



Senate

Paper Title	Minutes of the last meeting of Senate held on 16 December 2021
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to approve the minutes of the last meeting
Points for Senate members to note and further information	
Questions for Senate to consider	
Regulatory/statutory reference points	
Strategy and risk	
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 16 December 2021 (draft)

Present:

Professor Colin Bailey (Chair)	Professor Adrian Armstrong	Dr Rafa Castrejon-Pita
Dr Giorgio Chianello	Professor Alex Clark	Dr Joseph Cronin
Dr Giulia De Falco	Professor Panos Deloukas	Dr Abimbola Giwa
Professor Neve Gordon	Professor Colin Grant	Sheila Gupta MBE
Professor Matthew Hilton	Professor Peter Hobson	Professor Henri Huijberts
Dr Robert Janes	Bilge Kacmaz	Professor Steffi Krause
Dr Theo Kreouzis	Professor Irene Leigh	Professor Andrew Livingston
Dr Philippa Lloyd	Professor Stephanie Marshall	Professor Jo Martin
Professor Seán McConville	Professor Scott McCracken	Professor Anthony Michael
Professor Wayne Morrison	Professor Parvati Nair	Dr Ali Nankali
Professor Mike Noon	Professor Alastair Owens	Professor Christina Perry
Professor Richard Pickersgill	Professor Thomas Prellberg	Dr Amitha Ranauta
Dr Simon Rawlinson	Adi Sawalha	Professor Hazel Screen
Dr Prakash Shah	Saynab Sharif	Dr James Strong
Robert Leo Tucker	Dr Christopher Tyson	Professor Steve Uhlig
Professor Fiona Walter	Professor Wen Wang	Professor Anthony Warrens

In attendance:

Simon Hayter	Professor Stefan Krummaker	Dr Maggie Leggett
Jonathan Morgan	Jane Pallant	Professor Tim Warner
Kaya Wiles (minutes)		

Apologies:

Dr Mark Baxendale	Dr Jason Berry	Professor Adrian Bevan
Professor Victoria Bird	Dr Edo Boek	Professor Jo Brown
Dr Dianne Cooper	Professor Paul Coulthard	Dr Debbie De Girolamo
Dr Paula Fonseca	Professor Penny Green	Professor Richard Grose
Dr Jessica Jacobs	Dr Judith Jones	Professor Martin Knight
Professor Nicholas Lemoine	Professor Sandra Nicholson	Dr Michael Page
Professor Mauro Perretti	Jane Reid	Professor Jason Sturgess
Professor Daniel Todman	Professor Ian Walden	Professor David Williams

Part 1: Preliminary items

Minutes of the previous meeting (SE2021.17)

2021.026 Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2021.

Matters arising and Chair's actions (SE2021.18)

2021.027 Senate **noted** the information on the the introduction of the Master by Research (ResM) award which had been approved by Chair's action. The approved

framework for research-based masters programmes would allow schools and institutes to establish offerings to suit the individual needs and markets within their fields.

President and Principal's report (SE2021.19)

2021.028 Senate **received** the President and Principal's report. The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Circumstances around the Covid-19 pandemic, in particular the Omicron variant, had evolved at pace; regular updates for staff and students on the impact of these developments had been circulated by email. Under the existing guidance, face to face activities would continue as planned until the end of term and at the start of term in January. During the Christmas closure period a number of colleagues would continue to work hard to maintain research activities and provide student support. Colleagues were thanked for the fantastic work that they do during the closure period.
- (ii) Queen Mary had been named the country's top university for social mobility according to a report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies in partnership with the Sutton Trust and the Department for Education. This achievement was received with immense pride and gratitude and was extended to all staff who had contributed to Queen Mary's social mobility activities.
- (iii) The government's response to the Augar Review would not be expected until the new year. The review recommended the reduction of home, undergraduate tuition fees from £9,250 to £7,250 per year. Retaining the existing fees of £9,250 would represent a real-term cut of 17% due to increasing costs.
- (iv) The government consultation on the design of a new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) was expected early in 2022. Progression, including retention and employability, were likely to be areas of focus.
- (v) The government recently confirmed that successful Horizon Europe applications would receive funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).
- (vi) Queen Mary had become the first university to be awarded the Platinum-level Engage Watermark. The Centre for Public Engagement and all colleagues and partners who had contributed to the award were thanked for their hard work.
- (vii) Queen Mary had welcomed Dr Ghazwa Alwani-Starr as the new Chief Operating Officer in December 2021.

Vice-Principals' Reports (SE2021.20a-h)

2021.029 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Health) (SE2021.20a). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Queen Mary had been granted several research awards, with income generated to date for 2021-22 significantly up on the same period in 2020-21.
- (ii) Dr Chloe Orkin had been leading the faculty's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) activities with great success. 50% of institute directors were women, with plans to build on this success. Responsibility for leading on or contributing to EDI activities would be embedded in all new role profiles.

