

COUNCIL
Thursday 05 October 2023

DRAFT UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Present:

Lord Clement-Jones (Chair)	Serena-Amani Al Jabbar	Professor Colin Bailey
Gil Baldwin	Ken Batty	Professor Kavita Datta
Patricia Gallan	Celia Gough	Professor Yang Hao
Indy Hothi	Isabelle Jenkins	Maryanne Matthews
Dr Natalie McCloskey	Professor Mangala Patel	Dr Anthony Phillips
Dr Alix Pryde	Melissa Tatton	Peter Thompson

In attendance:

Dr Sharon Ellis	Tahmid Khan	Karen Kröger
Dr Nadine Lewycky	Jonathan Morgan	

Apologies:

None

Welcome, apologies and declaration of interests

2023.001 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no declarations of interests in relation to the items on the agenda.

Chair's update (Oral report)

2023.002 Council received a list of the Chair's recent activities. The Chair said the Lords Industry and Regulators Committee, of which he was a member, had recently published a report on the work of the Office for Students (OfS). The report questioned whether the OfS had acted in the real interests of students or paid sufficient attention to systematic challenges in the funding of higher education.

President and Principal's Report (QM2023/01)

2023.003 *Minute 2023.003 is confidential.*

QMSU President's report (QM2023/02)

2023.004 Council **considered** the QMSU President's report. The following points were noted in the discussion:

- [a] The new QMSU strategic plan would be launched in mid-October and members of Council were invited to attend the launch event. The priorities strategic included: creating opportunities for engagement outside societies

and course representation; embedding employability within the curriculum; improving support for mental health and the cost of living; and improving support for students on external placements. The sabbatical officers had met with the University's Senior Executive Team and was optimistic about the scope for collaboration.

- [b] Council said it was pleased that the sabbatical officers were working closely with the University and asked how QMSU could help to improve National Student Survey outcomes in areas such as assessment and feedback. The sabbatical officers could help to flag emerging issues and there was a project underway in the current year to review the process for considering students with extenuating circumstances in the context of assessment. Inconsistencies across the University in how the process was being applied were having a negative impact on the student experience.
- [c] The QMSU Vice-President (Welfare) was working on a long-term plan for contemplation spaces on campus which would help support inclusivity. QMSU had established a postgraduate consultation group to gather more information about how to engage with this growing group of students. The QMSU Vice-President (Communities) was leading on work to create dedicated events for postgraduates, the first of which had proved popular.
- [d] Council asked the QMSU President what was needed to accelerate improvement in student employability and how the needs of different groups of students could be addressed. Students need to be engaged with employability throughout their studies and given tools to think about how to apply their learning to their chosen career path.

Strategic Risk Register and KPIs (QM2023/03)

2023.005 *Minute 2023.005 is confidential.*

Deep dive on the University's financial model (QM2023/04)

2023.006 *Minute 2023.006 is confidential.*

Update on National Student Survey (NSS) and Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) outcomes (QM2023/05)

2023.007 *Minute 2023.007 is confidential.*

Finance and Investment Committee minutes (QM2023/06)

2023.008 Council **noted** the minutes of the Finance and Investment Committee meeting held on 19 September 2023.

Current financial position (QM2023/07)

2023.009 Council **noted** the current financial position.

The University's response to a consultation on the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) (QM2023/08)

2023.010 Council **noted** the University's response to a consultation on the USS.

Audit and Risk Committee minutes (QM2023/09)

2023.011 Council **noted** the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 28 September 2023.

Governance Committee report (QM2023/10)

2023.012 Council **considered** a report from the Governance Committee.

Minutes of the last meeting (QM2023/11)

2023.013 Council **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 06 July 2023.

Matters arising (QM2023/12)

2023.014 Council **noted** the matters arising from the meeting held on 06 July 2023.

Draft agenda for the next meeting (QM2023/13)

2023.015 Council **noted** the draft agenda for the meeting on 23 November 2023.

Dates of Meetings 2023–24

- Thursday 23 November 2023 at 1600 hours, Colette Bowe Room, Queens' Building.
- Thursday 28 March 2024 at 1600 hours, Colette Bowe Room, Queens' Building.
- Thursday 16 May / Friday 17 May 2024 – Annual conference including Council meeting, central London, TBC.
- Thursday 11 July 2024 at 1600 hours, Colette Bowe Room, Queens' Building.