



Senate

Paper Title	QMSU President Report, November 2018
Outcome requested	To Note
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Going for Gold Update• Islamophobia Awareness Month• Campus Games• Student Interns• Black History Month• Staff Wellbeing through Sport• Student Engagement Projects
Questions for Senate to consider	
Regulatory/statutory reference points	
Strategy and risk	
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	
Authors	Ahmed Mahbub, QMSU President
Sponsor	

President's Report

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www.qmsu.org



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Going for Gold Update

I am currently leading on workstream 4.2 of the Going for Gold project, which aims to embed student voice in Estates and will be developing future plans for teaching spaces at Queen Mary. Student interns will be recruited to run focus groups on the different teaching needs of the different schools, to ensure we are a world class learning institution. We are also developing mechanisms to enable students to report problems to Estates easily and to ensure there will be student representation on all levels of the Estates plans.

Vice President Barts and The London, Tom Longbottom has been working closely with the Estates team on leading workstream 4.1, which covers campus space and the 'sticky campus' project. This has involved firstly identifying 'quick wins' across our campuses, for example improving safety issues in Whitechapel with lighting and security visibility, more secure bike locking across all campuses and installing more lockers in The Dental School. These are still being identified and worked on. The next step is to recruit student interns to run focus groups on each campus to identify any improvements to campus space and safety and hygiene factors.

Vice President Welfare, Ella Harvey, has been working on the stream "Values and Behaviours" with Virginia Davis, with an aim to challenge any conduct that could put others at harm, including bullying and harassment. We have decided to centre this stream around sexual violence to ensure we can have realistic and achievable aims by the end of the year. The clearest objective of this stream is to have a reporting procedure in place by the end of the year to enable students can report any sexual violence they experience on or off campus and be offered the correct support and guidance. It is critical that the Queen Mary learning environment is a safe one to encourage people of all backgrounds to feel valued at the institution.

Islamophobia Awareness Month

November marks Islamophobia Awareness Month, and Vice President Education, Redwan Shahid alongside a number of societies are running a series of events including panel discussions and food stalls. The main aim of the month is to build community cohesion, explore challenges Muslims face within Higher Education and recognise Muslim students and staff as an integral part of the Queen Mary community. The month will culminate in the creation of a video featuring Muslim staff and students talking about their experiences at Queen Mary and being Muslim. We will also be highlighting our Zero Tolerance campaign and the reporting procedures for students and staff affected by islamophobia. www.qmsu.org/iam

Campus Games

Campus Games is our brand new programme, which is aims to engage students, staff and alumni to participate in different activities throughout the year ranging from a Park Run to a tug-of-war. Academic schools gain points for participation and at the end of the academic year, with the school with the most points receiving the Campus Games Trophy. We have been working with the University on their first 'Run for Fun', a 5k run that have over 280 students and staff signed up to take part on Saturday 17th November. No experience of each activity is necessary, with points awarded solely for participation. Within the first year, the programme aims to engage more than 1000 unique participants who have not and do not currently engage in physical activity. You can find out more about the Campus Games online: www.qmsu.org/campusgames.

Student Interns

Under the Going for Gold strategy, budget was allocated to hire eleven student interns to carry out research. Research areas include retention, commuting students, BME attainment and inclusive curriculum. Within a few days of promoting the roles on the Students' Union website, there were 2,843 unique clicks on the job page and we received over 250 applications! The quality of the applications were impressive and we were overwhelmed with the sincere desire to give back to the community that students expressed within their applications. We hope to expand on this work and recruit more students to carry out focus groups to inform the work that takes place in other areas of the strategy.

Black History Month

Black History Month ran throughout October, organised by Vice President Welfare Ella Harvey and several of our societies. The month featured several talks, a black-owned business fair, film screenings, meet and greets, panel discussions and stalls to recognise the contribution of black people to our society and to explore, discuss and celebrate black history.

Course Representatives

We will host an open forum for Course Representatives as a pilot and depending on the demand, will make it a recurring event. One of our key focus areas this year is to streamline communication between representatives, and this not only allows them to have a chance to speak to their Vice President Education face-to-face about any issues they may face, but also find out what some of their colleagues are up to. Furthermore, we are also looking to create an online platform within QMPlus to help facilitate better conversations between schools, Course Reps and Faculty Reps. As student voice is becoming an increasingly important focus for us and the University, it is imperative we do our utmost to offer support from a grassroots level.

Student Groups

Our Student Engagement department currently support 228 affiliated societies, 13 volunteering groups, and 7 student media outlets. The Students' Union are currently putting together guidance and policy on web platform conduct for student groups.

Community Volunteering

The Health Volunteer Fair is due to take place at Whitechapel in January. Barts and The London Volunteering Officer, Issmaeel, has launched (with funding support from the Campus Community Fund) the Sports Volunteering Award, which will be awarded to Sports Clubs who complete and log the most hours of community volunteering (through Students' Union Volunteering or Community Sport). Issmaeel also led a Big Volunteering Event in early October. In one day, 60 students accumulated 300 hours of volunteering out in the community, and reflected on their activity at a social curry afterwards. Issmaeel is planning to run something similar for the end of this term or January.

Raise and Give

Rethink Mental Illness was selected as the Mile End-nominated charity and The Cardinal Hume Centre, Maggie's, and Refuge have been selected as the Whitechapel-nominated charities. Overall, students raised £36,481 for charity last year.

TEF Update

It is fantastic that we have reached an agreement with the University that the Queen Mary Skills Award for students in Student Staff and leadership roles within the Students' Union and Students' Union special awards will appear on this year's HEAR transcript, meaning the extra-curricular work our students are doing with us is formally recognised.

Peer Mentoring

The Buddy Scheme sign up deadline was extended to the end of Welcome Week and saw the most successful opt-in year with 418 students signing up for a mentor and 188 mentors trained. After reviewing progress of the scheme, we are aiming to hand it over to the University with the final evaluation planned for early November. This year we have launched a new BLSA Mentoring Scheme, which looks to provide pastoral peer support to students within the School of Medicine and Dentistry, in addition to the existing 'Mummies & Daddies' Scheme. So far, we have opened this scheme up to First Year Medical Students and are in the process of setting up for Second Year students in Malta as well as our Certificate of Clinical Foundation Studies (CCFS) Students. We will also be extending this scheme to final year students, with mentoring support from alumni. The dental peer mentoring scheme, which has been in place for a few years, is also being merged into this scheme.

Ahmed Mahbub, Students' Union President, 29th November 2018