



Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee and Ordinances A17-A19

<p>Outcome requested:</p>	<p>Senate is asked to consider the amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee and note the updates to Ordinances A17-A19 relating to honorary awards as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Introduction of a process for the forfeiture of honorary awards; ii. Clarification of the role of Senate and Council in the approval of honorary awards; iii. Clarification that the Chairman of Council confers Fellowships and the Queen Mary Medal, and the President and Principal confers Honorary Degrees; iv. Removal of the criteria for awarding Honorary Awards to ‘an ‘elder statesman’’; v. Removal of the restriction that an honorary degree of QMUL will not normally be conferred on a person who has already been awarded an honorary degree of QMUL or the University of London. vi. A number of minor typographical changes.
<p>Executive Summary:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Introduction of a process for the forfeiture of honorary awards</u> The Committee agreed at its meeting in November 2015 that a process should be introduced; it is proposed that the revocation of honorary awards should be decided on the basis of behaviour and/or views expressed that are deemed to be inconsistent with QMUL values or to bring QMUL into disrepute. This is in line with QMUL’s Freedom of Speech Policy. ii. <u>Clarification of the role of the Senate and Council in the approval of honorary awards</u> The Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee is a Committee of Council which makes recommendations to Senate and Council. The role of both Senate and Council is now clearly articulated within the Ordinances. iii. <u>Clarification that the Chairman of Council confers Fellowships and the Queen Mary Medal, and the President and Principal confers honorary degrees</u> This amendment seeks to bring the Ordinances in line with existing practice. iv. <u>Removal of the criteria for awarding Honorary Awards to ‘an ‘elder statesman’’</u> This terminology is considered to be outdated and is accordingly recommended for removal.

	<p>v. <u>Removal of the restriction that an honorary degree of QMUL will not normally be conferred on a person who has already been awarded an honorary degree of QMUL or the University of London.</u></p> <p>This change is proposed in anticipation of QMUL's formal acquisition of university title and the re-casting of the UoL as a federation of universities and colleges.</p> <p>Members should note that there is currently no provision within the Ordinances for the election of Fellows <i>in absentia</i> or in the case of the death of a nominee prior to election given that a Fellowship leads to membership of QMUL rather than an award.</p>
QMUL Strategy:	Effective governance supports the achievement of all strategic aims.
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	QMUL Charter and Ordinances
Strategic Risks:	None
Equality Impact Assessment:	No equality or diversity impacts are expected to arise from the implementation of the recommendations outlined in this report.
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee by email circulation Senate June 2016 Governance Committee 16 June 2016 Council 28 June 2016
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA:	No
Timing:	The changes will become effective from the date of Council approval, provisionally 28 June 2016.
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Date:	23 May 2016
Senior Management/External Sponsor:	Sir Nicholas Montagu, Chairman

Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee Terms of Reference 2016–17

The Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee is a committee of Council which makes recommendations to Senate and Council on the conferment of Fellowships, Honorary Degrees of Queen Mary University of London, and the Queen Mary Medal. More specifically, the Committee:

- [a] oversees the process for inviting and reviewing with due diligence recommendations on the election or removal of Fellows, the conferment or forfeiture of Honorary Degrees and the conferment of the Queen Mary Medal;
- [b] makes recommendations to Senate and Council on the election or removal of Fellows in accordance with Ordinance A17;
- [c] makes recommendations to Senate and Council on the conferral or forfeiture of Honorary Degrees in accordance with Ordinance A18;
- [d] consults with Senate and makes recommendations to Council on the award of the Queen Mary Medal in accordance with Ordinance A19;
- [e] makes recommendations to Governance Committee and Senate as appropriate on the criteria for the election of Fellows, the conferral of Honorary Degrees and the Queen Mary Medal.

