



Senate

Paper Title	Education Quality and Standards Board: Executive Summary
Outcome requested	The Senate is asked to note the summary
Points for Senate members to note and further information	<p>A high-level summary of the discussions and decisions of the Education Quality and Standards Board (EQSB) meeting held on 17 November 2021.</p> <p>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</p>
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 meetings held on 17 November 2021

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

NOTED updates on action points, which included work to:

- explore possibilities for a standardised third term in the academic calendar.
- review the datasets considered at examination boards, with the aim of increasing opportunities to comment on longitudinal student outcomes data.
- consider means by which to establish a new institutional repository of module specifications.

NOTED an update from the Chair, covering education leadership, teaching, learning and assessment, the NSS and other student surveys, the Queen Mary Academy, the OfS and other regulatory matters, and student engagement.

ENDORSED arrangements for pilots of new Annual and Enhanced Programme Review procedures. These would be revised in light of feedback and of anticipated changes to the OfS' B conditions of registration (quality and standards) before returning to the EQSB later in the year for consideration for approval.

NOTED an update on work to develop new procedures for programme development and approval, including workflows and timings.

CONSIDERED the future of assessment at Queen Mary and determined that a wider review was required to ensure that all assessments were of the highest quality and balanced authenticity, academic integrity, security, and inclusivity while explicitly testing programme and module learning outcomes without over-assessing. To progress this work the Board **AGREED** to establish a dedicated committee with responsibility for assessment; in the first instance this would operate as a sub-board of the EQSB.

CONSIDERED draft terms of reference for Education Committees and endorsed those for consideration by the Deans for Education Advisory Groups. The document established common core responsibilities for the Committees, and standardised student representation.

CONSIDERED the 2020-21 report on suspensions of regulations. There had been 137, 87 per cent of which related to (generally avoidable) issues with the delivery of assessment or programmes. While noting the exacerbating effects of the pandemic the Board was concerned by the figures and determined that overly complex assessment schemes (and sometimes overassessment in general) were a contributing factor. The new assessment sub-board (see above) would look into this issue, and the issue of staff training/induction.

CONSIDERED items and themes for inclusion in the next iteration of the Degree Outcomes Statement, which would present and contextualise student outcomes in terms of classifications.

NOTED updates on OfS activities related to quality and standards:

- the OfS had [consulted](#) on changes to the quality and standards conditions of registration. Queen Mary would need to ensure that its procedures took account of those amendments, once finalised.
- the next phase of the OfS' review would focus on quantitative aspects of quality assurance, including the TEF, and changes to condition of registration B3, which related to student outcomes.
- the OfS had [published a report](#) on spelling, punctuation and grammar in written assessment, and encouraged providers to adjust their policies to directly factor these into all marking schemes.

NOTED an update on the review of [QAA Subject Benchmark Statements](#). Five sets relevant to Queen Mary had been reviewed in 2020-21 and were under final consultation. 12 relevant sets were under review in 2021-22, and the Board asked that this be disseminated to relevant schools/institutes to monitor developments.

NOTED update reports from the QMSU Faculty Vice-Presidents.

NOTED the 2020-21 impact report from the Queen Mary Academy, and the success of its initiatives.

NOTED an update report from Library Services.