



Senate

Paper Title	Queen Mary Students' Union President's Report – October 2019
Outcome requested	Senate to Note
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject Level TEF Submissions• Student Experience and Learning Resources• Educational Performance Measure• Advocacy• Graduate Employability• Course Reps and Part-time Officers• Elections• Student Council Training• Report and Support• Gender based violence policy & procedures• WeMove Campaign• Welfare Training• Care Leavers and Estranged Students• Black History Month• Islamophobia Awareness Month• SMD Mentoring Scheme• Communities on Campus• Get Active• Campus Games Welcome Events
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October 2019

www.qmsu.org



President's Report

Subject level TEF submissions

As part of the TEF submissions that will occur in January, Vice President Education Annika Ramos has been attending the subject level TEF meetings in order to help staff understand the relevant data and how to use it in their narrative. This project continues to be an interesting source of best practices, as well as an insight as to where the common oversights are in the TEF submissions.

Student Experience and Learning Resources

Annika is currently working with the library in order to increase awareness of the services they offer. Due to the introduction of Semester based exams, the Library will be changing their opening hours over the winter vacation period to be open every day, except bank holidays, from 8am to 8pm, with trained staff from 11am to 6pm. Unfortunately, the Rolling Renewals project the library are undertaking has had a few delays, and the new timeline involves a rollout for January time. In the meantime, they have agreed to extend the borrowing limit to 40 books.

The work for Study Well has begun, and the Students' Union will be running the Study Well campaign for both exam periods. The winter Study well campaign will be from December to January, and will have involvement from Library, Sports, Advice and counselling service and other staff. There are currently over 20 events and activities planned for this campaign.

It is high on Annika's priority list to improve the provision of QReview within classrooms, and to introduce and expand the use of learning technologies within lectures for increased accessibility and inclusivity. She will be bringing both of these ideas to the E-learning Group and Teaching Rooms working group, which sets out to look at these topics.

Educational Performance Measure (EPM)

Vice President Barts and The London Megan has been supporting the pre-clinical and clinical reps in surveying the MBBS A100 students in gathering their opinions on how their deciles should be calculated for foundation applications.

Advocacy

In the 2018-19 academic year, the Advocacy Service continued to support students with academic appeals, extenuating circumstances, assessment offences, disciplinary and fitness to practise cases, as well as OIA complaints. There were 525 new cases in this period, a decrease on the 548 new cases in the previous academic year (October 2017 to September 2018). Although the number of academic appeals in 2018-19 increased to 255, from 234 in 2017-18, the drop in overall cases may be down to the decrease in appeals against deregistration for poor attendance, after QMUL amended its attendance policy. It is anticipated that academic appeals may drop in 2019-20 following the introduction of first semester exams in January 2020.

Graduate Employability

Annika has organised an event with a panel comprised of alumni and industry professionals who will talk about their experience of changing degrees from the subject they took at university. This is set to happen in early October, in time for students who are applying to external opportunities such as internships and graduate schemes.

Annika has also been in regular contact with careers, who she is collaborating with to make a themed grand challenge employability event for students. The Future Global Leader's forum programme has also expressed interest in working with the Students Union which has resulted in preliminary conversations that any relevant

proposals can be brought to the Sticky Campus board for consideration so that student-led co-creation occurs on this strand of the Going for Gold workstream.

Generally through our activities, we're successfully enabling students to make a positive difference and enhance their employability. In last year's feedback survey, 81% of student group committee members felt that they have made a positive difference to others students' university experience and 94% of community volunteers felt that they'd made a positive contribution to the wider community. 100% of students Skills Award participants surveyed felt that they had developed skills, 96% were able to recognise these skills, and just under 80% of participants understood how best to present their experience to employers (up from 30% in 2017-18).

