



Senate

Paper Title	Minutes of the meeting of Senate held on 15 October 2015.
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 3 December 2015 (unconfirmed)

Present:

Professor Simon Gaskell (Chair)	Professor Adrian Armstrong	Professor David Arrowsmith
Dr Aylin Baysan	Dr Adrian Bevan	Dr Russell Binions
Professor Edmund Burke	Dr Melania Capasso	Prof. Steve Dunn
Professor Markman Ellis	Professor Matthew Evans	Professor Omar Garcia
Professor Lucinda Hall	Dr Henri Huijberts	Imran Hussain
Dr Andrejs Ivanov	Dr Robert Janes	Professor Boris Khoruzhenko
Professor Rafael Leal-Arcas	Professor David Lee	Professor Rebecca Lingwood
Professor Spyros Maniatis	Carolina Mantzalos	Professor Seán McConville
Dr Michael McKinnie	Professor Tim Warner	Dr Chris Phillips
Professor Nicholas Ridout	Dr Mark Roberts	Dr Isobel Roele
Professor Julia Shelton	Professor Morag Shiach	Dr Robbie Shilliam
Professor William Spence	Dr Anwar Tappuni	Professor Wen Wang
Professor Olwyn Westwood		

In attendance:

Dan Burke	Jonathan Morgan	Jane Pallant (Secretary)
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Apologies:

Professor Alison Blunt	Professor James Busfield	Dr Jenny Chamarette
Professor Mike Curtis	Professor Jack Cuzick	Professor Graham Hitman
Professor Nicholas Lemoine	Professor Steve Lloyd	Professor Peter McCowan
Professor Sujoy Mukerji	Dr Sandra Nicholson	Riana Patel
Professor Richard Pickersgill	Professor Thomas Prellberg	Dr Katy Price
Jane Reid	Professor David Sadler	Professor Adrian Smith
Professor Anthony Warrens	Professor Wen Wang	Professor Geraint Wiggins

Part 1: Preliminary items

Minutes of the previous meeting (SE2015.20)

2015.43 Senate **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2015.

President and Principal's report

2015.44 The President and Principal **reported** that:

- (i) The QMUL Guest Night had taken place on the 12th November 2015. This had been a successful event which provided an excellent opportunity to engage with the wider community and those with an interest in the work of QMUL; colleagues were encouraged to think about potential guests for

the 2016 event.

- (ii) QMUL had received two nominations for a Times Higher Education Award: QMSU's Olympic Legacy Project for its contribution to the local community and *Actual Experience*, a spin-out company through Queen Mary Innovation, for its contribution to innovation and technology. Although neither of the nominees was successful on this occasion, the nomination process provides recognition for particular projects. QMUL would consider further its position with regard to the Times Higher Education Award scheme further in 2016.
- (iii) The task and finish group dedicated to QMUL's compliance with the Government's Prevent duty had been considering QMUL's response to the guidance and training provision. The group was also working on QMUL's self-assessment with regard to compliance which was required by HEFCE in January 2016. QMUL recognised the importance of higher education institutions as part of the solution to issues around radicalisation, noting that there was an opportunity to be proactive rather than simply providing a mechanistic response to the guidance. QMUL would consider these issues more deeply and return to the matter at the meeting of Senate in March 2016.
- (iv) QMUL would undergo a HEFCE assurance review (HAR) early in 2016. This review would involve a brief visit from HEFCE to review the accountability processes that inform the annual return to HEFCE.
- (v) QMUL had been expecting a Higher Education Review (HER) from the Quality Assurance Agency in autumn 2016. This review had been postponed following the consultations on the future of quality assessment and the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). It was likely that QMUL would participate in a pilot scheme for the new arrangements once these had been determined.

Vice-Principals' reports (SE201521a-SE201521g)

- 2015.45 Senate **received** a report from the interim Vice-Principal (Health) (SE201521a) Members **noted** that:
- (i) The new Vice-Principal (Health), Professor Steve Thornton, would start his role in January 2016.
 - (ii) The School was engaged in the response to the General Medical Council's (GMC) requirements regarding the MBBS Malta. The detailed document would be submitted to the GMC in December and was due to be considered by the GMC in early 2016.
 - (iii) The School had planned a series of joint research workshops with the University of Malta; the first of these, held in Malta, had focussed on cancer research and six colleagues from Barts Cancer Institute had attended the event.
 - (iv) A number of research successes within the School were celebrated: Amrita Ahluwalia (Prize for Research by the Women in Science and Engineering Organisation); Professor Kairbaan Hodivala-Dilke (£1,357,505 Cancer Research UK); Dr Jesmond Dalli (€1.9m, European

Research Council starting grant); Professor Costantino Pitzalis (Arthritis Research UK, £285, 251); Dr Michele Bomardieri (Medical Research Council Industry Collaboration Agreement, £214, 841).

