

Vice-Principal Science & Engineering's Report to Senate

Since the last Senate report for Science and Engineering, the focus within the Faculty has turned to the Planning and Accountability Review (PAR). The Faculty Executive has met with all schools to discuss progress over the past year. This informs the accountability element of the PAR process. These meetings have been predominantly focused on the student experience, identifying best practice, celebrating excellence and exploring ways in which we can improve student satisfaction both in the short and longer term. The overarching strategic aim of the Faculty of Science and Engineering is:

“To build on its existing strength and to raise its performance and profile so that it is recognised as one of the leading science and engineering faculties in the UK, for its research, education and outreach provision, and contributes in full to QMUL’s ambition to be ranked in the top 10 in the UK.”

This strategy underpins all our activities and it informs our planning process. The major initiatives launched within the Faculty last year focused on developing our research excellence. This year we will concentrate on improving the student experience and on ensuring that the improved experience is reflected in the NSS. The Faculty’s latest NSS results were disappointing and it is critically important that we respond to the issues that have been raised by our students.

A particular example of outstanding student engagement within the Faculty is the Formula Student project. This year, 43 students from eight schools (mainly in S&E, but also with students from HSS and SMD) have worked together to represent Queen Mary in the global racing car competition organised by IMechE. The diverse activities include the analysis of technical aspects of the chassis, engine and electrical components. In addition, they include finance, sponsorship, marketing and administration. One of the goals is to improve the student experience and to prepare our students for the challenges that they will face in the workplace after they graduate. The Faculty is working to integrate this exciting project into the QMUL Model and to employ it within our strategy to improve student recruitment.

We are currently recruiting three new Deputy Deans. The Deputy Dean for Student Experience and the Deputy Dean for Graduate Opportunities will work with the Dean for Taught Programmes in providing leadership across the Faculty in relation to the student experience and graduate opportunities. They will be pivotal in preparations within the Faculty for TEF, with the aim of achieving excellence in all aspects of the student experience and the enhancement of graduate opportunities.

The Deputy Dean for Research Impact will work with the Dean for Research to strengthen the environment within the Faculty for supporting our research impact agenda. We aim to build upon our network of industrial and public sector partners to ensure that key stakeholders inform, and are informed by, our world leading research activities. The new Deputy Dean will also support the REF impact case study preparations within the Faculty. The closing date for applications for these three posts is 12th December and I look forward to advising you of the appointments in my next report to Senate in the New Year.