



Senate

Paper Title	Minutes of the last Senate meeting held on 15 October 2020.
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to approve the PB minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	N/A
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	N/A
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	Senate to approve
Authors	Jane Pallant, Deputy Academic Registrar
Sponsor	Professor Colin Bailey, President and Principal

Senate

Minutes of 15 October 2020 (draft)

Present:

Professor Colin Bailey (Chair)	Shamima Akter	Dr Jason Berry
Professor Adrian Bevan	Professor Ginestra Bianconi	Dr Victoria Bird
Dr Edo Boek	Professor Warren Boutcher	Dr Rafa Castrejon-Pita
Professor Alex Clark	Dr Dianne Cooper	Dr Joseph Cronin
Dr Sadhvi Dar	Dr Madeleine Davis	Dr Debbie De Girolamo
Professor Panos Deloukas	Dr Paula Fonseca	Professor Colin Grant
Dr Richard Grose	Sheila Gupta	Professor Yang Hao
Professor Matthew Hilton	Professor Peter Hobson	Professor Henri Huijberts
Dr Jessica Jacobs	Dr Robert Janes	Professor Steffi Krause
Dr Theo Kreouzis	Aphrodite Liddington	Professor Andrew Livingston
Dr Philippa Lloyd	Professor Simon Lucas	Professor Seán McConville
Professor Anthony Michael	Professor Parvati Nair	Dr Ali Nankali
Professor Sandra Nicholson	Professor Mike Noon	Professor Phoebe Okowa
Dr Eranjan Padumadasa	Dr Michael Page	Christina Perry
Professor Richard Pickersgill	Professor Thomas Prellberg	Dr Amitha Ranauta
Mat Robathan	Professor Hazel Screen	Professor Adrian Smith
Cameron Storey	Professor Jason Sturgess	Professor Anwar Tappuni
Professor Steve Thornton	Professor Dan Todman	Professor Wen Wang
Professor Tim Warner	Professor Anthony Warrens	Dr David Williams

In attendance:

Jonathan Morgan	Jane Pallant	Kaya Wiles (minutes)
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Apologies:

Dr Mark Baxendale	Professor Paul Coulthard	Professor Jack Cuzick
Professor Penny Green	Dr Judith Jones	Professor Nicholas Lemoine
Professor Stephanie Marshall	Dr Fu Ng	Dr Jason Niggli
Professor Alastair Owens	Professor Mauro Perretti	Jane Reid
Dr Prakash Shah	Dr Christopher Tyson	Professor Ian Walden

Part 1: Preliminary items

Minutes of the previous meeting (SE2020.01)

2020.001 Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 04 June 2020.

Chair's action (SE2020.02)

2020.002 Senate **noted** the amendments to the Academic Regulations 2020-21 and the Assessment Handbook 2020-21 which had been approved by Chair's action. Members note that the regulations for undergraduate law degrees (LLBs) had been harmonised to align with the regulations for other bachelor degrees, self-certification for extenuating circumstances would be trialled during 2020-21.

2020.003 Senate **noted** the appointment by Chair's action of Dr Theo Kreouzis as the Chair of the Academic Misconduct Panel and the appointment of Dr Peter Brett, Dr Livia Carvalho, Dr Dianne Cooper, Dr Jürgen Groet, Professor Henri Huijberts, Professor Nick Lemos, Professor Shahn Majid, Professor Wayne Morrison, Professor Alastair Owens and Dr Nina Ravic as acting Academic Misconduct Investigators, Deputy Chairs and Panel Members.

Terms of reference and membership (SE2020.03)

2020.004 Senate **approved** the Senate terms of reference and membership for 2020-21.

President and Principal's report (SE2020.04)

2020.005 Senate **received** a report from the President and Principal.

2020.006 Members **noted** the sad passing of Dr Catherine Silverstone, Head of the School of English and Drama and member of Senate. Dr Silverstone had been a cherished colleague to all that knew her across the university.

2020.007 Members **noted** that most universities had taken a blended-learning approach to teaching during the coronavirus pandemic. Those institutions that had moved to online-only learning had done so on a temporary basis. The Government had introduced a three-tiered system of local Covid-19 alert levels. Universities would remain open and travel to and from universities would be deemed essential travel in all three tiers.