- (v) Colleagues from the Vice-Principal's (Health) team had met with Alwen Williams, the newly appointed Chief Executive of Barts Health NHS Trust. Discussions involved the consideration of how QMUL would develop its relationship with the Trust to align strategic planning and optimise communication. The School was also working with Barking and Havering NHS trust; QMUL planned to become the senior academic partner leading the planning and implementation of the Accountable Care Organisation project for UCL Partners.
- (vi) A successful William Harvey Research Day had taken place on the 25th October 2015 with contributions from over 200 staff and three key note speeches from Professor Patrick Chinnery (University of Cambridge), Dame Frances Ashcroft (University of Oxford) and Professor Tilli Tansey (QMUL).

2015.46

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Humanities and Social Sciences), (SE2015.21b). Members **noted** that:

- (i) Three summer schools had been supported at Faculty level for a summer 2016 launch. *Issues and Debates in International Relations* would be offered by the School of Politics and International Relations, *Shakespeare: Performance and Practice* would be offered by the School of English and Drama and a programme for teachers of French was under consideration from the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film.
- (ii) The Faculty was pleased that the Graduate Centre was progressing well and was due to open in January 2017. The Faculty's postgraduate taught student community was growing, with a 61.5% increase in numbers since 2010-11 (The Faculty had 1330 FTE taught postgraduates in 2010-11 and this number had increased to 2162 in 2015-16).
- (iii) The Faculty had seen an increase of 10% in research grant income in 2014-15, compared to 2013-14. Recent successes had included a range of new collaborative and international projects such as large awards from the Wellcome Trust and other Research Councils UK-Newton Fund sources.
- (iv) The QMUL Engagement and Enterprise Awards 2015 had been a success for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences with projects featuring in many of the 13 award categories. The Humanities and Social Sciences Collaboration Fund would support further projects for 2016, highlighting the Faculty's continued commitment to public engagement.

2015.47

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Science and Engineering) (SE2015.21c). Members **noted** that:

- (i) The Faculty of Science and Engineering had recruited well for 2015-16, meeting its recruitment targets with 4962 FTE

enrolments.

- (ii) The latest phase of the refurbishment of the Engineering Building was progressing well. Students in the School of Engineering and Materials Science were pleased with the refurbished teaching laboratory which had opened in November 2015.
- (iii) The cross-Faculty Institute of Bioengineering (IoB) had launched on the 8th October 2015. The IoB was a key part of QMUL's Life Sciences Initiative and served as a framework for ground breaking research from across the faculties of Science and Engineering and Medicine and Dentistry.
- (iv) Schools within the Faculty had completed their draft submissions as part of the annual Planning and Accountability Review (PAR) and the Faculty Executive was in the process of developing the Faculty submission. The Faculty intended to grow and improve its standing both nationally and internationally and would be developing a strategy to complement this ambition.

2015.48

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Student Experience, Teaching and Learning), SE2015.21d. Members **noted** that:

- (i) HEFCE and its equivalent funding bodies in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland were conducting a consultation on a proposal to improve information about learning and teaching, and the student experience. The consultation focussed on: changes to the Unistats website and the Key Information Set for 2017, information to be published by institutions about their courses for 2017, changes to the National Student Survey for 2017 and potential changes to information after 2017. A small working group had prepared a response to HEFCE on behalf of QMUL.
- (ii) QMSE had supported further exploration of the potential to develop Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, programmes that were tailored to offer an apprentice the opportunity to combine work with study towards a work-based degree programme.
- (iii) Grade Point Average (GPA) was being explored within the higher education sector since it offered increased granularity with the potential to improve student engagement. The move towards a GPA system had been endorsed by QMSE and was being explored further by a task and finish group. It was intended that a GPA system would initially sit alongside the honours classification scheme.
- (iv) A project to develop a contextualised admissions policy for QMUL was underway, informed by a review of current practice within the Russell Group. Progress and initial recommendations would be reported to the Marketing, Recruitment and Admissions Group.
- (v) The Queen Mary Student Survey (QMSS) had closed on the 30th October 2015 with a response rate of 21%. Over 1600 returning undergraduates had participated in the survey which was a huge

improvement on the pilot survey in 2014. Work was underway to ensure that messages from QMSS and other external surveys were relayed to students more regularly, with a campaign to highlight the impact of student feedback in January 2016.