Course Reps and Part-Time Officers

As Annika was a keen Course Representative, one of her priorities of the year is to review the Course Representative. This will look at the whole programme, from election, training and their interactions with SSLC's and their schools. Annika will be working with Course Representatives, Faculty Representatives and the Student Voice Intern based in the Students' Union to ensure that their voice is at the heart of the review. The Student Voice Intern, which is a newly created position, funded by the Westfield Fund, within the Students' Union, will support the recruitment and elections of the Course Representatives, take part in the training, and provide ongoing support to the Course Representatives. We have changed how Course Representatives are elected, and moved to an online system where students nominate themselves on the system we use for voting. This is to increase engagement with the election process from the beginning. The previous system was paper based and may have negatively impacted on the engagement with voting. In addition, the term of office is for one academic year, to allow for students who want to be part of the programme later on, and we are confident that engaged Course Representatives will re-run each year to continue being involved. This will be rolled out with each coming year, so course representatives in 2nd and 3rd year will remain in post, and newly elected 1st year representatives will serve one term, and so on until all course representatives are on 1 year terms.

Annika and I have reviewed the SSLC guidance documents and want to place more emphasis on the importance of student co-chairs for a co-created curriculum. We want to remove any ambiguities within this document, and provide a clear structure for how Student Voice is empowered through the SSLC meetings. We are also working with the Doctoral College Manager, Zi Parker to introduce Postgraduate Research School Representatives to ensure all student voices are being heard.

The Student Partnership conference will be on October 26th and will form the main training for all course representatives. This has been chosen to ensure that we maintain the momentum from the election, and the beginning of the year. For the conference, we have an extensive list of potential sessions on topics that will empower course reps such as how to be an effective course rep, women/BME in leadership as well as a session on negotiation and persuasion techniques. We have invited a panel of people from Estates, Library and ARCS in order to help facilitate inspiring discussions with the course reps.

Annika is also introducing a monthly Course Representative newsletter from October onwards. The newsletter will include content from VP education, the Education Coordinator, Course Representatives as well as information from Advice and Counselling services and Library Services so students can be better informed and kept up to date with important information.

Elections

The Autumn elections are underway with nominations open for the Postgraduate Taught Rep and First Year Rep at both Campuses as well as the BL Postgraduate Research Rep and 5x NUS Delegates and 1 Student Trustee. This is being run in parallel to the Course Rep Elections. The number of people who have nominated themselves in the Autumn Elections is higher than the last few years, which is in keeping with the increased engagement we've had from students so far. Voting takes place week of the 7th of October with a candidate debate event being held on the 7th which I will chair.

Student Council Training

Training has taken place for almost all of our Student Council Reps which this year was done in house over 2 days. There was great engagement and our councillors are prepared to lead the Union into the new decade. Training was reformatted this year to provide more insight for councillors into what their roles and responsibilities are as well as covering the Democracy Review and a short presentation and Q&A from Melanie Dupin on Report and Support

Report and Support

Report and Support was one of the first projects that Vice President Welfare Shamima Akter was involved with when she took on her role. Her involvement on this has been through the Dignity at Work and Study Steering Group; through these meetings, she was able to raise concerns from the Student's Union, in regards to a lack of support for students and the procedure itself. Consequently, Shamima believes the group has now decelerated the hard launch and has settled for a medium/soft launch, in order for us to be able to identify possible issues that can be coming up through report and support, whilst still improving the support element to it. She will be working on this throughout the year and have made it a priority to do so.

Gender-based violence policy & procedures

The Students' Union has been working with colleagues from the University on the implementation of the Report and Support reporting tool, including looking at improvements to current University policy and practice relating to complaints of sexual and gender-based violence, bullying and hate crimes. In particular, we are looking at the support offered to students going through the reporting process.

WeMove

One of the big projects Shamima is currently working on is the yearlong awareness campaign 'WeMove'. The aim of this campaign is to increase student awareness in regards to issues, which are prominent within the respective demographic. In essence, this campaign would also work towards streamlining information already out there and help promote it using various methods and act as a central point of information for students. In November, the campaign will collaborate with 'Project X' at King's College London for an exhibition and potential panel across both campuses. This collaboration should pave the way for more inter-university work amongst different Student's Unions.