2021.030 Senate **received** and **noted** a report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Humanities and Social Sciences), (SE2021.20b).

2021.031 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Science and Engineering), (SE2021.20c). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Schools had been working hard to deliver interactive and student-centred Mixed Mode Education (MME).
- (ii) There had been significant progress in industrial engagement with collaborations established with Aston Martin Formula One Team, Sumitomo Corporation, Steinberg Media Technologies, Unilever, Qinetiq and Adobe.
- (iii) In November 2021, Queen Mary signed a landmark agreement with the National Polytechnic Institute (IPN), Mexico, which included more than 20 initiatives for IPN academics and students.
- (iv) Thanks were expressed to all colleagues who had contributed to a successful year, including those at school and faculty-level, colleagues from other faculties who had worked in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Engineering and professional services teams.

2021.032 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Education) (SE2021.20d). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Colleagues were thanked for their enormous effort in delivering MME. The drive from Heads of Schools and Institutes to upskill colleagues had been very successful.
- (ii) The Education Excellence Awards ceremony had been held on 14 December 2021. The awards highlighted the incredible contribution towards education across schools and institutes and the efforts taken to nurture talent.
- (iii) Since the start of the pandemic, there had been a significant increase in the number of assessment offences. This challenge had been seen across the sector. Schools and institutes had been asked to consider alternative examination formats, such as open book examinations. Time and effort would be invested into looking at alternative assessment design and sharing innovative practice from across the institution. From January 2022, a new sub-board of the Education Quality and Standards Board (EQSB) would be introduced to focus on assessment and

feedback. Additionally, the Queen Mary Academy had been developing a module on academic integrity for students that would be trialled over the spring semester before being made compulsory in autumn 2022.

2021.033

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships), (SE2021.20e). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) As mentioned previously, Queen Mary had been awarded the Platinum Engage Watermark. Colleagues who had contributed through their work in the community, with local partners, on the surveys and/or on case studies were thanked. These efforts had helped immensely.
- (ii) Queen Mary had risen 47 places up to 36th in the People and Planet University League. The league ranks universities on environmental and ethical performance. The improvement was a good representation of the commitment to sustainability and the significant efforts undertaken over the past two years.

2021.034

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation), (SE2021.20f). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Congratulations were extended to the following colleagues and their teams for their recent funding successes:
 - a. Professor David van Heel, Professor of Genetics (Blizard Institute),
 - b. Professor Greg Slabaugh, Director of the Digital Environment Research Institute & Professor of Computer Vision and artificial Intelligence (Digital Environment Research Institute),
 - c. Professor William Alazawi, Professor of Hepatology (Blizard Institute) and Professor Marta Korbonitis, Professor in Endocrinology and Deputy Director of the William Harvey Research Institute (William Harvey Research Institute).
- (ii) Professor Matthew Hilton, Vice-Principal and Executive Dean (Humanities and Social Sciences) was congratulated on receiving a Leverhulme Major Research Fellowship following a very competitive application process.
- (iii) Several projects funded through the Research Capital Investment Fund had been - or were soon to be - installed on campus and available for research. Ricardo Saroyan-James, Project Manager (Strategy Delivery Office) had been instrumental to the delivery of these facilities in 2021.

2021.035

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (People, Culture and Inclusion), (SE2021.20g). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Queen Mary had recently submitted its submission for re-accreditation of its Institutional Athena Swan Silver award, which it gained in 2016. The submission was the culmination of five years of hard work led by the Gender Equality Action Group (GEAG), formerly the Gender

Equality Self-Assessment Team (GESAT). Although at institutional level, the submission drew from the good work being done at school and institute level. Thanks were expressed to all who had contributed to the body of work.

2021.036 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (International), (SE2021.20h). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) refusals for international students and researchers were a continuing challenge across the sector. The issues were interlinked with the National Security and Investment Bill. The Russell Group had been working to communicate the potential impact of the Bill on universities and businesses. Updates pertaining to the National Security and Investment Bill and ATAS would be closely monitored.

Students' Union President's report (SE2021.21)

2021.037 Senate **received** the Students' Union President's report. The following points were **noted**:

- (i) QMSU had been working with Estates and Facilities to develop and run a space survey. The survey would provide useful feedback on how space needs may have changed since the start of the pandemic and would remain open until mid-January 2022.
- (ii) QMSU's Disabled & Specific Learning Differences Representatives had worked alongside Executive Officers to hold the Disability Awareness Fortnight between 01 December and 14 December 2021. The campaign saw events held in person and online.
- (iii) Plans were underway to hold Jewish Heritage Fortnight, previously Anti-Semitism Week, early in 2022. The campaign had been extended by a week as it coincided with examinations.

