



Senate

Paper Title	Students' Union President's Senate Report
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the QMSU President's report.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<p>Democracy Review UCU Strikes Course Reps and Part-Time Officers Student Partnership Conference Student Experience and Learning Resources Graduate Employability UK Medical Licensing Assessment Raising Concerns Personal Safety and Security Islamophobia Awareness Month Annual General Meeting and Annual Members Meeting Sustainability Campus Games Exercise Referral Program Community Sport Social Leagues Get Active Volunteering Rag Crew and Help Squad</p>
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
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President's Senate Report

November 2019

www.qmsu.org



President's Report

Democracy Review

The Democracy Review is at its halfway point with Student Council having decided what the final democratic structures of the Students' Union will look like; this can be found below. The rest of this year will be spent on either planning the implementation of the changes or trialling changes that have been made. The new positions will be elected in February except for the School Reps which will be elected alongside the school reps in October.

Executive Officers – President, Vice President Welfare, Vice President Communities, Vice President Barts and The London, Vice President Science & Engineering and Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences

Part Time Officers – 13 school reps for the schools in HSS and S&E, removal of the first year reps and student media officer.

Sub-Committees – Union Development Group, Welfare Board, BLSA Board, HSS Board, S&E Board, Postgraduate Board with other sub-committees for the various student groups as well as sustainability, commercial services and international

UCU Strikes

Student Council passed a motion in support of UCU and the strikes commencing November 25th. This policy provides clarification of what supporting the strikes will mean, and below is detailed what the Students' Union and Exec officers will do.

- The Executive Officers of the Students' Union will release a statement of support for UCU
- The Students' Union will not attend any meetings with the University unless they concern emergency welfare support for students, as well as any appeals or hearings students may face during this period
- The Executive Officers will support the picket line during free working hours
- The Students' Union will add a description of what Picket lines are, and how they work, to their student-wide emails about the industrial action
- The Students' Union will lobby students to not cross the picket line but they must advise students that they will not be protected for missing scheduled teaching, assignment deadlines and exams if those academics are not striking
- The Students' Union will publicise the series of 'Teach Out' events held by UCU during the strike, as well as the co-ordination of the UCU strike action on Friday 29th November with the London climate strike on the same day
- The Exec will email the Principal stating that the Union supports UCU
- The Student's Union calls on management not to penalise students who refuse to cross picket lines and will fully support any students who do not cross
- The Student's Union will facilitate sending an email message from QMUCU to all students

Course Reps and Part-Time Officers

Course rep elections were successful, with most roles being filled through our online system. Student Partnership Conference was attended by over 120 new course reps and 34 returning reps. Faculty reps also attended and had the chance to meet the student's which they represent. The most popular session was on Negotiation & Persuasion, followed by employability, especially for the senior course reps. The questions asked

by the students to the panellists were very insightful and helped to increase visibility of the different support systems we offer to students, from the library to their advisors. We will be implementing a new reward and recognition scheme for course reps called 'Course Rep of the month'. Course reps can be nominated by peers, fellow course reps or staff to be recognised for going above and beyond in their role. Rewards will be a certificate, a prize and an automatic nomination for the 'Course Rep of the Year' Award at the Education Awards 2020. The Students' Union would appreciate the buy-in from schools in particular when promoting the scheme and encouraging students and staff to nominate outstanding course reps each month.

Monthly drop-ins for course reps have been scheduled in for the first Wednesday every month, from 12-1pm. This was advertised to the course reps during the conference.

As a result of motions passed by Student Council made up of elected part-time officers, I have been leading on policies regarding keeping Fridays 1-2pm free in the timetable, updating the ARCS policy regarding illegible handwriting and installing an event's board in the library ground floor for societies.

Student Partnership Conference

The Student Partnership conference took place on Saturday 26th October and was attended by over 150 Course Representatives. They were given role specific training and had the opportunity to ask a panel of University staff questions, provide direct feedback about the Library, Careers service and how SSLCs work in practice. Feedback was largely positive and those unable to attend have been offered alternative training. There is ongoing work reviewing the course representative system to ensure that we are empowering student voice within each course.

