

Vice-Principal Science and Engineering's Report to Senate

I am delighted to announce that QMUL will be establishing a new partnership with KU Leuven. In the last Times Higher world rankings, KU Leuven was placed 40th in the world and it is first in the Reuters' Ranking of Europe's most innovative universities. Our agreement with KU Leuven will explore a number of areas between the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Queen Mary and the Science, Engineering and Technology Group at Leuven. We plan to develop shared conferences, symposia, seminars and workshops. Furthermore, we are exploring how to create joint programmes, starting at postgraduate level, where students split their time whilst studying between our two institutions.

As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to thank Professor Geraint Wiggins, who finishes his term as Head of School in EECS for his outstanding contribution both to the School and to the Faculty. EECS has thrived under his leadership and I am very grateful to him for the excellent leadership that he has provided for the institution. I am delighted to announce that Professor Simon Lucas will be joining us on 1st August as a Professor of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science. For a three year term (with potential to renew), he will be the new Head of School for EECS. Simon joins us from the University of Essex where he is a Professor of Computer Science. Since January 2015, he has been Head of the School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering at Essex. I am sure you will join me in welcoming Simon to QMUL and in wishing him success as he takes EECS to new levels of achievement.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to ask Senate to remember our colleague, Russell Binions, who passed away on 13th April. Russell was a Senior Lecturer in the School of Engineering and Materials Science and was highly regarded both by students and by his colleagues. The esteem he was held in by his peers was exemplified by his election to Senate and members will be aware of his significant contribution and collegial approach whilst serving as an elected member of Senate. Russell was also highly regarded outside of QMUL and his early promotion to Senior Lecturer indicated that he was on a steep upward academic trajectory which was tragically cut short.