aimed to accept the first cohort on to the MBBS in Malta in September 2017.
  - (ii) The School was considering the possibility of increasing student numbers on the MBBS in London, following the announcement by the Secretary of State for Health that funding would be made available for an additional 1500 student places in medical schools.
  - (iii) SMD had been pleased to note its position in recently published national league tables. These outcomes complemented the School's results in the National Student Survey 2016: 94% overall satisfaction for Medicine; 95% overall satisfaction for Dentistry.
  - (iv) QMUL and Barts Health NHS Trust were awarded £6.5million for a new National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Centre in cardiovascular disease.
  - (v) SMD's Barts Cancer Institute was invited to submit full proposals for the renewal of the Cancer Research UK Barts Centre, representing an award of for £12.2m over 5 years.
- 2016.09 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Humanities and Social Sciences), (SE2016.05b). Members **noted** that:
  - Professor Matthew Hilton had joined QMUL as Vice-Principal and Executive Dean for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in September 2016. Professor Hilton was formerly Professor of

Social History and Deputy Head of the College of Arts and Law at the University of Birmingham.

- (ii) The Faculty was pleased to announce that QMUL's social sciences would be a partner in the newly accredited London Interdisciplinary Social Sciences (LISS) Doctoral Training Partnership with King's College London and Imperial College. The partnership would provide up to 37 PhD studentships annually, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) from September 2017.
- (iii) There had been an active response to the National Student Survey within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, with a focus on understanding the reasons for decline in some areas and sharing good practice across the Faculty. Schools had prepared action plans and colleagues recognised the importance of a concerted approach to improving the student experience at QMUL.
- 2016.10 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Science and Engineering), (SE2016.05c). Members **noted** that:
  - The Faculty of Science and Engineering was pleased to have achieved the majority of its student recruitment targets for 2016, with a small reduction in the anticipated number of postgraduate taught students.
  - (ii) The Faculty had been disappointed by its results in the National Student Survey 2016 and was committed to resolving issues that had been identified for improving the student experience.
  - (iii) Professor Wen Wang had been appointed as the Faculty Dean (International) in addition to his role as Head of the School of Engineering and Materials Science. Professor Wang would lead on the development of existing collaborations and the formulation of a Faculty-wide strategy for developing new international activity.
  - (iv) A notable example of the Faculty's research strength was the work of Dr Guillem Anglada-Escudé and his team in the identification of Proxima b, an Earth-sized planet orbiting Proxima Centauri at the right distance for liquid water to exist. This research garnered a large amount of publicity and featured on the cover of *Nature* on 25 August 2016.
  - (v) Work continued in partnership with the Human Resources Directorate to develop the institutional submission for the Athena SWAN silver award. The School of Biological and Chemical Sciences and the School of Mathematical Sciences were also working on submissions for Athena SWAN revalidation.
- 2016.11 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Student Experience, Teaching and Learning), (SE2016.05d). Members **noted** that:

- (i) The confirmation and clearing operations of 2016 had been successful with staff efforts enabling the undergraduate target to be exceeded. Postgraduate taught recruitment was slightly below target, with a short fall in new international students.
- (ii) Faculties had submitted plans for using the resource allocated to prepare for the 2017-18 launch of the QMUL Model. The plans had been considered and decisions communicated to schools and institutes.
- (iii) Senate had agreed in June 2016 that a QMUL-wide consultation would be undertaken to explore a reconfiguration of the current 15-credit module structure. Several schools had requested that 10-credit modules should be introduced to allow greater flexibility in programme design. The outcomes of the consultation would be considered by Senate in 2017.
- (iv) A Teaching Space Utilisation Task and Finish Group had been established to explore how QMUL might make the best use of its space and learning resources.
- (v) The NSS and Postgraduate Taught Experience Surveys (PTES) results had indicated different levels of satisfaction among undergraduate and postgraduate students. The PTES survey indicated increased scores across 35 out of 36 questions compared to 2015, and respondents were most satisfied with teaching and learning (87.1%). However, QMUL continued to perform below sector averages and participating Russell Group institutions across many categories of the PTES.
- (vi) The NSS results were less positive with a decline in QMUL's performance; overall satisfaction had fallen to 84% in 2016 from 88% in 2015. A decline in satisfaction had been reported across most questions in the survey, with the largest decline in Assessment and Feedback (from 72% in 2015 to 66% in 2016). Despite these scores falling behind the sector average, QMUL remained top of the London-based Russell Group universities. The student experience was a priority for QMUL and planning processes for 2016-17 would be focused on this area.
- 2016.12 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Research), (SE2016.05e). Members **noted** that:
  - A programme to support new research engagement initiatives in 2016-17 called CritQues (Critical Questions at Queen Mary) had been launched and researchers were invited to submit expressions of interest by mid-October 2016.
  - (ii) The Stern Review of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) had been released in July and made a number of recommendations for changes to the REF. Schools and institutes

had been asked for their comments on the consultation questions to be incorporated in to the QMUL response.

