



Senate

Paper Title	Education Quality & Standards Board, 19 February 2020: Executive Summary
Outcome requested	The Senate is asked to note the summary report.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	A high-level summary of the discussions and decisions of the Education Quality and Standards Board (EQSB) meeting held on 19 February 2020. For fuller details on any of the points mentioned, including full papers and minutes, members are directed to the EQSB QMplus page: https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=6851
Questions for Senate to consider	None
Regulatory/statutory reference points	
Strategy and risk	
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	Senate only.
Sponsor	Professor Stephanie Marshall, Vice-Principal (Education)

Education Quality and Standards Board
Executive summary of the meeting held on 19 February 2020

Full papers and minutes for the Education Quality and Standards Board are available in QMplus:
<https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=6851>

1. The Board **noted** that Chair's action had been taken since the previous meeting to approve the [Student Transfer Policy](#).
2. The Board **noted** a written update from the Vice-Principal (Education), covering Education leadership, TEF, Education events, and Queen Mary's involvement in a European Universities Association (EUA) project exploring effective curriculum designs.
3. The Board **considered** the report of a recent audit of certain H&SS module pages against QMplus baseline standards. Students had been hired and trained to act as auditors. The E-Learning team aimed to repeat the audit in future years, with a larger sample of modules.
4. The Board **considered** proposals to amend the extenuating circumstances policy. The Board established a working group that would make recommendations to its next meeting on limited self-certification and on changes to introduce more frequent decision-making points. The group included academic representatives from each faculty. The Board did not approve a proposal to allow statements from Queen Mary advisors as evidence for EC claims.
5. The Board **noted** an update from the Christmas Vacation Student Support Task and Finish Group. The Mile End Library had been open from 0800-2000 throughout the vacation except on bank holidays to help students prepare for semester-based examinations, and there had been additional signposting of students sources of academic and pastoral support where on-campus facilities were closed. The scheme had run well, with a high level of uptake in the Library. There had been no spike in the number of students reporting welfare issues. Queen Mary would adopt these arrangements as standard procedure for future years.
6. The Board **considered** the 2018/19 Student Casework report, covering appeals, complaints, academic misconduct, discipline, and fitness to practise cases. This report is also included on Senate agenda and members are referred to that paper for fuller details.
 - a. The Board **noted** that the number of issues raised as a percentage of the student body had not increased in most areas, but the absolute number of cases had continued to rise sharply. This had contributed to significant delays in the processing of cases.
 - b. The Board **noted** that a high proportion of appeals were resolved informally by ARCS, and stated its support for a formalised preliminary appeal stage with resolution at school/institute level prior to submission to ARCS. However, the Board noted that this could not be considered until an electronic case management system had been implemented and it agreed to revisit this issue once that was in place.

- c. The Board **noted** its support for increasing the maximum assessment weighting for investigation of academic misconduct at school/institute level (currently 30 per cent), but deferred a decision until a casework management system had been implemented.
 - d. The Board **noted** the need for additional Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the various casework panels and, particularly, the need for recognition of these colleagues both in terms of workload allocation and personal recognition. The Board agreed to further discussions on this issue.
7. The Board **endorsed** the introduction of a new research award of EngD, a doctorate in engineering. It included taught elements, and would align with developments in industry. The Senate and the Council would also consider this for approval.
8. The Board **considered** a paper on academic assurance, including quality, standards, and compliance with the OfS conditions of registrations. Queen Mary had benchmarked its procedures against the UK Quality Code for HE, would continue to review its processes, and would explicitly frame its 2019 annual assurance return to the OfS around the specific conditions of registration that pertained to education.
 - a. The Board **noted** that the Periodic Review process was under review. The Board restated its own central role in any review and decision as the authority responsible for the protection and enhancement of Queen Mary's education quality and standards.
9. The Board **noted** an update from the QMSU Vice-President Education, addressing student experience and learning resources, course-representatives, elected officers and elections, graduate employability, and sustainability.
10. The Board **noted** the quarterly Library Services update and the annual Chaplaincy update.
11. The Board **approved** five new credit/mark conversions for Queen Mary students studying abroad in Prague, Thessaloniki, Zagreb, Malta, and Spain.
12. The Board **approved** three additional 'QM Extras' – extracurricular activities that could be validated by Queen Mary for inclusion on students' HEAR transcripts.

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