2020.008 Members **noted** that the number of students and staff who had tested positive for Covid-19 was relatively low at the time of reporting. Procedures for students isolating in halls of residence had worked well for those students who had isolated following international travel and those who had isolated as the result of a positive Covid-19 test result. Students were also able to continue with their studies online during periods of self- isolation. Feedback from students had been positive and staff were thanked for their hard work in making sure that students were supported.

Vice-Principals' Reports (SE2020.05a – SE2020.05h)

2020.009 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Health), (SE2020.05a).

2020.010 Members **noted** the report from the Vice-Principal (Health).

2020.011 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Humanities and Social Sciences), (SE2020.05b).

2020.012 Members **noted** that the Legal Advice Centre based in the School of Law had won a Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE) and that the School of Economics and Finance had secured a public tender with the Government Economic Service to deliver master's-level degree apprenticeships in economics to Senior Civil Servants.

2020.013 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Science and Engineering), (SE2020.05c).

- 2020.014 Members **noted** that the Faculty of Science and Engineering had been very successful in recruiting students through Clearing and Confirmation. Colleagues were thanked for their hard work and dedication throughout the recruitment period
- 2020.015 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Education) (SE2020.05d).
- 2020.016 Members **noted** that clarification around the future of the National Student Survey (NSS) was expected over the coming months.
- 2020.017 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (International), (SE2020.05e).
- 2020.018 Members **noted** the report from the Vice-Principal (international).
- 2020.019 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships), (SE2020.05f).
- 2020.020 Members **noted** the report from the Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships).
- 2020.021 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation), (SE2020.05g).
- 2020.022 Members **noted** that funding for PhD students whose work had been affected by the coronavirus pandemic had been extended by three months. There was a natural resonance between the length of the national lockdown and the funding extension. Queen Mary's research laboratories and facilities had begun opening at the beginning of June 2020.
- 2020.023 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (People, Culture and Inclusion), (SE2020.05h).
- 2020.024 Members **noted** that the report from the Vice-Principal (People, Culture and Inclusion).

Students' Union President's report (SE2020.06)

- 2020.025 Senate **received** a report from the President of the Students' Union.
- 2020.026 Members **noted** that the Students' Union had been working collaboratively with the university on matters relating to the coronavirus pandemic through weekly meetings.
- 2020.027 Members **noted** that discussions around library resources, in particular access to online databases, were ongoing between Cameron Storey, QMSU Vice-President (Humanities and Social Sciences), Christina Perry, Dean for Education (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences), and Professor Stephanie Marshall, Vice-Principal (Education).
- 2020.028 Members **noted** that Mat Robathan, QMSU Vice-President (Barts and The London), had been working closely with staff in the School of Medicine and Dentistry. The QMSU Vice-President (Barts and The London) was working to gather feedback from students to inform key initiatives addressing issues such as student loneliness. Another key priority was the limited library space for SMD

students. It was hoped that the booking system for students using the library during the pandemic could be improved to address capacity issues.

2020.029 Members **noted** concerns expressed by student representatives that access to research materials for Science and Engineering students was limited. Concerns with library provisions would be raised with the Director of Student and Academic Services.

Part 2: Matters for Discussion

Presentation from the Deputy Vice-Principal for Education (Education Programmes)

2020.030 Senate **received** a presentation from the Deputy Vice-Principal for Education (Education Programmes) on the work of the Education 3.0 and the Education 3.1 response groups, together with the Education Enabling Plan.

2020.031 Members **noted** that the Education 3.0 group, chaired by the Deputy VP Education, had met weekly between March and October 2020 to consider issues relating to student mobility, content delivery, assessment and student support for the 2019-20 academic year.

2020.032 Members **noted** that Education 3.1 chaired by the VP (Education), was established in May 2020 to plan for the 2020-21 academic year. Education 3.1 considered the transition of programmes to blended learning. The group had strategic oversight of nine workstreams with input from a broad range of staff, including engagement across all schools and institutes, professional services directorates and the Queen Mary Academy.

2020.033 Members **noted** that the Education Enabling Plan had been updated and reviewed by the Senior Executive Team (SET) on 06 October 2020. The Education Enabling Plan retained its focus on excellence across the four pillars of education, student engagement, employability and the learning environment. The Education Enabling Plan consisted of a variety of activities and strategic initiatives, including a portfolio review, led by Professor Anthony Michael, Deputy Vice-Principal for Education (Education Programmes), and the streamlining of governance and reporting, led by Professor Stefan Krummaker, Deputy Vice-Principal Education (Strategic Projects).