- (vi) QMUL had responded to the HEFCE consultation on monitoring compliance with the Prevent duty guidance. QMUL was keen to ensure that a balance was struck between compliance with the Counter-terrorism and Security Act 2015 and the promotion of community cohesion and the protection of the role of a university as a place for debate and freedom of expression. QMUL had been alert to issues connected to external speakers for a number of years and had a well-defined policy and process in place to ensure that freedom of speech was exercised in a way that did not contravene existing laws in relation to hate speech or the incitement of violence.
- (vii) QMUL was part of a Russell Group consortium, led by the University of Warwick, that had secured funding from HEFCE to run a pilot project to measure learning gain. HEFCE defined learning gain as the improvement in knowledge, skills, work-readiness and personal development made by students during their time spent in higher education.

2015.49

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Research), (SE2015.21e). Members **noted** that:

- (i) Summaries of the annual research review meetings would be circulated to each faculty. These reviews would link with the Planning and Accountability Review (PAR) to assist with resource issues raised at the reviews.
- (ii) Plans for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) would include detailed work on ways to address research impact. The paper would be circulated to staff following its consideration by QMSE.
- (iii) The outcome of the review of research councils, undertaken by Sir Paul Nurse, had concluded with recommendations to bring the research councils under a new single body, Research UK.
- (iv) An all-staff update on the Life Sciences Initiative would be circulated in the coming weeks. A new group had been formed between Barts Health Trust and QMUL to strengthen and accelerate work in this area.

2015.50

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (International), (SE2015.21f). Members **noted** that:

- (i) The first meeting of the Vice-Principal's (International) advisory group had been held in October 2015. The group would monitor the implementation of the new International Strategy and oversee the work of regional interest groups and a task and finish group on outward mobility.

- (ii) QMUL had submitted an application to the Chinese Ministry of Education for a Joint Educational Institute with Northwestern Polytechnical University. It was anticipated that a decision on the application would be made by Spring 2016.
- (iii) The Vice-Principal (International) together with colleagues from the schools of Business and Management, Electronic Engineering and Computer Science and the Language Centre had visited Pakistan and Bangladesh. The group had visited universities, ministries and sponsorship bodies with a number of opportunities arising as a result of these visits. A visit to QMUL's Indian partner universities was planned for December.
- (iv) The UK Higher Education International Unit (IU) had organised a visit to Mexico in November 2015. The Vice-Principal (International) had participated in this visit which sought to identify opportunities for research collaboration.
- (v) Representatives from QMUL, led by the Vice-Principal (International) had attended a number of policy dialogue events which had included: a pro vice-chancellor round table at City Hall to discuss the impact of the current immigration policy on the recruitment of Indian students; the Brazil-UK Forum with the Coimbra group of Brazilian Universities; Kazakhstan-UK Forum organised by the JSC Centre for International Programmes (Bolashak).
- (vi) As part of the visit to India in December 2015, the Vice-Principal had been invited to join a ministerial delegation to Delhi led by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Minister of State for Universities and Science.

2015.51

Senate received a **report** from the Vice-Principal (Public Engagement and Student Enterprise), (SEN2015.21g). Members **noted** that:

- (i) The first Enterprise and Engagement Awards were held on the 9th November 2015. Awards were made to staff and students in the areas of academic enterprise, student enterprise and public engagement.
- (ii) QMUL had been a hub for the Being Human festival, a celebration of the humanities, which had taken place between the 12th and 22nd November 2015. A series of events had been held on and off campus, with representation from all three faculties and including collaborations between schools, institutes and community partners.
- (iii) The Vice-Principal's (Public Engagement and Student Enterprise) advisory group was well-established and provided support for and oversight of the large public engagement and student enterprise projects across QMUL.
- (iv) Significant progress had been made towards the establishment of joint training programmes with Barts Health on public and patient involvement. As part of the wider Life Sciences Institute

engagement programmes, a community festival had been scheduled for June 2016 in partnership with Whitechapel Vision, Tower Hamlets Council and a range of other community groups.

