Queen Mary
University of London

**Senate**

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| **Paper Title** | Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 4 December 2014. |
| **Outcome requested** | Senate is asked to **approve** the minutes of the last meeting |
| **Points for Senate members to note and further information** | n/a |
| **Questions for Senate to consider** | n/a |
| **Regulatory/statutory reference points** | n/a |
| **Strategy and risk** | n/a |
| **Reporting/ consideration route for the paper** | Senate to approve. |
| **Authors** | Jane Pallant, Deputy Academic Registrar |
| **Sponsor** | Professor Simon Gaskell, President and Principal |

# Senate

## Minutes of 4 December 2014 (unconfirmed)

**Present:**

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| Professor Simon Gaskell (Chair) | Dr Russell Binions | Professor Alison Blunt |
| Dr Melania Capasso | Professor Susan Dilly | Dr Matthias Dittmar |
| Dr Steve Dunn | Professor Markman Ellis | Professor Matthew Evans |
| Imran Hussain | Dr Robert Janes | Matthew Mahmoudi |
| Dr Robert Janes | Professor Boris Khoruzhenko | Professor Martin Laffin |
| Carolina Mantzalos | Professor Seán McConville | Dola Osilaja |
| Professor Mauro Perretti | Dr Chris Phillips | Dr Thomas Prellberg |
| Dr Katy Price | Professor Nicholas Ridout | Professor Morag Shiach |
| Professor David Sadler | Professor William Spence | Professor Christopher Tyson |
| Professor Olwyn Westwood | | |

**In attendance:**

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| Professor Richard Ashcroft | Dr Esther de Leeuw | Jonathan Morgan |
| Jane Pallant (Secretary) | | |

**Apologies:**

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| Professor Adrian Armstrong | Dr Aylin Basan | Dr Adrian Bevan |
| Professor James Busfield | Professor Mike Curtis | Professor Jack Cuzick |
| Professor Adam Fagan | Professor Graham Hitman | Professor Jeremy Kilburn |
| Professor Nicholas Lemoine | Professor Steve Lloyd | Professor Thomas MacDonald |
| Professor Peter McOwan | Professor Valsamis Mitsilegas | Dr Sandra Nicholson |
| Professor Barbara Petrongolo | Professor Richard Pickersgill | Ms Jane Reid |
| Professor Adrian Smith | Dr Anwar Tappuni | Professor Anthony Warrens |
| Professor Ferranti Wong | | |

## Part 1: Preliminary items

### Minutes of the previous meeting (SE2014.17)

2014.41    Senate **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2014.

### President and Principal's report

2014.42    The President and Principal **reported** that:

(i)    The Chancellor's 2014 Autumn statement had announced a loan scheme of up to £10k for postgraduate students from 2016-17. This development was welcomed by the sector since it would support those from lower income backgrounds who wished to pursue postgraduate study.

(ii) The Autumn statement also revealed that £5.9 billion had been allocated for investment in science and research from 2016 to 2021, with disbursement through a variety of schemes.

(iii) Discussions had taken place between Universities UK and the Universities and College Union (UCU) with regard to the Universities Superannuation Scheme. The outcome of these discussions had been fruitful, with UCU confirming that action short of a strike would be suspended. The agreement included the commitment that any salary withholdings that had been made would be reversed. No member of QMUL staff, however, had indicated that they were taking action short of a strike prior to this agreement. QMUL recognised the importance of an attractive and viable pension scheme, and it was hoped a positive outcome would emerge following the constructive negotiations that had taken place.

(iv) A Home Office consultation on counter-terror duty responsibilities for universities had provoked much discussion across the sector. This duty was wide-ranging and included the obligation on universities to monitor views on websites or social media associated with the university, a huge task given the diversity of student views and affiliations. QMUL's Freedom of Expression Policy carefully screened events for potentially illegal activity, in line with many other institutions, but it was expected that the Home Office would require further modifications to policies of this type. A group had been established to look at the requirements expected of universities in more detail, and Senate would hear more of developments at future meetings.

(v) Work on the new Graduate Centre had begun with some disruption caused by the closure of access between Geography Square and Bancroft Road. The effects of this disruption had been mitigated by opening access through the Fogg Building at ground floor level, facilitated by Security.

**Vice-Principal's reports**

2014.43 The Vice-Principal (Student Experience, Teaching and Learning) **reported** that:

(i) The Queen Mary Student Survey (QMSS) had been launched in September, with the pilot providing some useful lessons for the future. A task and finish group to look at student surveys had been established, and recommendations would be made to Senate later in the year;

(ii) QMUL was exploring the possibility of offering some interdisciplinary modules to students with the aim of broadening the educational experience. Discussions were being held to examine the best way of launching this initiative starting from 2016. Dr Peter Lawler from the University of Manchester would provide the introductory lecture at QMUL's Teaching and Learning Conference on the 21st January 2015. The lecture would focus on the University of Manchester's experience of launching its own interdisciplinary programme, the University College for Interdisciplinary learning;

(iii) The Marketing Recruitment and Admissions Group had undertaken further work on the use of contextual data in admissions, following the external feasibility study undertaken in 2013/14.

2014.44    The Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Humanities and Social Sciences) **reported** that:

(i)    A Digital Initiatives Network (DIN) had been launched to facilitate cross-disciplinary work at QMUL;

(ii)    The Centre for Commercial Law Studies would launch its LLM in Shipping Law in Athens;

(iii)    Conversations were underway with the University of London regarding the University of London in Paris (ULIP). QMUL was exploring a Master's programme with ULIP, together with other opportunities for research and taught provision across the disciplines.