2020.034 Members **noted** that a central NSS Taskforce had been established to support schools and institutes in improving the student experience and making sure that national survey results better reflected the high-quality student experience offered at Queen Mary. NSS teams had also been set up in individual schools and institutes. Membership of these groups included the head of school/institute and student representatives.

2020.035 Members **noted** that an analytical report on NSS results had been commissioned by the School of Politics and International Relations. The report had been shared with all schools and institutes and the consultant who had undertaken the report had been commissioned to work with a limited number of other schools and institutes. The reports would then be analysed to identify common themes across the faculties.

2020.036 Members **noted** that quality assurance processes would continue to be reviewed throughout the 2020-21 academic year. Work would build upon the pilot annual programme review (APR) process that took place during 2019-20. Work included

revisions to the Programme Approval Process to make sure the process was both agile and proportionate, together with a focus on the future structure of Periodic Review.

Review of assessment arrangements for 2019-20 (SE2020.07)

- 2020.037 Senate **received** a review of the assessment arrangements that had been put in place for 2019-20 by Education 3.0. The review comprised a report from the External Member to the Degree Examination Boards, minutes from the undergraduate Degree Examination Board for HSS and S&E, and an overview of lessons learned from the May/June 2020 alternative assessments for consideration.
- 2020.038 Members **noted** that in June 2020 Senate had received a summary of contingency arrangements coordinated by Education 3.0. Members **agreed** that the contingency arrangements and the review of assessment arrangements for 2019-20 would form the basis of the academic assurance report to Council in November 2020.
- 2020.039 Members **noted** that comments from external examiners and the External Member of the Degree Examination Board had been overwhelmingly positive. The feedback received endorsed the approach taken to protect academic standards while supporting positive outcomes for students. Senate members noted that the feedback highlighted the proportionate ways in which challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic had been addressed and responded to.
- 2020.040 Members **noted** that section 3 of the overview of lessons learned from the May/June alternative assessments referred to provisions for the availability of online resources. As the campus had reopened, and would likely remain open for the foreseeable future, this provision might no longer be required.

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism (SE2020.08)

- 2020.041 Senate **received** a proposal to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism with additional caveats recommended by the Home Affairs Select Committee in 2016.
- 2020.042 Members **noted** that the university had recently formed the Race Equality Action Group. A primary focus of the group was the investigation and addressing of issues around racial bullying and harassment. As part of this body of work, the group were working with the Jewish Society and Islamic Society to adopt definitions of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.
- 2020.043 Members **noted** that the adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism would be consistent with the university's values and would provide a clear definition which could be applied when dealing with any complaints of anti-Semitism.
- 2020.044 Senate **approved** the proposal to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism with additional caveats recommended by the Home Affairs Select Committee in 2016.

Part 3: Matters for Report

Approval of membership and terms of reference for sub-boards of Senate for 2020-2021 (SE2020.09)

2020.045 Senate **approved** the membership and terms of reference for sub-boards of Senate for 2020-21.

Indicative annual business plan for 2020-21 (SE2020.10)

2020.046 Senate **approved** the annual indicative annual business plan for 2020-21.

Council business themes (SE2020.11)

2020.047 Senate **noted** the Council business themes for 2020-21.

Taught Programmes Board (SE2020.12)

2020.048 Senate **noted** the proposals relating to programme and module academic developments considered by the Taught Programmes Board between 30 April 2020 and 30 September 2020.

Education Quality and Standards Board (SE2020.13)

2020.049 Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Education Quality and Standards Board meeting held on 23 September 2020.

Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (SE2020.14)

2020.050 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and examinations Board between June 2020 and September 2020.

Ethics of Research Committee (SE2020.15)

2020.051 Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Ethics of Research Committee meeting held on 22 July 2020.

Partnerships Board (SE2020.16)

2020.052 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Partnerships Board between 01 February 2020 and 30 September 2020.

Part 4: Other matters

Dates of future meetings

2020.053 Senate **noted** that the next meetings of Senate would be held as follows:

- Thursday 10th December 2020, 3pm-5pm via Microsoft Teams
- Thursday 4th March 2021, 3pm-5pm in the Colette Bowe Room, Queens' Building, Mile End (TBC)
- Thursday 10th June 2021, 3pm-5pm in the Colette Bowe Room, Queens' Building, Mile End (TBC).