Welfare training

As student groups, especially sports clubs, are encouraged to have welfare officers within their committees, Shamima worked with the staff team to develop and deliver training to support them. The training allowed those with welfare responsibilities on committees to understand signposting, welfare concerns and their own roles better. This will be ongoing for this semester.

Care Leavers and Estranged Students

Shamima has been very invested in ensuring that care leavers and estranged students are highlighted as a student group and their concerns raised to the University. In order to do so, she is in the midst of organising a meeting between some members of SET and the students themselves, with the help of advice and counselling, whilst also highlighting the importance of the Stand Alone pledge.

Black History Month

This year, the Students' Union Liberation Fund included £4,000 available to support the delivery of Black History Month 2019, in collaboration with our student groups and reps. The majority of this was used to provide small grant funding for student-led events and activities. 16 events are being hosted by 8 student groups for BHM all funded by the new Liberation funding point. Also with liberation funding from the

University we are in the process of recruiting a Student Engagement Intern who will support student group involvement in future liberation campaigns, support cultural and faith society events, and support the Student Engagement Team with identifying and breaking down barriers to engagement. Our full programme is now available at qmsu.org/bhm/, and showcasing a range of talks, panel discussions, workshops and fairs.

Islamophobia Awareness Month

Another focus this month is our second liberation month, which is Islamophobia Awareness Month, in November. Currently we are working towards coordinating a group of students to organise the month. I will also be putting on events alongside just facilitating student group events. Therefore, planning for this month is a priority as of now.

SMD Mentoring Scheme

The first round of mentors and mentees have been matched up (69 pairs) to provide final year medical students with support regarding deanery placements, Academic Foundation Programmes, electives and exam preparation. The FY1 doctors who graduated from SMD in July 2019 will complete their mentoring record to acknowledge their contributions at the end of the year, hopefully this will further help our efforts to remain engaged with our more junior alumni.

Communities on Campus

Last year (18/19) we supported 262 societies, 9 student media outlets, 13 volunteering groups and 65 sports clubs, who provided students with an important sense of community on campus (81% of students involved in a student group felt like part of a community as a result of their involvement). To continue to enable our student groups to develop and for us to meet student expectations, we are focusing on improving our student group processes this year. This will involve support and input from a number of University stakeholders including portering, security, timetabling, and finance/Aggresso team.

Get Active

Our Get Active team entertained over 500 students and staff at our Mile End campus over move-in weekend and welcome week, hosting a number of pop-up sports sessions including touch tennis, the panna cage and corn hole. These pop-ups were hugely successful in promoting the programme, as each session on the timetable sold out on the first day back! We're looking forward to this week which sees more turn out and play sessions, as well as the start of several courses, which include fencing, tennis and women's-only futsal and basketball. Head over to www.qmsu.org/getactive to find out more!

Campus Games Welcome events

Mile End and Charterhouse square played host to the Campus Games welcome events on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st of September respectively. In total the welcome events engaged **224** students (127 at Mile end on Friday 20th & 97 in CHSQ on Saturday 21st). The programme has already engaged more numbers in 2 events this year than in total for last year (181 students and staff engaged). The events had activities such as corn hole, Zorb Football, Panna Cage, Touch Tennis, Netball, Dodgeball and Badminton involved which students really enjoyed.

The main factor behind the success was the work done in engaging the Schools through contacts such as Lavi Begum (Teaching Services Officer, Biological And Chemical Sciences), Elizabeth Crooks (Faculty Student Experience & Success) and Megan Annetts (VP of Barts and the London). QMSU Sport looks forward to building on the relationships and engaging more schools moving forward. If any other schools want to find out more please email campusgames@qmul.ac.uk

Lastly the next event which we collaborate with the principal's office on is the Run For Fun. The run will take place on November 16th and with 120 spaces available, we hope to engage students and staff at QMUL. The President, and Principal Colin Bailey will be taking part again which we are really excited about.

Talhah Atcha, Students Union President, 2nd October 2019