Part 2: Matters for Discussion

Presentation from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) (SE2021.22)

2021.038 Senate **received** a presentation from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) There had been significant work to identify key research highways which would represent where Queen Mary had excellence and interdisciplinary depth. The research highways would make Queen Mary's research priorities and strengths easily accessible to external audiences, draw together and highlight synergies across faculty research plans and provide a starting point for cross-faculty collaborations.
- (ii) The Research Innovation Board and Senior Executive Team (SET) formulated five research highways. Each highway would have its own

narrative whilst including cross-cutting values such as equality and diversity. The five research highways would be:

- a. Sustainability, environment, and energy
 - b. Digital, information and data
 - c. Life-long health and wellbeing
 - d. Performance, communication, and creative industries
 - e. Accelerating innovation and invention
- (iii) Work was underway to develop a heatmap which would show how current activities across schools and institutes relate to the highways. The heatmap would be updated every 2-3 years to make sure it accurately represented current internal and external research priorities.
- (iv) Next steps in embedding the research highways would comprise creating a webpage to showcase news stories aligned to each area and provide further information to potential partners, identifying academic leads for each highway, providing designated professional services support for each highway, and tracking the outcomes of the body of work.
- (v) Research highways differed from University Research Institutes (URIs) however there could be URIs in the same area. URIs would carry out research across disciplines and faculties without competing with schools and institutes. Over their lifecycle, URIs could become a new school or institute.
- (vi) As part of Strategy 2030, up to five URIs would be established. URIs would have their own cost centre and a director who would report to the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation). Directors would be able to hire 2-3 academics directly to the URI. Professors who join would be expected to have 50% of their directly incurred salary costs covered by existing grant income, with a smaller percentage required for readers or senior lecturers.
- (vii) Queen Mary had one existing URI, the Queen Mary Digital Environment Research Institute (DERI), and plans were underway for two more; the Queen Mary University Research Institute in Precision Healthcare and the Queen Mary Research Institute in Sustainable World. The Queen Mary University Research Institute in Precision Healthcare would comprise three new centres to draw together research excellence in genomics and in life sciences, partnership with Barts NHS Trust and the Whitechapel innovation eco system. The Queen Mary University Research Institute in Sustainable World would provide a holistic response to challenges posed by the climate emergency.

Suspension of Regulations report (SE2021.23)

2021.039

Senate **received** the Suspension of Regulations report for 2020-2021. The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Suspensions of regulations should be reserved for rare cases where the normal application of the regulations would either be manifestly

unfair to one or more students or where a situation arises that had not been foreseen by the regulations. Between 01 October 2020 and 30 September 2021 there had been 137 requests for suspensions of regulations; the highest number on record. The vast majority of suspensions across all faculties were attributable to avoidable errors. Of 137 requests, only 37 were considered unavoidable.

- (ii) Assessment schemes were consistently the largest contributor to suspension of regulations requests. The complexity and volume of assessments were possibly compounding the issue. The Assessment and Feedback sub-board would be considering these issues as part of its remit. Faculty Vice-Principals had also been asked to discuss the issue with schools and institutes, together with issues around academic integrity and retention.

Honorary Degrees and Fellowships (SE2021.24) *confidential*

- 2021.040 Senate **considered** the nominations for Honorary Degrees and Fellowships of Queen Mary and the Queen Mary Medal recommended by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee (HDFC).
- 2021.041 Members **noted** that since the papers had been circulated one honorary degree candidate had been withdrawn.
- 2021.042 Senate **approved** for recommendation to Council the nominations for Honorary Degrees of Queen Mary.
- 2021.043 Senate **approved** for recommendation to Council the nominations for Fellow of Queen Mary.

Part 3: Matters for Report

Taught Programmes Board (SE2021.25)

- 2021.044 Senate **noted** the proposals relating to programme and module academic developments considered by the Taught Programmes Board between 16 September and 17 November 2021.
- 2021.045 Senate **approved** the Taught Programmes Board membership and terms of reference for 2021–22.

Education Quality and Standards Board* (SE2021.26)

- 2021.046 Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Education Quality and Standards Board meeting held on 17 November 2021.

Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board* (SE2021.27)

- 2021.047 Senate **noted** the executive summary of the business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board at meetings held between October and November 2021.

Ethics of Research Committee* (SE2021.28)

2021.048 Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Ethics of Research Committee meeting held on 10 November 2021.

Partnerships Board (SE2021.29)

2021.049 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Partnerships Board between 29 September and 2 November 2021.

2021.050 Senate **approved** the Partnerships Board membership and terms of reference for 2021–22.

Part 4: Other matters

Dates of future meetings

Senate meetings for 2021–22:

- Thursday 17 March 2022, 15:00–17:00 hours
- Thursday 16 June 2022, 15:00–17:00 hours