Membership of Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee

- The Chairman (ex-officio) who will be the Chairman of the Committee
- President and Principal (ex-officio)
- One external member of Council
- One Vice-Principal nominated by the President and Principal

Mode of Operation

1. A working group will review all nominations and put forward proposals to the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. The working group will comprise:
 - The Director of Development
 - The Director of Marketing and Communications
 - The Vice-Principal (Public Engagement & Student Enterprise)
2. Nominations shall be passed by a majority of not less than three-quarters of the members of the Committee.
3. Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee meets once per year, and may convene additional meetings, including by circulation should matters requiring urgent recommendation to Senate and Council arise during the course of the year.

Ordinance A17: Fellows of QMUL

1. The Council may, after consulting the Senate, elect as Fellows of QMUL persons of distinction or persons who have in the opinion of the Council rendered significant service to QMUL or to the community, or with a demonstrable connection to or affiliation with QMUL.
2. Current employees of QMUL and members of the Council may not be elected as Fellows.
3. All Fellowships will normally be conferred in person by the Chairman of Council. In the absence of the Chairman of Council, Fellowships will be conferred by the Vice-Chairman of Council.
4. Recommendations to confer Fellowships will be considered in the first instance by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, which will make a final recommendation to the Senate and the Council.
5. The Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee may, after consulting the Senate, recommend that the Council removes a Fellow whose behaviour and/or expressed views are deemed to be inconsistent with QMUL's values or to bring QMUL into disrepute. Concerns about Fellows shall be raised with the Chairman or the Secretary to Council in the first instance and the Fellow will be invited to comment before a decision is taken.

Ordinance A18: Honorary Degrees

1. QMUL may confer honorary degrees.
2. The honorary degrees that may be awarded are outlined in Ordinance A16 1.7
3. Current employees of QMUL and the serving Chairman of Council may not normally receive an honorary degree of QMUL.
4. An honorary degree will not normally be conferred on a 'serving politician', including:
 - 4.1. Ministers of the Crown;
 - 4.2. Members of the House of Commons;
 - 4.3. front bench members of the House of Lords;
 - 4.4. other leading active members of a political party; and
 - 4.5. persons in similar positions in other countries.

However, honorary degrees may be awarded to:

- 4.6. back-bench members of the House of Lords, even if affiliated to a political party;
 - 4.7. a person retired from high Ministerial office, who is unlikely to hold a Cabinet office position again even if they remain a Member of Parliament; and
 - 4.8. serving Heads of State.
5. An honorary degree will not, save in exceptional circumstances, be conferred *in absentia*.
 6. Where the Senate and the Council have formally resolved to confer an honorary degree on a person, and the death of that person occurs before the conferment takes place, the honorary degree will be deemed to have been conferred, the date of the conferment being deemed to be the day preceding the date of death.
 7. All honorary degrees will normally be conferred by the President and Principal. In the absence of the President and Principal, honorary degrees will be conferred by a Vice-Principal.

8. Recommendations to confer honorary degrees will be considered in the first instance by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, which will make a final recommendation to the Senate and the Council.
9. The Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee may recommend to the Senate and the Council the forfeiture of an honorary degree where an individual's behaviour and/or expressed views are deemed to be inconsistent with QMUL's values or to bring QMUL into disrepute. Concerns about holders of honorary degrees shall be raised with the Chairman or the Secretary to Council in the first instance and the individual will be invited to comment before a decision is taken.

Ordinance A19: Queen Mary Medal

1. The Council may resolve to confer a Queen Mary Medal on or following retirement to any employee of QMUL, who in its opinion has made an exceptional and sustained contribution to QMUL. For this purpose, the Council will judge an exceptional and sustained contribution as being more than long service alone, and will look for performance and commitment beyond the normal requirements of the post held by the individual concerned.
2. A proposal to confer a Queen Mary Medal will be made by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. The proposal will be considered by the Senate and approved by the Council.
3. All Queen Mary Medals will normally be conferred by the Chairman of Council. In the absence of the Chairman of Council, Queen Mary Medals will be conferred by the Vice-Chairman of Council.