Students' Union President's report

2015.52 The Students' Union President **reported** that:

- (i) The QMSU Education Zone's Student Experience Survey would focus on feedback and all students would be invited to participate in February 2016.
- (ii) The annual Drapers' Academic Education Awards would take place on the 29th February 2016 with awards presented to QMUL staff nominated by students.
- (iii) The campaign for 24hr library opening had been re-launched in 2015-16, with a petition and student testimonies to support this campaign.
- (iv) QMSU was engaged in work to support the voice of postgraduate students with opinion sought from the postgraduate community as to how they could benefit most from engagement with QMSU.

Part 2: Matters for information

Government green paper (*Fulfilling our potential: teaching excellence, social mobility and student choice*) and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills' Comprehensive Spending Review.

- 2015.53 Senate **received** an oral report from the President and Principal on the Government's green paper (*Fulfilling our potential: teaching excellence, social mobility and student choice*) and the Department for Business Innovation and Skills' Comprehensive Spending Review.
- 2015.54 Members **noted** that the green paper contained the proposal for HEFCE and the Office for Fair Access to be replaced by a single body, the Office for Students. While there was some logic behind this move, it signalled concern that there may be a misunderstanding of higher education's core activities if teaching and research would be separated under the proposals.
- 2015.55 Senate **noted** that the green paper touched on the review of the research councils, undertaken by Sir Paul Nurse, and had raised issues about the future design of the research landscape. It was possible that the current dual support system could be under threat with the potential for two mechanisms for the distribution of research funding, governed by an over-arching body. There was also some disquiet about a possible breach of the Haldane principle, which seeks to ensure that decisions regarding research funding should be free of political or administrative constraints.
- 2015.56 Members **noted** that the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) would be introduced from 2017-18 with the first phase, or TEF 1. This first iteration of the TEF would be assessed on previous outcomes of the Quality Assurance Agency's review processes; QMUL had received assurance that it would be eligible for TEF 1. The sector remained concerned about the methodology for

evaluating teaching excellence in future iterations of the TEF. The proposals for TEF 2 and beyond were hard to predict since these would centre on learning gain, a difficult outcome to quantify.

- 2015.57 Senate was advised that QMUL would formulate a response to the green paper in time for the 15th January 2016 deadline. QMUL continued to engage with Universities UK and the Russell Group on these important issues.
- 2015.58 Senate considered the implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review, noting that the cuts proposed by the Department of Business Innovation and Skills were less severe than expected. Members **noted** that the nature of the cuts was accounted for by the move from maintenance grants to maintenance loans which would have a significant impact on students. Senate further **noted** that there would be a reduction made in the level of teaching grant allocated to higher education institutions in the coming years, with the distribution of this reduction yet to be determined. The Student Opportunity Fund had been cut by 50% which would affect QMUL's use of this fund for the future.

Report on Research Integrity (SE2015.22)

- 2015.59 Senate **noted** a report on research integrity which presented an anonymised summary of research integrity cases that had been reported to the Vice-Principal (Research). QMUL adhered to the Universities UK 2012 Concordat to support research activity, and would always investigate allegations of research misconduct. A task and finish group had been formulated to review QMUL's Procedure for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research and its Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Procedure to ensure that these mechanisms remained fit for purpose within the spirit of the 2012 Concordat.

Part 3: Matters for consideration

Teaching and Learning Initiative

- 2015.60 Senate **received** a presentation from the Vice-Principal (Student Experience, Teaching and Learning) on a new and distinctive new model for undergraduate education. The concept had been positively received following presentations at the QMSE residential, Council residential and the Senior Leadership Group meeting.
- 2015.61 Senate **noted** the following:
- (i) The initiative sought to improve the student experience and, importantly, to support the development of students' social and cultural capital, preparing them for the complexities of the 21st century and enabling them to make an individual and collective impact.
 - (ii) The initiative was set in the context of QMUL's distinctive features and values; it aimed to build on the wealth of existing opportunities in order to produce graduates with high levels of subject and professional expertise and the capabilities to exploit the distinctive attributes that they would develop during their studies.
 - (iii) It was recognised that the proposed initiative would undoubtedly support graduates' employability; however, its main focus was to maximise their

future opportunities in the broadest sense, ensuring that QMUL graduates achieve outcomes commensurate with their talents.

