



Senate

Paper Title	Education Quality & Standards Board, 17 February 2021: 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 17 February 2021. 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 17 February 2021

Full papers (including coversheets that expand on the points below) 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 non-standard teaching calendars for the September-start MSc Economics (Masters Apprenticeship Programme) and for the MSc Social Change, and to approve Cyber Security Training as a new QMExtra
2. The Board **noted** an update from the Vice-Principal (Education), covering education leadership, fair assessment, the National Student Survey and other student surveys, the Queen Mary Academy, and regulatory matters including announcements from the Office for Students (OfS) among other topics.
3. The Board **approved** the Covid Mitigating Measures Policy 2020-21, noting that the work of the Task and Finish Group would continue throughout 2020-21. Additional meetings would address subject-specific issues (notably in clinical and research programmes), and to clarify a small number of additional points including the borderline classification algorithm. In the event that any of these changes went beyond the provisions in the approved document, Chair's action would be taken on the recommendation of the Task and Finish Group. The Policy also appears on the agenda for the March 2021 meeting of the Senate, as a substantive item.
4. The Board **noted** an update on work to redevelop Queen Mary's Annual Programme Review (APR) process. The new APR would align with a periodic enhanced programme review, taking the place of the former Periodic Review. The new APR would be a lighter-touch, likely online, process that operated as a health-check on each individual programme of study, considering issues such as the mapping of learning objectives, engagement, and assessment, progression and award data. It could also be used to complete thematic reviews where appropriate.
5. The Board **considered** written and verbal reports from the QMSU Vice-Presidents, including work on fair assessment in the pandemic, and developing employability skills.
6. The Board **approved** a proposal to extend the 2021-22 MBBS Year 2 teaching calendar by two weeks, bringing forward the start date from 20 to 6 September 2021. Circumstances related to the pandemic meant that some first year students had been unable to attend practical skills training sessions. These formed the foundation of much second year content, which would be assessed in the second year OSCE. The additional weeks would be used for face-to-face sessions to ensure that all students were equipped for the second year. The proposal had been made with student involvement and support.
7. The Board **approved** new arrangements for Advisor training. The Queen Mary Academy would develop and maintain the existing online repository of information in QMplus and arrange annual sessions for Senior Advisors for updates and the sharing of good practice. Responsibility for training Advisors by ensuring their engagement with the online materials and delivering training relevant to the local context would be the responsibility of schools and institutes.
8. The Board **noted** an update on the work of the Assessment and Feedback Work Stream. The Work Stream formed part of the Curriculum Enhancement project, and comprised a working group that oversaw task and finish groups focused on marking, external examining, assessment design and feedback, the student voice in assessment, and assessment integrity and security.

9. The Board **approved** a new QM Extra activity, Student Enhanced Engagement and Development, or SEED. SEED had been designed to recognise students for the crucial role they played in the co-creation and enhancement of the learning environment.
10. The Board **considered** an update report from Library Services. Particular consideration was given to responses to the increase in the prices of ebook licenses.
11. The Board **considered** a report from Library Services that marked progress against its KPIs. It had been a challenging year in which to assess performance due to the impact of the pandemic, particularly when the external benchmarks for the KPIs had not been set under the same conditions. However, the figures were remarkably close to those benchmarks even under those difficult circumstances and the Board commended this performance.

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