



Executive summary of Senate 21 October 2021

Outcome requested:	Council is asked to note the executive summary of the meeting of Senate held on 21 October 2021.
Executive Summary:	The summary provides Council members with an update on business considered by Senate.
QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies [e.g., SA1.1]	n/a
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	n/a
Strategic Risks:	n/a
Equality Impact Assessment:	n/a
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	n/a
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA:	No
Timing:	n/a
Author:	Jane Pallant, Deputy Academic Registrar
Date:	10 November 2021
Senior Management/External Sponsor:	Jonathan Morgan, Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary

SENATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A full set of the minutes will be available online (following confirmation at the next meeting of Senate) at the following URL:

<http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/Senate/index.html>

Alternatively, contact the Secretary of the Committee: Jane Pallant

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Date of Meeting: 21 October 2021

Main Items Discussed

1. Sector developments

1. Senate received an update on sector developments as follows:

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech Bill)

1.1 Senate noted that the Bill had reached the report stage in the House of Commons. The current version is available as follows <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>. Members were aware that Queen Mary's current Freedom of Speech Policy was under review; the review would include the establishment of two groups of staff and students, drawn from across Queen Mary, to work on aligning the revised Policy with the amendments in legislation.

Office for Students: consultation on quality and standards conditions of registration

1.2 Senate members were aware that in November 2020, the Office for Students (OFS) had begun its consultation on a range of issues related to regulating quality and standards in higher education. The second phase of the consultation had closed at the end of September 2021 and built upon the initial consultation, seeking feedback on the proposed changes to some of the 'B conditions' of registration which related to quality, reliable standards and positive outcomes for students. The full consultation documents are available here <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/d10724c6-1b7f-4d3f-a974-960fef77aa91/consultation-on-quality-and-standards-conditions-final-for-web.pdf>.

1.3 Members noted that the OFS had indicated that the revised conditions of registration were likely to be implemented during the academic year 2021-22; this was unusual in that changes were not usually introduced mid-year so there may have been some resistance to this aspect of the proposals in response to the consultation.

1.4 The next phase of the OFS consultation would be focused on the quantitative aspects of quality and standards and would be launched before the end of the calendar year. This consultation would cover condition B3 which focused on student outcomes, together with proposals for the Teaching Excellence Framework.

Office for Students: report on assessment practices in English HE providers, spelling, punctuation and grammar

1.5 Members noted that the Office for Students had recently published a report of its review of spelling, punctuation and grammar in assessment.

[Assessment practices in English higher education providers](#)

2. Academic Assurance Report 2020-21

Senate considered and approved the draft Academic Assurance Report for consideration by Council at its meeting on 18 November 2021.

3. Approval of membership and terms of reference for sub-boards of Senate for 2021-22

Senate considered and approved the membership and terms of reference for 2021-22 for each of its sub-boards.

Jane Pallant
Deputy Academic Registrar
November 2021

