



QMSU President's Report

Outcome requested:	<p>1) QMUL Council is requested to note the QMSU President's report.</p> <p>2) QMUL Council is requested to approve the paper on the addition of the Queen Mary University of London Students' Union Deputy President as a further ex-officio student member to its membership and Terms of Reference.</p>
Executive Summary:	<p>1) The Students' Union President submits a report to every meeting of QMUL Council which highlights some of the projects the Union is currently working on and the key successes since the last meeting. The report also identifies some areas that the Union would like QMUL Council to be aware of, provide advice on or take action on.</p> <p>2) QMUL Council is currently composed of 21 members, of whom only one is a student. Having another student on Council will yield benefits in terms of improved understanding of the student population's views, which will better inform Council's decision making. This can be achieved without any fundamental change to the remainder of Council's governance or membership.</p>
QMUL Strategy:	<p>Queen Mary, University of London Strategic Plan 2014–19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SA2.2 - EA1.1
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	<p>Education Act 1994 and related Code of Practice; QMUL Ordinance C5</p>
Strategic Risks:	<p>2. High quality student experience throughout the student life cycle</p>
Equality Impact Assessment:	<p>There are no equality and diversity impacts that arise from this paper.</p>
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	<p>N/A</p>
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA	<p>No</p>
Timing:	<p>The President reports on the activities of QMSU at each meeting of Council.</p>
Author:	<p>Carolina Mantzalos, President 2015–16</p>
Date:	<p>8 February 2015</p>
Senior Management/External Sponsor	<p>N/A</p>

President's Report

QMUL Council, Wednesday 17 February 2016

Elections

The Union elections are currently taking place. The close of nominations is 17 February. The Union has ambitious targets set within the Strategic Plan 2014–17 indicators of progress, for this year they include:

IOP No.	IOP	2014/15 Outcome	2015/16 Target
8	Increase in involvement from international and postgraduates in elections	28.54%	30%
28	100% of all positions are contested in the Union election	55%	85%
29	To achieve 27% turnout in the election	20.5%	25%

Last year power, wi-fi and server failures all had a serious negative impact on voter turnout and we hope that will not be the case this year.

QMotion

QMotion Health and Fitness Centre has seen a steady increase in membership numbers over the years, but has seen a remarkable increase in numbers in 2015/2016 where we have reached our highest membership base of 3535 members in the beginning of February, which is over 300 members higher than at this time last year. Subsequently this had led to an increase of over 3000 visits in the January 2016 compared to January 2015. Concerns have arisen though that with this ever increasing membership numbers will lead to an inability to provide the first class customer service and student experience that we strive so hard to achieve within the same footprint of our current facility.

Highlights

Library Hours

As of 1 February the Mile End Library have extended their weekend opening hours to 8am – Midnight until the 29 March when it becomes 24/7 for the examination period. The Union pleased to see that QMUL has taken this step and extended weekend opening hours. We hope that the Student Services PS PAR bid asking for 24/7 library provision is approved.

LGBT Inclusion in Sport

The Union has launched an LGBT inclusion in sport campaign to tackle homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in sport. Sports teams will be wearing rainbow coloured accessories at our annual Merger Cup to demonstrate their support for the campaign. A pledge has also been made available on the Union website for staff and students to sign, if you would like to sign it please go to: <http://ow.ly/Y9KSO>



Student Experience Seminar

The Vice President Education, together with Education Zone members, the Education Representation & Policy Coordinator and the Vice Principal Student Experience, Teaching and Learning presented the Student Experience Seminar on the 10th Feb, to over 75 senior staff and lecturers on the topic of Feedback. The survey called "Fed up with Feedback" gathered a total of 921 responses from students, and the survey report will be produced over the next few weeks.

Get Active

Attendances at Get Active have increased considerably throughout the 15/16 academic year with weekly attendances now reaching over 500. The recreational sport programme has seen 1300 students participating in recreational sport since September, many of these are not members of a sports club or QMotion and rely on Get Active to keep them active and involved in sport whilst at university.

App

Over the past few months the Union has been working on finalising a QMSU App. The app will provide quick access to news, events and student groups as well as the ability to purchase memberships and tickets. We are currently in the final testing stages of the administrative functionality as well as reviewing the user interface. We hope to launch the app soon and start getting student feedback.

Welcome Back Fair

In Early January we hosted the Welcome Back Fair. There were over 100 stall in the Hub and Hive with approximately 3500 students attending. Feedback from students groups was positive and the event proved successful with the addition of Get Active table tennis, Drapers Gaming Booth and a Quest Radio live broadcast.

Survey

On March 11th we will be launching this year's Union Annual Survey. The survey provides the Union with valuable information to monitor our progress and plan for future years. It will be a much shorter than previous versions and we hope to hear back from even more students. Incentives will also be offered.

Smoking Shelters

The Union is pleased that the smoking shelters have now been implemented. Initial perceptions suggest that they are being well used. The QMUL smoking policy was launched on Monday 8 February to which the Union is actively supporting.

State of the Union

On Monday 25th January, Simon Gaskell (QMUL Principal) and myself held the State of the Union, where we gave updates on what the Students' Union and the University have been working on and answered a series of questions from students present in the audience.

Improving the BLSA Building

A £40,000 bid has been approved by the Trust of the Medical College of St. Bartholomew's Hospital which will provide significant changes to the BLSA Building. Some of this will provide much needed painting as well as improving the provision for students in the space.

Education Awards

The Education Awards ceremony will take place at Drapers Hall on the evening of Monday 29 February. If any member of QMUL Council would like to attend please email b.coales@qmul.ac.uk.