- (iv) The recognition that students require enhanced support in developing their social capital was something that had perhaps not yet been fully appreciated by government and others. There was a wide understanding of the importance of recruiting and retaining students and for them to succeed at university to secure a graduate job but this was not sufficient. QMUL recognised that social capital enables graduates to get the job most appropriate for their talents.
- (v) The proposals would offer a personalised strand to each programme of study (approximately 10% of credit-bearing study) which would be agreed with a personal tutor through a process of co-creation, based on the student's interests and aspirations. The personalised element of the degree programmes might include: attendance and reflections on inaugural lectures in order to develop critical thinking; exposure to top researchers; introduction to ethics and values; social contributions, work placements and entrepreneurship; community engagement in East London and abroad; development of professional and employability skills; challenge projects which might extend the existing QConsult scheme.
- (vi) The introduction of the Teaching Excellence Framework was not an overt driver for the scheme since QMUL would be proposing a major teaching and learning initiative based on its Graduate Attributes Programme at this time in any case; however, it was likely that QMUL would be well-placed through the initiative. The intention was that the future proposals would be distinctive and identifiable, enhancing QMUL's reputation and profile, while maintaining its values and strategic commitments to nurture talent regardless of background and to provide an excellent education and student experience.
- (vii) A consultation paper would be circulated to students and staff in January 2016. It was expected that the initiative would launch in 2017-18.

Intellectual Property Committee (SE2015.23)

2015.62 Senate **considered** and approved the membership and terms of reference for the Intellectual Property Committee. Members **noted** that the Intellectual Property Committee would have oversight of the Intellectual Property Policy on behalf of Senate.

Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee (SE2015.24) confidential

2015.63 Senate **approved** for recommendation to Council the nominations of the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee as follows:

- (i) The award of Doctor of Sciences (DSc) to: Professor Sir Venkatraman Ramakrishnan; Dr Christopher Smith; Professor Paul O'Brien; Professor Steve Legg.
- (ii) The award of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) to: Professor Judith Weir CBE; John Pocock; Eleanor John.

2015.64 Senate **noted** the nominations for election as Fellows of QMUL which would be approved by Council: Thomas Kielinger; Michael Smith; Nick Hillman; Heather

McRae; Laura Kuenssberg.

2015.65 Senate members **noted** that feedback would be provided to those who had made nominations to the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee.

Suspension of Regulations Report (SE2015.25)

2015.66 Senate **considered** the summary of suspensions of regulations requested during the period October to November 2015.

2015.67 Members **noted** that a large number of these suspensions were entirely avoidable, particularly in relation to the application of incorrect assessment schemes. These issues recurred in each report and members **agreed** that a task and finish group, comprised of Senate members and chaired by the Vice-Principal (Student Experience, Teaching and Learning) would look at the issues in depth and report back to the March meeting of Senate.

MBBS term dates 2016-17 to 2019-20 (SE2015.26)

2015.68 Senate **approved** term dates for the MBBS programme up to and including the 2019-20 academic year.

Part 4: Reports from sub-boards of Senate

Vice-Principal's (International) Advisory Group (SE2015.27)

2015.69 Senate **approved** the terms of reference and membership of the advisory group. Members noted the executive summary of the group's first meeting in October 2015.

Taught Programmes Board (SE2015.28)

2015.70 Senate **noted** the report from the Taught Programmes Board which detailed programmes and modules approved during October 2015.

Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (SE2015.29)

2015.71 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the RDPEB during October and November 2015.

Partnerships Board (SE2015.30)

2015.72 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Partnerships Board during October and November 2015.

Vice-Principal's (Research) Advisory Group (SE2015.31)

2015.73 Senate **noted** the executive summary of the advisory group's business considered at its meeting in November 2015.

Vice-Principal's (Public Engagement and Student Enterprise) Advisory Group (SE2015.32)

2015.74 Senate **approved** the terms of reference for the Vice-Principal's (Public Engagement and Student Enterprise) Advisory Group for 2015-16. Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered at the meeting in October

2015.

Part 5: Other matters

Dates of meetings in 2015-16

- 2015.75 Senate **noted** that the next meeting of Senate would be held as follows:
- Thursday 10 March 2016
 - Thursday 11 June 2016