



Senate

Paper Title	Significant Academic Developments
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to consider the significant academic developments arising from the faculties of HSS and S&E.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<p><u>HSS</u> Creation of a Centre for Poetry. Appointment of the Academic Director of Global Shakespeare.</p> <p><u>S&E</u> Commencement of QML-Nanchang Joint Programme. SBCS successful in bid to London NERC DTP. New taught programmes for 2014/15. SBCS and Maths receive ATHENA SWAN Charter awards.</p>
Questions for Senate to consider	n/a
Regulatory/statutory reference points and links to College strategy	n/a
Strategy and risk	n/a
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	Senate to note.
Authors	<p>Professor Jeremy Kilburn Vice Principal (Science & Engineering)</p> <p>Professor Morag Shiach Vice Principal (Humanities and Social Sciences)</p>
Sponsor	

Vice-Principal's (Science & Engineering) report to Senate (December 2013)

QML-Nanchang Joint Programme in Biomedical Sciences

104 students started study in September 2013 on the new joint programme. The majority of the first year teaching is comprised of courses in English provided by Nanchang University, with QMUL providing teaching in three modules. In addition QMUL is providing teaching support in Personal Development Planning and Study Skills, which also supplements the English teaching in "active" skills such as talking and writing. The first module has been delivered, in parallel with the PDP and Study Skills provision, and the students will be examined in this module in January 2014.

Three academic members of staff have been recruited to deliver the first year of teaching, together with administrative staff at both QMUL and Nanchang. Both Jeremy Kilburn and Laurie Cuthbert have met and talked to the students, and Simon Gaskell is planning to visit Nanchang in December 2013 to meet the new President, and to teach the students as part of the PDP and Study Skills provision. It is clear that future recruitment to the programme, and therefore its success, will depend on feedback from the first cohort of students, and both universities agree that these students should feel that they are being given an excellent and unique learning experience to justify the fees charged.

Natural Environment Research Council Doctoral Training Partnership

The School of Biological and Chemical Sciences (SBCS) has been successful in its bid as part of the London NERC DTP Consortium for a share of the 24 PhD studentships per year for five years funded by the Natural Environment Research Council. As a key member of the London NERC Doctoral Training Partnership, QML will offer PhD training in specialist environmental sciences in collaboration with higher education institutions and partners including Microsoft, the Institute of Zoology, the Natural History Museum, Royal Botanic Gardens and the Forestry Commission.

Taught Programme developments

Professor Julia Shelton, Dean for Taught Programmes, has organised throughout Semester 1 a series of lunchtime MSc Student Forums to engage with the current students and provide them with an opportunity to let us know what we are doing right and where they are not being supported, the third of which will be held in collaboration with the Careers Centre.

Schools are proposing a number of new programmes which have part 1 approval including Mathematics with Networks MSc, Big Data MSC, Freshwater and Marine Ecology MSc and Design Innovation and Creative Engineering (DICE) BEng and MEng. DICE is a SEMS programme including a collaboration with EECS which are planned to lead to a suite of new programme opportunities for 2014/15 onwards within the area of Design, Innovation and the Creative Industries.

QMSE approved earlier this month a pilot to allow SBCS to make some unconditional offers on their programmes to high-quality undergraduate applicants following the increased recruitment target of 120 additional students to the Biomedical Sciences programme from 2014/15 onwards – a key foundation for the Life Sciences Initiative. Post-offer Open Days have started in Schools across the Faculty, with a trial of holding some of these on a Saturday to make attendance for some more attractive.

Athena Swan

SBCS learned in October that they are the recipient of the University's first ever Silver level award in the latest round of the Athena SWAN Charter awards, which recognises excellence in recruiting and progressing women in STEMM subjects. SBCS was recognised for developing actions to address gender equality challenges. These include post-doctoral support while researchers are on and returning from maternity leave, a gender equality policy for speakers, and implementation of mentoring and recruitment practices to ensure all staff can progress their careers. In addition the School of Mathematical Sciences received a Bronze award which means that all Schools within the Faculty are now recognised in this way.

Research Grant Funding

The Faculty attracted almost £24M in research grant income in 2012/13 and the start to 2013/14 has seen some outstanding success in this area already with Professor Ursula Martin's (EECS) £1M Established Career Fellowship from the EPSRC, and Professors Norman Fenton (EECS) and Lars Chittka (SBCS) successful applications to the European Research Council Advanced Grants.

Research seminars

The multi-disciplinary Institute of Bioengineering and the Materials Research Institute, have both launched a series of weekly high profile seminars for staff at students, with notable speakers from both within and external to Queen Mary.

Humanities and Social Sciences – New Academic Initiatives 2013/14

1. Formation of the the Queen Mary Centre for Poetry: an interdisciplinary centre to support the study, composition and performance of poetry.

- To promote collaboration among researchers, students and others within the College, with a special focus on interdisciplinary work
- To develop partnerships with community and arts organisations which contribute to non-academic knowledge transfer
- To promote QMUL's strength in poetry and poetics to wider audiences in the local, national, and scholarly communities
- To generate research funding, and to support the funding applications of individuals and groups working on relevant projects
- To develop postgraduate teaching and recruit postgraduate taught and postgraduate research students

2. Appointment of the Academic Director of Global Shakespeare, a collaboration with the University of Warwick. Professor David Schalkwyk, Director of Research at the Folger Shakespeare Library 2009-13, and previously Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Cape Town, has been appointed Director of Global Shakespeare. The Global Shakespeare MA programme is planned to run from September 2014, and the first of three Fulbright Distinguished Professors will also join Global Shakespeare in 2014/15.