

**Senate:**  
**Paper Code:**



## Senate

<b>Paper Title</b>	Vice-Principal Science & Engineering - update
<b>Outcome requested</b>	Senate is asked to note the report
<b>Points for Senate members to note and further information</b>	This report provides an update on activities relating to key priorities between June 2020 – September 2020, detailing developments in Education, Research and Transnational programmes.
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	N/A
<b>Regulatory/statutory reference points</b>	N/A
<b>Strategy and risk</b>	Relates to all aspects of QMUL strategy and all sections of the Risk Register.
<b>Reporting/ consideration route for the paper</b>	For Senate only
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## **Summary**

The Faculty have fully transitioned our education provision to blended learning thanks to a tremendous amount of effort and dedication across S&E Schools. We succeeded in recruiting an additional 330 undergraduate students above the UF Aim in Clearing and Confirmation to help us mitigate external risks to conversion and retention, as well as uncertainties in overseas recruitment.

The Faculty has been successful in securing a number of prestigious grants, and have set a record of £42.6M in annual research income in the academic year of 2019-2020.

We have undertaken a co-ordinated phased approach to reopening buildings, research laboratories, offices, student and teaching spaces, ensuring they are Covid secure. All School buildings have now reopened and research laboratories have been operational since the beginning of June 2020.

We continue to support the wider University in their work on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and have undertaken initiatives of our own to engage staff in this area such as our People Profile Series for Black History Month.

## **Education**

During this period, through a tremendous amount of hard work, S&E have fully transitioned all teaching to be blended learning. As much as practically possible, students have access to face-to-face, on campus education. As might be anticipated for STEM subjects, the priority for on campus activities has been laboratories / workshops with as many tutorials as can be provided safely. A huge amount of effort and dedication has been put in across the S&E Schools to ensure that teaching materials and activities were ready both for the new and returning students.

The Faculty Executive are extremely proud of the efforts and the dedication of each of our colleagues who went above and beyond to ensure that Welcome Week and the start of teaching was ready and of world-class quality, welcoming back students to a supportive and academically rich experience.

Confirmation and Clearing this year was a particular challenge for the Faculty and the university as a whole. The Faculty adapted extremely quickly and was very responsive to an increase in the UF Aim in areas where we could recruit to ensure that we were able to mitigate the external risks to conversion and retention in semester 1. The Faculty succeeded in recruiting 330 additional undergraduate students above the UF Aim. Colleagues worked a tremendous amount of hours to ensure that we could respond to applicant queries and convert as many applicants as possible, before and after, the change in grades to teacher validated assessments. This resulted in the Faculty successfully over recruiting in the areas that we could to counter balance the uncertainty in overseas recruitment.

## **Research**

I am pleased to report that the Faculty has been successful in securing a number of prestigious awards, and we have set a record of £42.6M in annual research income in the academic year of 2019-2020. Dr Ana Sobrido has been awarded a UKRI Future Leader Fellowship (£1.5M) for the study of energy materials for battery application, while Axel Rossberg, one of S&E's successful NERC applicants is also developing a £10M NERC bid for the 'Changing the Environment' call for whole system solutions to environmental challenges.

S&E academics have also been very active in submitting grant proposals over the summer period, this included seven ERC grant applications, four applications to the Royal Academy of Engineering fellowship call, and one application to the senior fellowship call. An application for equipment worth up to £250k was submitted to the EPSRC as part of the 2020 EPSRC Core equipment call. The Faculty was informed by EPSRC of an additional uplift of £187k for the 2020 period and a competitive bid was selected from the 2020 applicants and put forward for funding.

In July, our latest research centre, Centre for *in vitro* Predictive Models (CPM) was launched. It focuses on the development and application of advanced *in vitro* modelling work in biomedical research, with collaboration between leading researchers in Science & Engineering and Medicine & Dentistry, as well as a large number of industrial partners.

I am pleased to report, that in the run up to the REF submission deadline, all six UoAs in Science and Engineering are on target to complete and submit in all areas of the submission: Outputs, Impact and Environment.

### **International**

Planning for international provision has also been ongoing to adapt to the current pandemic. Teaching for all three TNE programmes started remotely this semester. Students have returned to their respective campuses and most lectures are being delivered remotely. A total of 1142 new TNE students have enrolled in our BUPT JP (670), NCU JP (243) and NPU JEI (229).

In addition, we have started a new joint PGT programme in NPU JEI. We have lined up lectures on PGT opportunities, streamlined the application process and opened up various social media channels for prospective students to ask questions.

A new transnational collaboration with CIMAV (Mexico) is currently under development. This is an MRes in Materials Science for which it is intended that students would complete one year of study in Mexico before coming to London to complete their year-long MRes project.

### **Change in Faculty leadership team and staff success**

I am delighted to report that Professor Hazel Screen has been appointed as the new Head of School for the School of Engineering and Materials Science. She replaces Professor John Stark who stepped down as Head of School and is now an Emeritus Professor in Engineering. Professor Alex Clark has also been appointed as the new Head of School of Mathematical Sciences. He replaces Professor Boris Khoruzhenko who stepped down as Head of School after 9 years. I would like to thank John and Boris for their excellent leadership and for all they have achieved for the Schools and University. I am looking forward to working more closely with Hazel and Alex in their new roles as part of the Faculty senior leadership team.

I am also delighted to announce that several of our staff have received external recognition for their achievements. Professor Yang Hao and Professor James Busfield have been elected as Fellows of The Royal Academy of Engineering, and Professor Ginestra Bianconi, has been elected a Fellow of the Network Science Society. Dr Khai D. Q. Nguyen, a postdoctoral researcher at Queen Mary University of London was announced as an award winner at the 2020 Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) Best of the Best Awards.

## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

We're continuing to support the University's ongoing commitment to EDI, including through our contribution to the new Race Equality Action Group (REAG) and the production of a race equality strategy. As part of Black History Month, we also launched a 'People Profile Series' where we asked staff within S&E to share their nominations of historical and contemporary Black scientists, researchers and contributors. We will be producing a series of internal and external communications around this People Profile series to be shared throughout Black History Month in line with wider University activity. Overall, we hope this project will help staff to learn more about the important contributions of Black people to science, and encourage us all to do better going forwards to platform and highlight their work within our curriculums and our own research.