Student Experience and Learning Resources

Vice President Education, Annika Ramos and the Education Coordinator emphasised the need for SSO's to be available in the week before and the week after the Christmas breaks in the Library Christmas group – with clear contact details to be released and circulated soon.

With the introduction of Semester based exams, we are extending our Study Well campaign to semester A as well as semester B. We have established a Study well planning group, including stakeholders from the university such as Student Life, Residences, ACS, Library Services and others. Planning is going well as we have been contacting suppliers, collating invoices for potential events and looking at when it is best to schedule them.

The Student Experience Survey recently carried out by the Students' Union asked students at QMUL "Could your educational experience at Queen Mary be more diverse?" We have analysed the findings from the survey and compiled a report, including recommendations for implementation. This will be presented for discussion at EQSB in November.

Annika also encouraged the installation of Qreview equipment in Laird Hall in the Whitechapel campus as it is currently being used for teaching without any QReview capabilities.

Graduate Employability

Annika's event "Your degree doesn't define your career" was attended by over 20 students who came with a variety of challenging but engaging questions for the panellists. The Mile End Women's Rep, careers and Annika have been collaborating to organise a careers event centred on under-represented industries.

Careers and IT have agreed to recruit students for a student-led agile development group for the QMUL App, with the project set to happen in semester 2.

Following conversations regarding increasing cultural intelligence and global perspectives within graduates, careers have begun to offer projects briefs with alumni abroad through QConsult.

Annika has been trialling the new CV critiquing tool being purchased by careers and voicing opinions on the suitability of the tools, as well as helping to shape the policy regarding use of the software.

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 Going for Gold.

And finally the first LinkedIn Photo Shoot of the year was held in October, and was open to all students. 55 students took advantage of this event, many of whom had not interacted with the Students' Union before. They received free high-quality photos to use on their LinkedIn profile.

UK Medical Licensing Assessment

Vice President Barts and The London, Megan Annetts, presented "A Student's View of MLA" to external examiners and the General Medical Council (GMC). This was a joint project that had contributions from the UH MedGroup (all 5 presidents from London Medical Schools) about concerns and queries that have arisen through student consultation on the medical licensing assessment which is looking to be brought in for those MBBS students graduating in 2023/24. A number of concerns logistical, academic and welfare in nature were raised through productive conversation, it is clear communication needs to improve between the GMC and SMD and as a result of this more information needs to be provided to students.

Raising Concerns

This project is aiming to address the suspected high rates of under-reporting on clinical placement. Based on anecdotal accounts, many students are not reporting issues they experience on placement whether that is themselves personally, or what is witnessed. Research has already gone into understanding what barriers there are for students, and Megan is interested in taking this further and focussing on "low level" concern. It is going to be a yearlong project and campaign, but it will work towards improving student's confidence to come forward and streamlining the reporting procedure.

Personal Safety and Security

Following security incidents on and off campus, Megan has been working with the university to highlight students' concerns across the campuses. This has been met with a very proactive response by the university security team, their service and patrols are more visible and some areas are becoming access only. From a students' personal safety perspective the BLSA has distributed a number of posters and encouraged students to save relevant emergency numbers.

Islamophobia Awareness Month

Islamophobia Awareness Month takes place annually throughout November, with the aim of raising awareness of Islamophobia in order to create a safe and welcoming environment for all QMUL students. As for Black History Month, student groups and representatives were eligible to apply to a £4,000 Liberation Fund in order to support events and activities taking place during the month. Our programme for 2019, along with a statement from Shamima Akter, VP Welfare, can be found at <https://www.qmsu.org/iam/>.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Annual Members Meeting (AMM)

To change our Articles of Association, and allow us to make the necessary changes for the democracy review, we held our AGM and AMM on October 29th. The AMM allows all students to submit and vote on motions. We had 13 motions submitted by our students, and a number of these were debated before the meeting became inquorate; these included lobbying for affordable housing, lobbying for Friday 1pm-2pm to be teaching free, and to lobby the university to protect grades with the upcoming UCU strikes. The motion to increase our number of Executive Officers passed, and will allow us to change the byelaws to reflect the change. The motions that were not debated will be taken to Student Council on 19th November.

