



Senate

Paper Title	Partnerships Board - Executive Summary
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the PB Executive Summary
Points for Senate members to note and further information	This paper summarises the business of Partnerships Board from 27 January 2021 to 4 May 2021.
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	<p>QMUL is required to comply with the expectations for quality detailed in UK Quality Code for Higher Education which states: <i>'Where a provider works in partnership with other organisations, it has in place effective arrangements to ensure that the academic experience is high-quality irrespective of where or how courses are delivered and who delivers them.'</i></p> <p>The Partnerships Board oversees QMUL's partnership activity on behalf of Senate.</p>
Strategy and risk	PB's role is to assess and monitor the risks of QMUL partnership arrangements, approve as necessary and to consider relevant policies and procedures.
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	This paper is a report to Senate.
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PARTNERSHIPS BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary covers the Partnership Board (PB) meetings held on 16 March 2021 and 4 May 2021, and the extraordinary meeting of Partnerships Board and the Global Engagement Executive (GEE) held on 12 April 2021. The next meeting of Partnerships Board will be held on 6 July 2021.

Consideration of new partnership proposals and renewals

1. Under the new low-risk approvals process introduced during 2019-20, Faculties are responsible for considering and approving low-risk Faculty partnership proposals with both UK and international partners, and individual Faculty approval is sought for partnerships before approval at institutional level for low-risk proposals. A report of these low-risk approved proposals is then submitted to Partnerships Board for noting. During the reporting period, PB has received notification of the following low-risk proposals approved by Faculties.
2. Faculty of Science and Engineering
 - Autonomous University of Baja California, Mexico
3. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
 - El-Yurt Umidi Foundation, Uzbekistan
 - East China University of Science and Technology, China
 - Chulalongkom University, Thailand
 - Paris II Pantheon-Assas University, France
 - University Degli Studi Di Milano, Italy
 - Altinbas University, Turkey
 - OP Jindal Global University, India
4. School of Medicine and Dentistry
 - Jiangnan University, China
 - Santa Clara University, USA
 - COLFUTURO, Colombia
 - Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan
5. Professional Services (including Global Engagement Office)
 - American University of Beirut, Lebanon
 - Hunter College, USA
 - Sichuan University, China
 - Vellore Institute of Technology, India

- The Australian National University, Australia
 - University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
 - University of Macau, Macau
 - University of Rochester, USA
 - Tufts University, USA
 - Shanghai University, China
 - Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia
 - Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, China
 - Peking University Law School, China
 - Beijing Jiaotong University, China
6. At the 16 March meeting the Board considered a PhD funding agreement with the Egyptian Bureau for Cultural and Educational Affairs (ECBEA). It was noted that this agreement was intended to formalise an existing arrangement with ECBEA. The ECBEA was changing its policy to only send students to universities with which it had a formal agreement. The agreement would cover all Faculties and provided for a year-on-year increase in student numbers over a three year period. Subject to finalisation of the agreement in consultation with ARCS, this proposal was approved by the Board.
 7. At the 4 May meeting the Board considered a commercially confidential proposal for an agreement between the School of Business and Management and PricewaterhouseCoopers to develop a BSc Accountancy (Flying Start). The Board heard that the programme was part of a wider project to attract a more diverse cohort of students into accountancy careers. The programme had been developed with PwC and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales (ICAEW) and would include integrated work placements for students with PwC. Subject to finalisation of the contract in consultation with ARCS, this proposal was approved by the Board. It will be publicised once the contract is agreed, which should be by mid-June at the latest.
 8. A joint extraordinary meeting of PB and GEE was convened on 12 April, specifically to consider a proposal for a collaboration with the Qatar Foundation, for 12 PhD students over five years, as well as 50 Masters students and 100 CPD short course students. Total income would be around £5 million. The proposal had emerged from the long-standing relationship between Genomics England and the Qatar Foundation. The meeting heard that concerns around human rights in Qatar had been discussed with the British embassy, and these concerns had been allayed to some extent. The partnership reflected the Qatari governments' desire to move away from an oil-based economy to a knowledge-based economy. Subject to some issues being clarified, the meeting agreed to endorse the proposal; it was agreed that it would go to SET for consideration and final approval.
 9. At the extraordinary meeting on 12 April the Board also considered the renewal of an agreement with the Islamic Development Bank, to co-fund up to 10 PhD students per year. It was recognised that this was probably a loss-making arrangement, but nonetheless aligned with Strategy 2030 by creating opportunities for study and leading to pathways into other markets. Subject to finalisation of the agreement, including adding a non-binding section on pursuing other activities, and a strategic review of the partnership, the meeting approved the proposal. The joint Board noted the importance of understanding the financial position of any collaborations, and that if they were loss-making, there needed to be strong strategic benefit to the institution

which would need to be kept under review to ensure that such benefit was being realised.

Reports

10. At the 4 May meeting the Board considered changes to the Review of Activity form and renewal process for collaborative agreements, in light of the introduction of risk-based approval processes for new activities. The form was redrafted to align with these processes and to reflect the various metrics that could be used to measure the success of different partnerships. Subject to some further amendments, the Board approved the revised form and renewal process.
11. At the 4 May meeting the Board also considered changes to the University's signatory policy, which were intended to remove ambiguities around the hierarchy of signatories to agreements. It was noted that a wider review of signatories would be undertaken as part of the forthcoming governance review, and the Board agreed to approve the revised text, subject to some further minor amendments, as an interim measure.

Meetings in 2020/21

12. Meeting dates for 2020/21 are scheduled as follows:
Tuesday 6 July 2021

Meeting dates for 2021/22 are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday 28 September 2021

Tuesday 2 November 2021

Tuesday 15 March 2022

Tuesday 3 May 2022

Tuesday 5 July 2022