Carolina Mantzalos, President 2015/16

Request for additional student member on QMUL Council

Summary

A motion was taken to the Queen Mary University of London Students' Union Annual Student Meeting on the 8th December 2015, requesting that the Union lobby the University to increase the number of student members on Council. This motion was approved by the 248 students present. Queen Mary University of London currently demonstrates good practice with regard to student representation at high decision making board meetings, such as Senate (2x Executive Officers and 3x Faculty Reps) and the Taught Programmes Board (1x Executive Officer and 2x Faculty Reps from a pool of 4). The Union would like to see this good practice extended to QMUL Council as well, which currently only has 1 student member out of 21 Council members. The Union therefore requests that College Council add the Union's Deputy President as a second student member of Council.

Context

The following text which refers to QMUL Council's membership can be found in the QMUL Charter:

The Council shall comprise not more than 23 members such that there is a majority of members who are not staff or students of QMUL, and consist of at least:

[a] ten external members, of whom two are nominated by the Drapers' Company, appointed by the Council;

[b] the Principal (ex-officio);

[c] two Vice Principals nominated by the Principal in a way that may be prescribed by Ordinance, appointed by the Council;

*[d] the **President** of the Students' Union (ex-officio);*

[e] four academic staff members, elected by the staff of QMUL in a way prescribed by Ordinance;

[f] one staff member from staff other than those that apply in [e] above, elected by the staff of QMUL in a way prescribed by Ordinance.

College Council is currently comprised of 21 members; 12 external, 8 staff and 1 student member, which leaves 2 vacancies. The Charter clearly states that there should be a majority of members who are not staff or students. The addition of a student member would increase the number of staff and student member of Council to 11 (including the vacant Vice Principal position). This still leaves a majority of 12 external members, meaning no new additions would need to be made to the number of external members.

Currently, 54% of Russell Group Universities have at least two student members on their governing bodies, examples being UCL, Cambridge and Sheffield, each having 2 student members (Appendix 1).

Concerns

The student member of College Council can change every year due to the fact that the Union President is elected on a yearly basis. This can cause some concern as College Council will convene up to 6 times a year. The role for only the Union President to be on Council for 6 meetings, is a large and complex one, and would greatly benefit with the support from an additional student member, as well as making sure that there will always be a student member at a meeting, especially when the President may be unable to attend.

Objectives

- 1) The Union requests that the Deputy President is also made a member of College Council, as well as the Union President. The Deputy President is elected on an annual basis by the Executive Committee from among the Vice Presidents. The Deputy President is there to deputise for the President when the latter are unable to do so.

The Union strongly believes that the additional student member on Council falls in line with two key areas of the QMUL Strategic Plan:

- 1) SA2.2, *Improvement in student satisfaction as judged by the ranking in the UK National Student Survey (NSS) and the International Student Barometer*
- 2) EA1, *'enabling channels of communication through which staff and students may address key issues and influence Queen Mary policy'*. This is currently seen through student membership in a large range of QMUL board and group meetings. This good practice would greatly benefit this at Council level.

QMUL promotes the view of 'Students as Partners', and where is this more important than on the body which is responsible for overseeing the strategic mission, direction and affairs of the institution. With the most recent Higher Education Green Paper Consultation, the sector is looking at putting students at the heart of education, where they are increasingly seen as 'Students as Partners'. Members of QMUL College Council are there for their expertise and by increasing the number of students who are able to contribute and make decisions, Council will increase the number of experts on the student experience. The Union firmly believes that this additional student member on Council will improve the understanding of the student perspective when making decisions which affect the 20,060 students at QMUL.

The HEA's believes that *'partnership can increase student engagement and success, enhance learning and teaching and lead to benefits for staff and students. We support organisations and individuals in the development of partnerships between students and staff, and between students'*¹

HEFCE Guidance states that *'There should be a balance of skills and experience among members sufficient to enable the governing body to meet its primary responsibilities and to ensure stakeholder*

¹ <https://www.heacademy.ac.uk/enhancement/themes/students-partners>

confidence.² With student numbers increasing year on year, an additional student member would add to this stakeholder confidence, as it would create a stronger representation of the stakeholder number.

Carolina Mantzalos

SU President 15/16

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http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100202100434/http://www.hefce.ac.uk/media/hefce1/pubs/hefce/2009/0914/09_14.pdf [accessed 10:11 on 11/02/2016]

Russell Group Governing Body Membership

University	Membership
University of Birmingham	24 members in total 2 student members
University of Bristol	3 Sabbatical Officers 32 members
University of Cambridge	2 student members 25 members
Cardiff University	2 student members 28 members
Durham University	1 Sabbatical Officer 24 members
University of Edinburgh	2 student members 22 members
University of Exeter	1 student member 20-22 members
University of Glasgow	2 student members 25 members
Imperial College London	1 student member between 19 and 23
King's College London	1 student member 21 members
University of Leeds	23 members 2 student members
University of Liverpool	1 student member 21 members
London School of Economics and Political Science	1 student member 19 members
University of Manchester	1 student member 25 members
Newcastle University	2 student members 24 members
University of Nottingham	2 student members 24 members
University of Oxford	25 members 3 student member observers
Queen Mary University of London	21 members 1 student member
Queen's University Belfast	27 members 1 student member
University of Sheffield	20 members 2 student members
University of Southampton	16 members 1 student member
University College London	20 members 2 student members
University of Warwick	25 members 2 student members
University of York	22 members 2 student members

Totals: 10 institutions with 1 student member
 12 institutions with 2 student members
 1 institution with 3 student members
 1 institution with student observers only