2014.45    The Vice-Principal (Research) **reported** that:

(i)    A new draft open-access policy was being developed and this would be circulated to colleagues for discussion;

(ii)    the results of the Research Excellence Framework would be released to institutions on the 17th December 2014. A meeting would be held with heads of school and institute directors to discuss the results before these were published on the 18th December.

**Students' Union President's report**

2014.46    The Students' Union President **reported** that:

(i)    The Students' Union was conducting a survey in order to understand student preferences with regard to the expansion of study space. Senate would be informed of the outcome of this survey at a future meeting;

(ii)    QMSU was pleased that negotiations were underway with regard to the possible UCU action short of a strike, and welcomed the opportunity to be involved in further communication on this issue;

(iii)    Students from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications would visit QMUL on the 25th January 2015. A number of activities had been planned to for the visit.

**Part 2: Matters for information**

**Assessment Governance Review (SE2014.18)**

2014.47    Senate **received** a paper summarising the next phase of the assessment governance review.

2014.48    Members **noted** that a consultation would be launched in January 2015, with outcomes presented to the March 2015 meeting of Senate.

2014.49    Issues for review would include the harmonisation of penalties for the late submission of work, the harmonisation of penalties for work that exceeded the specified word limit, mock assessments to assist students with preparations for summative assessment and the quorum for examination boards.

2014.50    Members were asked to submit responses to the consultation in writing and were reminded that programme specifications should be updated to reflect the revised award regulations for 2015-16.

**International strategy (SE2014.19)**

2014.51    Senate **received** the draft international strategy together with proposed interim support arrangements for the Vice-Principal (International).

2014.52    Members **noted** the draft international strategy which had been developed to align with the QMUL Strategy. Members suggested that the strategy should recognise the impact of delivering high quality programmes both overseas and the UK on schools and institutes, noting that QMUL had built up considerable experience with operations in China that would inform future ventures.

2014.53    Members **noted** that a task and finish group would be formed to develop the international strategy further, and that colleagues would have the opportunity to contribute to a consultation process.

## Part 3: Matters for consideration

**Widening participation strategy 2015-20 (SE2014.20)**

2014.54    Senate **received** the 2015-20 Widening Participation Strategy.

2014.55    Members **noted** that the strategy reflected changes in the external environment, with an increased focus on widening access to postgraduate education. The strategy incorporated an evidence-based approach to targeting widening participation activities, and included an action plan and targets which were aligned with QMUL's Strategy.

2014.56    Senate **approved** the widening participation strategy, and **agreed** that the strategy should be renamed the Widening Participation and Enhancing Opportunities Strategy.

**Education Quality Board (SE2014.21)**

2014.57    Senate **received** draft terms of reference and membership for a new Education Quality Board. The proposed sub-board of Senate would consider matters related to academic standards, quality assurance and quality enhancement on behalf of Senate, making recommendations to Senate as appropriate.

2014.58    Senate **approved** the terms of reference for the Education Quality Board.

**Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee (SE2014.22)** *confidential*

2014.59    Senate **received** two recommendations for nominations for Honorary Degrees of QMUL from the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee.

2014.60    Senate agreed to recommend to Council the award of Doctor of Sciences (DSc) to Ms Lucy Hawking and the award of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) to Mr Peter Barber.

2014.61    Members were reminded that the nominations process took place annually, and members were encouraged to maintain details of possible nominations as these became available

**Suspensions of regulations (SE2014.23)**

2014.62     Senate **noted** the report on requests for suspensions of regulations received between October and November 2014.

2014.63     Members **noted** that there were fewer requests than from the same period in 2013, and that only one of these was a result of school error.

**Research strategy (SE2014.24)**

2014.64     Senate **considered** the final draft of the new research strategy. The strategy had been considered by Senate at its meeting in March 2014, and had been revised following a consultation process.

2014.65     Senate **approved** the Research Strategy.

**Ethics of Research: new policies on research integrity and research with human participants (SE2014.25a and SE2014.25b)**

2014.66     Senate **considered** a new policy on research integrity and a revised policy on research involving human participants.

2014.67     Members **noted** that the Research Integrity Policy provided an overarching statement of general principles and confirmed QMUL's alignment with the Research Integrity Concordat.

2014.68     Senate **approved** the Research Integrity Policy and the Policy on Research with Human Participants

## Part 4: Reports from sub-boards of Senate

**Taught Programmes Board (SE2014.26)**

2014.69     Senate **noted** the summary of proposals considered by the Taught Programmes Board between September and November 2014.

2014.70     Senate **approved** the terms of reference and membership for the Taught Programmes Board in 2014-15 *(Secretary's note after the meeting: the terms of reference were approved by circulation after the meeting)*

**Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (SE2014.27)**

2014.71     Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board meetings held between October and November 2014.

2014.72     Senate **approved** the terms of reference and membership of the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board for 2014-15.

**Partnerships Board (SE2014.28)**

2014.73     Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Partnerships Board meetings held between September and November 2014.

2014.74     Senate **approved** the terms of reference and membership of the Partnerships Board for 2014-15.

**Ethics of Research Committee (SE2014.29)**

2014.75     Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Ethics of Research Board meeting held on 12 November 2014.

2014.76     Senate **approved** the terms of reference and membership for the Ethics of Research Committee for 2014-15.

**Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group (SE2014.30)**

2014.77     Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group meeting held on 3 November 2014.

**Vice Principal's (Student Experience, Teaching and Learning) Advisory Group (SE2014.31)**

2014. 78    Senate noted the executive summary of the Vice-Principal's (Student Experience, Teaching and Learning) advisory group meeting held on 22 October 2014.

## Part 5: Other matters

**Dates of meetings in 2014-15**

2014.79     Senate **noted** that the dates of meetings in the 2014-15 academic year:
- Thursday 12 March 2015
- Thursday 11 June 2015