Sustainability

The Sustainability Officer has recruited a group of students (the Green Mary Group) who will run their own campaigns throughout the year. Their first campaign in November will focus on sustainable fashion.

We're working on a sustainability Action Plan, due to be finalised this month, which will include our key sustainability priorities for this year. We've also been working with the Head of Sustainability to agree on shared priorities and projects.

As it is a joint priority for the Executive officers, IT have agreed to look into using Ecosia as a search engine on university computer browsers, which plants trees using ad revenues.

Campus Games

Welcome events held at the start of term engaged a total of 224 students across 2 campuses which improved upon last year's total of 181 participants. The next event is the [Run For Fun](#) on 16th November. The event is a great opportunity for everyone at Queen Mary to come together and play a positive role within the community.

Exercise Referral Program

The 2018/19 pilot programme was completed. The 'QMUL Well-being Referral Programme' aimed to support students who were suffering with mild to moderate levels of anxiety and depression and uses an exercise, nutrition, and a well-being focused approach to help students improve their mental and physical well-being, enhancing their experience, performance and retention at QMUL. Every single student on the programme showed improvements in their mental well-being, anxiety, depression, and social relationship measures, and have demonstrated having a positive experience on the programme. On average, students improved their overall wellbeing by 20%, feelings of depression by 30% and anxiety by 33%, with 75% of participants not meeting the minimum criteria for anxiety or depression any more. We are currently writing a business case to fund and expand this programme across the university.

Community Sport

We have introduced a brand new Community Sport student intern role to support the development and growth of the programme with a specific focus on raising awareness, increasing our outreach and inclusive sport delivery. We have delivered over 200 hours within the community already with 26 active student leaders.

We have introduced a 'Young Leaders Academy' pilot project for 2019/20 academic year where QMUL students are given leadership training and support and they will in turn support aspiring young leaders within Tower Hamlets to plan and deliver community sport programmes and events, empowering them to make positive change within their community whilst enhancing their skills, knowledge and employability.

We have developed a 4th theme to the successful 'Social Cohesion Sport Programme' where students can run community sport projects focusing on Equality & Diversity on top of the existing: Active Life Styles, Gang Culture and Healthy Eating.

Social Leagues

We have just appointed a new fulltime member of staff to support the growth, development, and every day running of the social leagues programme at the university, as this is a programme where we see substantial opportunity for growth. We have expanded the programme by 8 more teams across 4 sports with 126 more participants across all leagues compared to last year, totalling 58 teams and 641 students.

Get Active

Get Active has achieved 2459 student and staff engagements across all of its strands, and has engaged 357 unique participants in its turn up and play timetable. The programme has been working closely with the

university's International Exchange Programme, having successfully organised days out kayaking in Tower Hamlets and Hackney, and climbing at the Mile End Climbing Wall.

Volunteering

11% more students volunteered in the local community through our Volunteering Service last year compared to 2017-18 281 students attend the Volunteer Fair, which took place in the Octagon on 2nd October, and involved 36 partner charities with a stall to promote their opportunities. The next Volunteer Fair will be in Whitechapel with a focus on health-care related opportunities.

This year, in collaboration with the University, we partnered with ReachOut to launch the Level Up experience – one of only two universities in London to be partnered with ReachOut for this opportunity. Students who volunteer through the Level Up experience will complete one year of volunteering in a local primary school mentoring a student, and will then secure a fast track graduate offer from Macquarie and Charityworks, and a summer internship offer from ReachOut. There are currently 63 Queen Mary 'Level Uppers' out of the total 85 enrolled on the programme, double the amount of students that ReachOut have recruited from Queen Mary in the past.

RAG

Last year students raised £45,598.17 for charity (£9,107.80 more than in 2017-18). This year's nominated charities, that our RAG committees will be raising money for are British Heart Foundation, FareShare, Dreams Come True for Whitechapel, and Rays of Sunshine for Mile End.

Crew and Help Squad

61 students from Mile End and 62 BL students volunteered as part of Welcome Crew and Help Squad, providing a welcoming hand to new students during move-in weekend, and essential support for Welcome Week events and activities. The Residences Team put on a thank you party for the volunteers last month.

Talhah Atcha

Students' Union President

19th November 2019