- (iii) QMUL and other major London higher education institutions had presented at a recent MedCity organised 'Collaborate to Innovate' event which was aimed at matching life sciences research and innovation to interested businesses.
- (iv) Discussions were underway with the leads of the four Life Sciences research centres (Genomic Medicine, Bioengineering, Mind in Society and Computational Biology) on funding and activity arrangements for 2016-17.

# 2016.13 Senate received a **report** from the Vice-Principal (International), (SEN2016.05f) Members **noted** that:

- (i) The Outward Student Mobility Task and Finish Group had concluded its work in the summer of 2016 with a number of recommendations including the appointment of an academic lead for outward student mobility, greater coordination of advice for students and enhanced financial support, further consideration of four-year undergraduate degree models incorporating a year abroad and wider recognition of the benefits of diverse forms of outward mobility.
- (ii) A visit to India was planned for November 2016 with participation from ten schools. The benefits of the 'VP-led tour' format that had been planned included access to decision makers in government and universities, cross-fertilisation of ideas amongst colleagues from across QMUL, and a strong presentation of in-country engagement. Previous tours to south east Asia, Bangladesh and Pakistan were generating a tangible benefit in terms of new partnerships for mobility and research, and overseas government-funded scholarships.
- (iii) Since the last meeting of Senate, the Partnerships Office had hosted visits several institutions including: O P Jindal Global University and Vellore Institute of Technology (India); Hunan University, East China University of Political Science and Law, University of Electronic Science and Technology (China); Universitas Gadjah Mada and Universitas Padjadjaran (Indonesia), and Thammasat University (Thailand). QMUL had also hosted the Russell Group International Forum in September 2016.
- (iv) The Vice-Principal (International) had visited Xi'an-Jiaotong-Liverpool University as a guest of honour during its tenth anniversary celebrations, and represented QMUL at the formal opening ceremony for the new cohort of students on the joint programme with Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications.

- (v) The Confucius Institute's first annual meeting received a report on a number of activities with QMUL's partner, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. A successful eight-week summer school had been held for QMUL students in Shanghai, supported by the Chinese Embassy in London.
- (vi) The Vice-Principal (International) was leading QMUL discussions on ways to support refugee academics from Syria and had attended a round-table discussion hosted by the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA) on this theme.
- 2016.14 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Public Engagement and Student Enterprise), (SE2016.05g). Members **noted** that:
  - QMUL had been awarded the National Co-Ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) Watermark, recognising the institutional cultures supporting excellence in public engagement. QMUL was the first higher education institution to attain this accreditation, with the level of award to be announced later in 2016.
  - (ii) The Centre for Public Engagement had been allocated over £90k from QMUL's Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF).
  - (iii) Nominations for the Engagement and Enterprise Awards 2016 would open in November to recognise excellence in the application of QMUL research and learning through work in public engagement, academic innovation, student enterprise and public relations.
  - (iv) Two of the enterprise programmes offered through Careers and Enterprise were being trialled for inclusion in the QMUL Model.

## Students' Union President's report

- 2016.15 The Students' Union President **reported** that:
  - (i) The Students' Union had been very busy with a quinquennial governance review and work on the next iteration of its strategic plan.
  - (ii) The Students' Union was engaged in developing a sexual harassment policy together with QMUL. It was anticipated that working in partnership would have greater impact and would help embed a cross-institutional approach to incidents of harassment.
  - (iii) QMSU was raising awareness among students of the Teaching Excellence Framework. An event was planned for Halloween with themed activities to engage students in this new process.
  - (iv) The Vice-President (Education) was working to secure more study space for students. Rooms had been made available in the Bancroft building and their use was being monitored.

- (v) The Students' Union was keen to explore the consistency of QMUL's policy on extenuating circumstances across schools and institutes.
- (vi) The course representative elections would seek to appoint a further 300 representatives to join the 100 representatives who would continue their roles during 2016-17.

