



Senate

Paper Title	Students' Union President's Report
Outcome Requested	Senate is asked to note the report from the President of the Students' Union
Points for Senate members to note and further information	
Questions for Senate to consider	
Regulatory/statutory reference points	
Strategy and risk	
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	
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QMSU President's Report

QMUL Senate, Thursday 7th December 2017

QM Model

The QM Model is an initiative that takes a new approach to degree-level study and provides new opportunities within a student's studies to gain exciting skills and experience. The Union is currently assessing our position on the QM Model, how it works within our institutional practices and what we can do as representatives in the long term. This allows for some continuity from the Union irrespective of the Sabbatical Officers in position and we look forward to ensuring a commitment towards improving students' lives.

National Student Survey

Last year, the Union boycotted the National Student Survey (NSS). This was a policy passed by Student Council and stated we should campaign with the NUS to boycott the NSS (see the following link) <https://www.qmsu.org/pageassets/policy/Should-the-Union-boycott-the-NSS-6-Dec-16.pdf>.

The NSS and TEF has been de-linked from student fees and, whilst TEF may be somewhat flawed in its metrics, the debate has somewhat altered because of it. The Sabbatical Officers will seek consultation from Student Council representatives about the NSS and then decide whether to continue to boycott or not.

Paris Campus Visit

Union representatives visited the Students' Union of the University of London Institute in Paris to share practise and develop a relationship. We explored a potential relationship agreement and, importantly, spoke about the effects of Brexit and the importance of students feeling comfortable wherever they are located within QMUL. It is imperative that students feel the institution is open for all and this also applies to students who want to study abroad during their time at QMUL.

Zero Tolerance Work

Student Council passed a motion to ensure that two committee members of each student group undertake consent workshops, allowing group members to signpost services. Additionally, we hope to roll out consent workshops in the 2018/19 academic year.

This will run alongside the Dignity Policy and joint Zero Tolerance campaign which will be launching at the start of the New Year in partnership with QMUL. This also fits in with NUS investigating sexual harassment within universities - this will be the first survey of sexual misconduct by staff in Higher Education in the UK. We hope this campaign will have a real impact on our students and staff as a result of working in partnership.

This research project, along with all the work done currently by the QMUL and the Union, show how academically, the problems of harassment, bullying and

discrimination have not been addressed. The Union looks forward to opening this space for discussion to challenge the culture of entitlement and the abuses of power this campaign tackles across staff and student spaces.

Student Staff Liaison Committees

The Student Staff Liaison Committee review is underway. EQSB has approved a survey of academic chairs to better understand the procedure across Schools. This is the second step in this process and highlights best practice, establishing a level of consistency across departments which will ensure students are better supported in their roles as Course Reps. The Union firmly believes SSLCs contribute massively to student empowerment and engagement and welcome the review taking place.

StudyWell

StudyWell is a student led campaign aimed at highlighting the academic stresses that a student may face whilst at university and ways they can study more efficiently without burning out. The campaign also sets out to signpost key services within the university. We launched the campaign on 16th November; handing out recipe guides to ensure that students eat well and a coursework tip guide, as it is “coursework season” and students find it highly beneficial to have tips on how to do work without having an impact on their own wellbeing. The StudyWell booklet is also set to be released in early December.

Black Women in Science Conference

On 18th and 19th November, Mary Ojo, Vice President Education hosted the Black Women in Science conference. The conference brought together 180 students, including prospective students from local sixth forms who attended with their parents. It was an inspiring weekend with attendance from young black women who are currently in medical school, completing their PhDs or Masters. In addition to this, current students brought along books to give to prospective students. It was great to see our students learn, be inspired and give back! Representation matters and through events like this, students gain the inspiration to fulfil their potential.

Islamophobia Awareness Month

Throughout November, Ahmed Mahbub, Vice President Welfare has been running Islamophobia Awareness Month. QMSU takes a zero tolerance approach to Islamophobia and any other hate crime, and we are keen to project these values to the student body through a series of events and workshops. The campaign aims to address misconceptions of Islamophobia and tackle some of the ways this behaviour has been instilled in students from wider society. There is an exhibit located in the Students' Union Hub which demonstrates some of the misconceptions many have about Islam and addresses the positives of Islam in our society. We are also addressing the spread of Islamophobia through discussing the negative aspects of Prevent. The effects of Islamophobia on Muslims is also addressed via a screening of the film ‘Global Islamophobia’. This aims to engage students in understanding the effects Islamophobic behaviour has on others. External speakers will also present

this in the talk 'Untold Stories, breaking the silence' which addresses Muslim Mental Health.