

## **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

### **Vice-Principal's Report to Senate**

**September 2017**

#### **New Academic Staff in HSS**

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted an event on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September to welcome all new academic appointees to the Faculty and QMUL more widely. They include nine Leverhulme Early Career Fellows. Staff present were addressed by Professor Colin Bailey and Professor Matthew Hilton, who noted the rich and diverse research interests of new colleagues.

#### **Recruitment and Admissions**

Progress is underway within Schools and in relation to Faculty and University objectives to enhance recruitment and admissions efforts. School-level activity and discussion are highlighted at the Dean for Taught Programmes Advisory Group (DTPAG) and its new offshoot, the DTPAG-Executive (a subset of academic leads who are charged with strategy decisions), and confirmed at the Faculty Executive (Heads of School). More specific Admissions, Marketing, and Recruitment consideration comes through the cross-School MRAG group, which is fed back to the DTPAG.

As noted in the September 2017 Admissions report, the collective School/Administration response over the past year to downshifts in the Higher Education sector – i.e., improving conversion activity and supporting increased flexibility at the offer/reject threshold – was effective in terms of delivering an increase in “firm accepts” at UG despite a decrease in applications. Clearing and Confirmation activities in all Schools also deserve commendation in this context. Looking forward to incentivizing offer-making, such as making unconditional offers on predicted grades following interview, is another discussion point this year alongside the possibility of flexing the standard conditional offer if the applicant makes QMUL their firm choice.

Meanwhile, HSS PGT admissions has exceeded the expected target by a considerable number, particularly for overseas students

#### **Chevening Scholars**

The Faculty is delighted to be welcoming 89 Chevening Scholars, coming from 56 different countries around the world. This will be a record year for the Faculty, and makes Queen Mary one of the most popular destinations for students with these prestigious awards.

#### **Faculty Team**

Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas, Dean for Research, will be taking up the role of Academic Lead for Internationalisation from September 2017 until the end of May 2018. We also welcome the return of Professor David Adger who is stepping into the role of Head of the School of Languages, Linguistics, and Film on an interim basis.