## Part 2: Matters for information

#### **Teaching Excellence Framework (SE2016.06)**

- 2016.16 Senate **received** an update on the Government's response to the TEF Technical Consultation and the detailed specification for Year 2 of the TEF (submissions were required from participating institutions in January 2017). Members **noted** the following:
  - that a Highly Skilled Employment and Further Study metric would be incorporated in the metrics used for the TEF assessment. This metric would use employment in Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 1-3 as a measure of highly skilled employment;
  - (ii) That other metrics would include teaching quality, learning environment and student outcomes/learning gain;
  - (iii) TEF assessors would be mindful of the need to avoid placing undue emphasis on the information coming from the NSS, bearing in mind that stretching and rigorous programme design, standards and assessment could adversely affect NSS scores;
  - (iv) TEF ratings would be Gold, Silver and Bronze. The metrics would be averaged over three years and the results would last for a three year period.
  - (v) Commendations would not be issued as part of the TEF Year Two process. A 'lessons learned' exercise for Year Two would be used to identify where commendations might be most useful, including the consideration of new areas where appropriate.
  - (vi) The student voice would be included as part of the TEF exercise but would not be mandatory. The student body would have the opportunity to provide strong supporting evidence for providers, and each provider would have the option to allow student representatives to contribute to the narrative submission part of the TEF, set at a maximum of 15 pages.
  - (vii) There would be a process of collaborative design involving stakeholder groups and the TEF Delivery Group in developing a discipline level TEF which would be informed by a number of pilot schemes.
- 2016.17 Members further **noted** that QMUL had formed a TEF working group to manage QMUL's response to TEF Year 2 and beyond. QMUL was aware that some of the metrics used in the TEF were unfavourable to QMUL because of the nature of student intake. The QMUL Model would help to address some of the factors

cause by QMUL's intake and location although members were aware that these benefits would be realised in the longer term.

## QMUL Model (SE2016.07)

- 2016.18 Senate **received** an oral update on the QMUL Model, together with the QMUL Model risk register and the July and September issues of the QMUL Model Newsletter
- 2016.19 Members **noted** that plans were underway for the provision of an ePortfolio for students to capture QMUL Model activities including placements, internships, volunteering and consultancy. It was intended that the ePortfolio would continue to be of use to students after graduation.
- 2016.20 Members further **noted** that QMUL would participate in the Higher Education Academy's (HEA) social capital diagnostic tool pre-launch scheme during 2016-17. The HEA had developed an on-line tool to assess and track the development of students' skills and attributes throughout their studies. If successful, the tool might be useable by QMUL for a skills audit at the start of a student's programme to help inform their QMUL Model option choices to ensure that these were targeted towards the development of skills most relevant to their postgraduate aspirations.

## Part 3: Matters for consideration

## Academic Governance Framework (SE2016.08)

2016.21 Senate **considered** and **approved** a revised Academic Governance Framework, updated for 2016 onwards following the conclusion of the internal review of academic governance held during 2015-16. Members **noted** that the revisions included the role of the Doctoral College and the facility for other cross-Faculty structures, together with an annual evaluation process for the effectiveness of the academic governance framework.

## HEFCE Annual Provider Review (SE2016.09)

- 2016.22 Senate **received** an update on QMUL's compliance with HEFCE's revised operating model for quality assessment.
- 2016.23 Senate **considered** the evidence and proposed action for recommending that full assurance could be provided to HEFCE on 1 December 2016 in relation to the following statements from HEFCE:
  - The governing body has received and discussed a report and accompanying action plan relating to the continuous improvement of the student academic experience and student outcomes. This included evidence from the provider's own periodic review processes which fully involve students and include embedded external peer or professional review.
  - The methodologies used as a basis to improve the student academic experience and student outcomes are, to the best of our knowledge, robust and appropriate.

- The standards of awards for which we are responsible have been appropriately set and maintained.
- 2016.24 Senate **agreed** to recommend to Council that full assurance could be given in response to the statements of assurance. Council would consider the evidence and recommendations at its meeting on 26 October 2016.

# Research Degree Regulations (SE2016.10a) and Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes (SE2016.10b)

- 2016.25 Senate **considered** proposed changes to the Academic Regulations for Research Degrees and the Code of Practice for Research Degree Examinations. The changes had been recommended by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board and earlier drafts of the changes had been considered by Senate in June 2016.
- 2016.26 Senate **approved** the revised Academic Regulations for Research Degrees and the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes subject to clarification of the following points:
  - (i) The minimum requirement of ten supervisory meetings per year for full-time students (pro-rata for part time students) would be recorded on the student records system. Members wished to confirm that sessions where a student did not attend would also be recorded.
  - (ii) Senate members recommended that the guidance regarding interruption for students sponsored by QMUL under the Tier 4 scheme should be expanded to ensure that students were absolutely clear on their position in relation to their visa.
  - (iii) Senate members were concerned by the requirement for those students who were granted exceptional permission to attend their viva remotely to provide identification at the examination centre. It was agreed that the guidance on this issue would be reviewed further by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board.

