



**Senate**

<b>Paper Title</b>	Minutes of the last meeting of Senate held on 17 March 2022
<b>Outcome requested</b>	Senate is asked to <b>approve</b> the minutes of the last meeting.
<b>Points for Senate members to note and further information</b>	n/a
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	n/a
<b>Regulatory/statutory reference points</b>	n/a
<b>Strategy and risk</b>	n/a
<b>Reporting/consideration route for the paper</b>	Senate to approve.
<b>Authors</b>	Jane Pallant, Deputy Academic Registrar
<b>Sponsor</b>	Professor Colin Bailey, President and Principal

## Senate

### Minutes of 17 March 2022 (unconfirmed)

---

#### Present:

Professor Colin Bailey (Chair)	Professor Adrian Armstrong	Professor Sir Mark Caulfield
Dr Giorgio Chianello	Professor Colleen Cotter	Dr Giulia De Falco
Professor Neve Gordon	Professor Colin Grant	Professor Penny Green
Professor Richard Grose	Sheila Gupta MBE	Professor Yang Hao
Professor Peter Hobson	Professor Henri Huijberts	Bilge Kacmaz
Professor David Lee	Professor Andrew Livingston	Dr Philippa Lloyd
Professor Stephanie Marshall	Professor Scott McCracken	Professor Anthony Michael
Professor Wayne Morrison	Professor Christina Perry	Saynab Sharif
Dr James Strong	Professor Daniel Todman	Robert Leo Tucker
Professor Wen Wang	Professor David Williams	

#### In attendance:

Hannah Bentley	Dr Luke Bancroft (Item 8)	Professor Alison Blunt
Professor Yang Hao	Professor David Lee	James McSean
Jonathan Morgan	Jane Pallant	Sarah Scott (Minutes)

#### Apologies:

Professor Adrian Bevan	Professor Victoria Bird	Dr Joseph Cronin
Professor Kavita Datta	Dr Paula Fonseca	Professor Matthew Hilton
Professor Peter Hobson	Professor Martin Knight	Professor Steffi Krause
Dr Theo Kreouzis	Professor Stefan Krummaker	Professor Mauro Perretti
Professor Thomas Prellberg	Professor Parvati Nair	Dr Ali Nankali
Dr Amitha Ranauta	Adi Sawalha	Professor Hazel Screen
Dr Prakash Shah	Dr Christopher Tyson	Professor Steve Uhlig
Professor Ian Walden	Professor Fiona Walter	Professor Anthony Warrens

### Part 1: Preliminary items

#### Welcome and apologies

2021.051 The Chair welcomed new members to Senate and **noted** the apologies received.

#### Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 December 2021 (SE2021.30)

2021.052 Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2021.

2021.053 Members agreed that minute 2021.038 should be amended to include Senate's further discussion on University Research Institutes (URIs). The minute should capture discussion on whether URI's would be permitted to offer taught programmes of study in the future and the processes in place to disestablish a URI that failed to meet its financial objectives.

2021.054 Members **noted** that there had been no Chair's actions or matters arising since the last meeting of Senate in December 2021.

## President and Principal's report

(SE2021.31)

2021.055 Senate **received** the President and Principal's report. The following points were **noted**:

- (i) It had been confirmed that undergraduate tuition fees would remain at £9,250 until 2024-25. The static fee equated to a real term cut of 17% since 2012-2013 which would increase to 20% by 2024-2025.
- (ii) The Office for Students (OfS) had launched consultations on student outcomes, the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and the associated data indicators that would be used by the OfS. Course quality, student continuation and student employability were particular areas of focus for the OfS.
- (iii) Since the last meeting of Senate, Professor Sir Mark Caulfield had taken up position as Vice-Principal (Health). The Chief Operations Officer, Dr Ghazwa Alwani-Starr, had tendered her resignation and would be leaving Queen Mary in early summer 2022.

2021.056 Members **discussed** the recent industrial action and requested clarification on the number of staff reported to have taken strike action as detailed in the President and Principal's report. Members **noted** that the number had been calculated from information provided by Schools and Institutes. The figure was presented to Senate to provide information on the impact of the strike on education across QM.

2021.057 Members **discussed** Queen Mary's policy in relation to Action Short of Strike (ASOS). Senate noted that all staff had been asked to prioritise education, this approach was made clear to students on information provided to them in relation to the strike.

2021.058 Members **noted** that some external examiners had resigned from their positions and raised concerns about how these resignations would be managed. Members **noted** that Queen Mary's use of external examiners went beyond sector expectations and that there were no plans to make amendments to our regulations; rather Queen Mary would ensure that its action aligned with sector expectations and its conditions of registration with the Office for Students.

2021.059 Members **noted** that Senate had previously agreed the Terms of Reference for the Industrial Action Strategic Contingency Group (IASG). The purpose of IASG was to monitor and mitigate the effects of all industrial action that affects students of Queen Mary University of London. The Group reported to the Senior Executive Team and would keep Senate informed with regard to the mitigating measures on the student experience, teaching and assessment, academic progression and award outcomes.

2021.060 Members **noted** that Queen Mary's institutional responses to OfS consultations had been submitted on the 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and these were available upon request.

