

Vice-Principal Student Experience, Teaching and Learning's Report to Senate

Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) update: HEFCE has announced that the date for publishing TEF outcomes has been moved from May to Wednesday 14 June, after the General Election. The Higher Education and Research Bill was passed on 27 April. Notable factors include:

- the link between TEF outcomes and tuition fees has been deferred until 2020/21. Until 2020, the government is expected to allow tuition fees to increase by the rate of inflation for universities participating in TEF and meeting minimum eligibility requirements
- announcement of a far-reaching independent review of the TEF in 2019 that will report to Parliament
- the Office for Students will be set up next year.

In the meantime, the TEF2 lessons-learned exercise is underway and subject-level pilots have been extended to two years (2017/18-2018/19). Among other matters, the TEF Working Group is considering how best to gather evidence that may be useful for future TEF submissions.

Access Agreement: A strategic review of the Access Agreement was undertaken this year to make sure that the proportion of our tuition fee income committed under the Access Agreement is used most effectively to attract, and support the success of, those from lower income backgrounds and other under-represented groups. The conclusions have been incorporated into the 2018/19 Access Agreement, which has been submitted to the Office for Fair Access (OFFA). QMUL directs more resource to bursaries than most other institutions. In part, this reflects the make-up of our student population but the review demonstrated that bursaries could be more effectively focused, with larger bursaries aimed at students with the greatest need. As guided by OFFA, this more targeted bursary model allows greater resource to be directed towards support of student success and progression. We will ensure that we better communicate the scale and benefits of our financial commitment under the Access Agreement to applicants and students.

NSS and PTES update: The National Student Survey (NSS) closed on 30 April 2017. The final institutional response rate was 58.4%, exceeding the publication threshold of 50%. At subject level, the publication threshold was passed in all but nine JACS subject areas. The survey period has been a challenging one for many institutions this year, with students' unions boycotting the NSS because of the proposed link between the TEF, which uses NSS results as a metric, and tuition fee increases. As a result, our response rate is lower than in previous years. TEF or no TEF, it is important for us to hear what students think about their experience, so that we can learn, respond and make improvements where we can. It is hoped, therefore, that the data we will have will not be compromised; a concern for the sector as a whole. It should be noted that these NSS results do not contribute to the TEF awards to be announced in June and, with the last-minute amendments to the Higher Education and Research Bill, the link between fee increases and TEF outcomes has been delayed until 2020/21. The Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey closes on 28 May. The response rate was at 33% on 23 May, which is about 4% lower than last year. Thanks to everyone who has helped promote the surveys this year to encourage students to share their views.

QMUL Model: As a dedicated newsletter for the QMUL Model was circulated quite recently (18 April), which gives some detail: <http://connect.qmul.ac.uk/images/194699.pdf>. PAR outcomes were confirmed in May, and details of the resource available to Faculties to distribute in 2017/18 have been communicated. We have further network events scheduled for June/July to update on the progress of the multiple workstreams, and plan to hold a drop-in surgery for the summer period. We have been successful in securing funds through our new three-year agreement with Santander to support the Model and productive discussions with external bodies continue with growing in-kind support from various sectors.

Queen Mary Digital: Three Queen Mary Digital (QMD) programmes have been identified for 2017/18 to develop our online learning portfolio. The first programme for launch in September 2017 is the MA International Relations (SPIR). Work progresses on preparing modules for the first intake. The QMD microsite is now live (<http://online.qmul.ac.uk/>), and the first programme is being advertised. Two more programmes are due to start in April or May 2018 and a number of programmes are under consideration for launch as part of the second wave in 2018/19.

QMSU Education awards: QMSU's annual Education Awards ceremony took place on Monday 20 March 2017. The awards provide an opportunity to celebrate the excellent work undertaken over the year by academic and support staff. The event, held at the Drapers' Hall, was really enjoyable, and a great reminder of the innovation and commitment of staff and students across the institution. Congratulations to the nominees and winners, and thanks to the QMSU for organizing the awards and to the Drapers' Company for hosting the event. A full list of award winners can be found at <https://www.qmsu.org/awards/education/>.

One Million Mentors: Queen Mary is working with UpRising to take part in the One Million Mentors (<http://www.uprising.org.uk/onemillionmentors>) project, which links mentors from the professional world with young people, and helps them get into the world of work. We will be piloting a project focusing on 20-25 first- and second-year BME students to assess the impact of the mentoring on academic and employment outcomes.

Faith and Spirituality Forum: The Forum is a joint QMUL and QMSU forum that has been set up to bring together those responsible for providing faith-related services to staff and students. The purpose of the group is to provide a discussion forum for key issues relating to the use of faith services and facilities and ensure appropriate policies are in place. The group, chaired by the Director of Student Services, will provide advice and make recommendations on services and facilities as required.

QMSU Elections: The elections for the Students' Union executive took place in March this year. The new student representatives have been confirmed. The full-time officers for 2017/18 are:

- President: Yasir Yeahia
- VP Education: Mary Ojo
- VP Welfare: Ahmed Mahbub
- VP Barts and The London: Rakin Choudhury

Full results can be found at: <https://www.qmsu.org/elections/results/>.

Malta MBBS: I am pleased to report that the General Medical Council has confirmed that it will provide a monitoring process for the Malta MBBS. As a result, we are in a position to recruit to the programme from September 2017. Formal offers are now being made to applicants and scholarships are available.

External consultations: QMUL has contributed to a number of national consultations in recent times. These include but are not limited to: the new Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey; subject-level TEF; the fee framework from the Office for Students; and the UUK degree algorithms survey.