



Senate

Paper Title	Executive Summary of the meeting of Council on 11 October 2018
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the summary of the meeting.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	The attached summary is designed to raise awareness on Senate of matters that are discussed by Council. Council receives a similar report on the business of Senate.
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	N/A
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	For consideration by Senate only.
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Sponsor	Jonathan Morgan, Academic Registrar and Council Secretary

Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting held on 11 October 2018

1.	Summary
	<p>This report summarises the main areas of business considered by Council at the meeting held on 11 October 2018. Non-confidential minutes are published on the website after they have been confirmed by Council. Alternatively, contact Jonathan Morgan, the Council Secretary.</p> <p>http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/governance/council/council-meeting-papers/</p>
2.	Main items discussed
	<p>This was the first of five meetings of Council in the academic year 2018–19. The following items were discussed.</p>
	a. Council and committee membership
	<p>Karen Willcox, an external expert in senior staff reward, has been co-opted to the Remuneration Committee. The process to co-opt an external expert in property to the Finance and Investment Committee is nearing completion. There is a vacancy for an external member of Council which will be addressed in due course.</p>
	b. External review of Council effectiveness
	<p>An external review of the effectiveness of Queen Mary's corporate governance arrangements will take place in early 2019. The CUC Higher Education Code of Governance advises governing bodies to commission such a review at least every four years. The last review at Queen Mary was conducted in 2014–15. There will be a formal tender process, overseen by the Governance Committee, to identify the external reviewer.</p>
	c. President and Principal's report
	<p>Council received a report from the President and Principal. Council discussed the positive student engagement with the Going for Gold strategy and were pleased that steps are being taken across the university to address issues with student retention and attainment. Council noted that student recruitment has been strong in a challenging external environment and commended the work of members of staff across schools, institutes and central services.</p>
	d. USS Pension Scheme
	<p>Council reviewed, discussed and approved QMSE's proposed response to the UUK consultation on the USS pension scheme. Council considers that the JEP report offers a pragmatic way forward and hopes that it will be supported by institutions and staff across the sector. On the recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee, Council also concluded that the increased employer contributions recommended in the JEP report could be afforded, provided that they were met from savings and increases in income, given the vulnerability of current cash generation to anticipated changes in the external environment.</p>
	e. Private Placement approval
	<p>Council considered and approved a recommendation from the Finance and Investment Committee to authorise the President and Principal and the Finance Director to complete a private placement transaction, the principles of which had been</p>

	approved by Council in July 2018. This will enable the university to consolidate some of its current borrowing on a more secure footing and to fund infrastructure developments, in particular a new business school building and research facilities at Charterhouse Square.
	f. Other items
	<p>Council also considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an update from the President and Principal on health and safety compliance; • a presentation from the Director of Marketing and Communications on the brand narrative and guidelines; • a report from the QMSU President; • a presentation from the QMSU Sabbatical Officers on their priorities in academic year 2018–19; • reports from the Vice-Principal (Public Engagement and Student Enterprise) and the Vice-Principal (Research).
4.	Dates of future meetings in academic year 2018–19
	<p>Thursday 29 November 2018 Thursday 28 March 2019 Thursday 9 May and Friday 10 May 2019 (Residential conference including Council meeting) Thursday 11 July 2019</p>