## Collaborative Provision (SE2016.11)

- 2016.27 Senate **noted** revised policy and procedure documentation for QMUL's collaborative provision that had been approved by the Education Quality Board.
- 2016.28 Senate **considered** and **approved** a new policy for the approval and oversight of joint and dual awards.
- 2016.29 Members **noted** that a revised Ethical Partnerships Policy would be considered at the December 2016 meeting of Senate.

## Fitness to Study Policy (SE2016.12)

2016.30 Senate **considered** and **approved** a Fitness to Study Policy. Members **recommended** that Annex A on the guidance for a Fitness to Study Case

Conference should be amended to clarify the role of the person who may attend to support the student.

## Suspension of Regulations Report (SE2016.13)

- 2016.31 Senate **considered** the report on suspensions of regulations received between June-September 2016, together with the annual summary report for 2015-16.
- 2016.32 Members **agreed** that for the future, the Head of School/Institute Director for the areas with higher than average numbers of requests for suspensions of regulations would be asked to provide a detailed report to Senate on the reasons for these requests, together with proposed action to prevent the same problems recurring. Members **noted** that this requirement was not intended to be punitive but was intended to examine in more detail the underlying reasons for these requests in order that appropriate action could be taken.

## School of Foundation Studies (SE2016.14)

- 2016.33 Senate **received** a proposal for the formation of a School of Foundation Studies. Members **noted** that the School would be established to manage, administer and deliver all QMUL pathway foundation programmes, currently identified as the International Foundation Programme, International Science and Engineering Foundation Programme, Science and Engineering Foundation Programme, Pre-Masters Programme and the Clinical Foundation Studies Programme.
- 2016.34 Senate further **noted** that recruitment to some foundation programmes at QMUL had declined and that progression onto QMUL degree programmes following the completion of a foundation programme was less strong. It was anticipated that with QMUL's campus, location, reputation, range of degree programmes and depth of experience in this area, it should be possible to increase the recruitment of Home and Overseas students onto foundation programmes and, by extension, to increase the progression of high-quality students onto our degree programmes.
- 2016.35 Members **agreed** that Senate was unable to approve the creation of the new School of Foundation studies in principle; however, Senate **agreed** that further exploration of the proposed model for the new School would be undertaken and Senate would consider the proposals further at its meeting in December 2016.

## Ethics of Research Committee

2016.36 The Vice-Principal (Research) advised Senate that the current Chair of the Ethics of Research Committee would be standing down at the end of 2016-17. Senate **agreed** that the new Chair of the Committee would be a lay Chair with a member of QMUL academic staff appointed as a Deputy Chair in order to reflect the volume of work generated by the Ethics of Research Committee.

## Part 4: Reports from sub-boards of Senate

## Taught Programmes Board (SE2016.15)

2016.37 Senate approved the terms of reference and membership for the Taught Programmes Board for 2016-17. Senate **noted** the report from the Taught Programmes Board which detailed academic developments considered between May and September 2016.

## Education Quality Board (SE2016.16)

2016.38 Senate **approved** the terms of reference and membership for the Taught Programmes Board for 2016-17. Senate **noted** the report from the Education Quality Board which detailed key items of business considered at the meeting held on 20 September 2016 together with details of a consultation on the QMUL academic credit framework.

## **Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (SE2016.17)**

2016.39 Senate **approved** the terms of reference and membership for the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board for 2016-17. Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the RDPEB between June and September 2016.

## Partnerships Board (SE2016.18)

2016.40 Senate **approved** the terms of reference and membership for the Partnerships Board for 2016-17. Senate **noted** the executive summary of the meetings of the Partnerships Board held between May and July 2016.

## Ethics of Research Committee (SE2016.19)

2016.41 Senate **approved** the terms of reference and membership for the Ethics of Research Board for 2016-17. Senate **noted** the executive summary of meetings held between March and July 2016.

## Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group (SE2016.20)

2016.42 Senate **noted** the terms of reference and membership for the Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group for 2016-17.

## Vice-Principal's (Public Engagement and Student Enterprise) Advisory Group (SE2016.21)

2016.43 Senate **noted** the draft terms of reference and membership for the Vice-Principal's (Public Engagement and Student Enterprise) Advisory Group for 2016-17. Members **noted** the executive summary of the meeting held on 29 June 2016.

## Vice-Principal's (International) Advisory Group (SE2016.22)

2016.44 Senate **noted** the terms of reference and membership for the Vice-Principal's (International) Advisory Group for 2016-17.

## Part 5: Other matters

#### Dates of meetings in 2016-17

- 2016.45 Senate **noted** that the next meetings of Senate would be held as follows:
  - Thursday 15 December 2016
  - Thursday 9 March 2017
  - Thursday 8 June 2017