## Vice Principal's reports

(SE2021.32a-h)

2021.061 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Health) (SE2021.32a). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The MBBS and BDS programmes in London had received a greater number of applications than at this point last year. The Faculty's research award income to date for 2021-2022 was £65.5 million which was ahead of the same period in 2020-21.
  - (ii) Professor Arunthathi Mahendran had been appointed Director for the Institute of Health Sciences Education (IHSE).
- 2021.062 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Humanities and Social Sciences) (SE2021.32b). The following points were **noted**:
- (i) The Faculty had been mourning the sad loss of Dr Azeezat Johnson from the School of Geography.
  - (ii) Three members of the Faculty had been awarded prestigious fellowships by the Academy of Social Sciences (ACSS). Professor Kavita Datta, Professor Penny Green, and Professor Geraldine Healy were congratulated on their achievements.
- 2021.063 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Science and Engineering) (SE2021.32c). The following points were **noted**:
- (i) Strategic appointments for new lectureships within the Faculty had received many strong applications particularly within the areas of Precision Medicine, Green Energy and Sustainability.
  - (ii) Colleagues had been encouraged to continue applying for research grants as funding had been specifically ringfenced for this purpose. The Faculty currently had seventy-five proposals in flight which would all be assessed by the EU Commission for Horizon Europe programmes.
- 2021.064 Senate received a report from the Vice-Principal (Education) (SE2021.32d).
- 2021.065 Members **noted** that Queen Mary's response to the OfS consultation on the TEF consultation had been submitted. A concern was raised in relation to the proposals described in the consultation which would create incentives to increase internal monitoring thereby removing staff from front line services in supporting students in order to complete 'tick box' exercises. Members agreed Queen Mary's framework for monitoring and review should be risk-based with a regular review of our processes in order to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy.
- 2021.066 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships) (SE2021.33e). Members **noted** that further information on this area of work would be provided in the presentation from the Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships)
- 2021.067 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) (SE2021.f). The following points were **noted**:
- (i) A package of support had been approved for the University Research Institutes which would enable implementation of the business model. Members were encouraged to put forward recommended candidates for Research Lead positions.

- (ii) The Flexible Research Fund (FRF) has been slower to implement than initially expected. The delay in researcher spending was suspected to be attributed to researchers being unaware of how much they have to spend. Work had been taking place with the JRMO and Finance to make processes around FRFs clearer and more efficient.

- 2021.068 Members **discussed** the Transparent Approach to Costing (TRAC) and **noted** that in comparison with other Russell Group Universities Queen Mary ranked in the lowest quartile for costs recovered. Members noted that work was underway to bring cost recovery in line with that of its Russell Group peers.
- 2021.069 Members **discussed** the new Overhead Policy outlined within the report. While many colleagues were applying for smaller grants it was **noted** that funders were looking to support innovative research and not just the cheapest projects. Research was at an excellent standard at Queen Mary and therefore colleagues should be confident in asking for properly costed support for their research.
- 2021.070 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (People, Culture and Inclusion) (SE2021.g)
- 2021.071 Members **noted** that on International Women's Day (08 March 2022) Queen Mary's application for reaccreditation of the Institutional level Silver Athena Swan Award was successful. The award recognises Queen Mary's commitment to advancing gender equality and the impact made to date.
- 2021.072 Members extended thanks to colleagues across the University whose contribution on progressing Queen Mary's work on gender equality had led to this excellent outcome.
- 2021.073 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (International) (SE2021.h).
- 2021.074 Members **discussed** the Russian invasion of Ukraine and its impact on the 245 Queen Mary students from Russia and Ukraine. A support fund had been established for those students suffering from financial difficulties because of the crisis. There had also been wide engagement with staff and students across the University to ensure that those affected were aware of the support in place.

### **Students' Union President's report**

**(SE2021.33)**

- 2021.075 Senate **received** a report from the Students' Union Vice-President (Humanities and Social Sciences) on behalf of the President of the Students' Union. The following points were **noted**:
- (i) The Students' Union Spring Elections had taken place and results were announced on 03 March 2022. A total of 105 candidates had put themselves forward for Part-Time Officer, Executive Officer and Student Trustee positions.
  - (ii) QMSU Faculty VPs were continuing to engage with the Industrial Action Strategic Contingency Group to provide feedback from students and to encourage communication between QMUL staff, students and Schools.

- (iii) QMSU's VP (Humanities and Social Sciences) had worked with staff to host an IT Students' Forum which included engagement from IT Services, Library Services and the E-Learning Unit to improve the student experience with teaching and learning tools.
- (iv) Work had taken place with QMUL staff in Malta to support a growing number of student-led societies based in Gozo.
- (v) Green Week had been celebrated in February which included a schedule of in person and online events. A new Green Mary Sustainability Fund offering £3,000 for staff and student led projects had received eleven applications with seven projects being granted.

## Part 2: Matters for Discussion

### Presentation from the Vice- Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships)

2021.076 Senate received a presentation from the Vice- Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The London City Institute of Technology (IoT) had been designed with Newham College to address the key skills gap and would focus on the transport, technology and engineering sectors. The IoT would focus on reskilling and upskilling people within the workforce to develop new pathways into high quality employment. Newham College would support levels 3 to 5 pathways and Queen Mary would focus on level 6 and 7 pathways.
- (ii) The potential of degree apprenticeships was being explored further with there being high demand for these programmes and an indication that the apprenticeship levy was underutilised by employers. The retention and further employment of students on degree apprenticeships had been excellent and the degree apprentices formed a richly diverse group.
- (iii) Queen Mary was the first university to be awarded the Platinum-level Engage Watermark in recognition of its sector-leading support for public engagement.
- (iv) A new Public Engagement Action Plan had been developed to support the 2030 strategy. The Action Plan would focus on evolving the Centre for Public Engagement from being an 'enabler' to be a 'catalyst' focusing on where the team's efforts would have the most impact for Queen Mary.
- (v) Queen Mary's Civic University Agreement (CUA) was under development and would outline the ways in which Queen Mary would support the east London community. The agreement was in the final stages of development with the launch date expected in May 2022. The agreement would encompass all Faculties in order to strengthen the potential for meeting the needs of east London. An audit of activity would be conducted across Queen Mary under the five themes to inform new priority areas. The five themes consisted of; inclusive place-making, creating a healthy and sustainable future,

establishing pathways for life, being a cultural hub for east London and enabling civic practice.

- (vi) A Civic Engagement Lead would join Queen Mary in April 2022 to lead on the work of embedding the CUA.

2021.077 Members **suggested** that there should be engagement with Toynbee Hall as part of the CUA, given Toynbee Hall's charitable work in the East End. There had been an attempt to get an agreement in place with Toynbee Hall some time ago; however, this had not come to fruition. Members agreed that further engagement should be considered.

### **DVP's for Research Introduction**

2021.078 Senate received introductions from the new Deputy Vice-Principals for Research. The Deputy Vice-Principals provided Senate with a summary of their current priorities, noting that Senate would receive updates on progress throughout the year.

2021.079 Professor Alison Blunt, Deputy Vice-Principal for Impact (Culture, Civic and Community) was working closely with the Impact Team, the Centre for Public Engagement and Arts and Culture to facilitate greater integration and cohesion in these areas. Professor Blunt would have a particular focus on supporting policy impact across the university and on raising the profile of Knowledge Exchange.

2021.080 Professor David Lee, Deputy Vice-Principal for Impact (Enterprise and Commercial Innovation) would work to support Commercialisation and Impact Acceleration, building on new opportunities provided by successful applications to UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) for impact acceleration account (IAA) funding and the forthcoming Queen Mary Enterprise Investment Fund. Professor Lee was also working on the growth of Queen Mary's skills offer to meet the needs of industry, including the successful launch of the London City Institute of Technology from 2022 and the development of a similar approach for health and life sciences provision.

2021.081 Professor Yang Hao, Deputy Vice-Principal for Strategic Research would support Queen Mary's capacity to support individual and collective research excellence. This work would involve leading preparations for the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise; oversight of investment in our research infrastructure; support for multi-disciplinary collaboration; and the development of strategic partnerships with other research organisations.

### **Annual Report on Student Casework (2020-2021)**

**(SE2021.34)**

2021.082 Senate **received** the annual report on student casework.

2021.083 Senate **considered** the report and **noted** that there had been an increase in the percentage of students alleged to have committed academic misconduct from 2.3% in 2019-20 to 3.9% 2020-21. The Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Office (ACCO) had investigated 1,112 distinct allegations of academic misconduct in 2020-2021. Senate thanked the Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Office and the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of casework panels for their hard work during this busy period.

2021.084 Senate **noted** that, under the current regulations, academic misconduct in work that represented over 30% of the total assessment for a module was considered centrally, by the Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Unit. It was recognised that this percentage of a module may no longer be appropriate for some types of assessment, and that it might be helpful to take a more granular approach which allowed for schools and institutes to handle some cases locally. Senate **agreed** that further discussions should take place in order to address this issue for the future.

### Part 3: Matters for Report

#### Council Report\* (SE2021.35)

2021.085 Senate **noted** executive summaries of the Council meetings held on 07 October and 18 November 2021.

#### Taught Programmes Board\* (SE2021.36)

2021.086 Senate **noted** the proposals relating to programme and academic developments that have taken place between 18 November 2021 and 9 February 2022.

#### Education Quality and Standards Board\* (SE2021.37)

2021.087 Senate **noted** the executive summary of the Education Quality and Standards Board meeting held on 26 January 2022.

#### Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board\* (SE2021.38)

2021.088 Senate **noted** the executive summary of the business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board at meetings held between December 2021 – February 2022.

#### Ethics of Research Committee (SE2021.39)

2021.089 Senate **approved** the Ethics of Research Committee Terms of Reference and Panel membership for 2021-2022.

#### Partnerships Board\* (SE2021.40)

2021.090 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Partnerships Board between 03 November 2021 to 28 January 2022.

### Part 4: Other matters

#### Dates of future meetings

2021.091 Senate **noted** the Senate meetings for 2021-2022:

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