



Senate

Paper Title	Executive summaries of Council meetings held on 07 July and 06 October 2022.
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the executive summaries of the Council meetings held on 07 July and 06 October 2022.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	N/A
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	N/A
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	Senate 20 October 2022
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COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Non-confidential confirmed minutes and papers of Council are available at:
<https://arcs.qmul.ac.uk/governance/council/council-meeting-papers/>.
Alternatively, contact the Assistant Secretary to Council: Dr Nadine Lewycky,
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Meeting date: 07 July 2022

Main Items Discussed

1. **President and Principal's report**

Council **received** an update on the negotiations between the university and UCU in relation to the strike action and marking boycott. Council discussed the role of the Industrial Action Strategic Contingency Group in protecting academic standards and the student experience during times of industrial action. Council considered an open letter and press release from members of Film Studies. Council also considered a letter from 12 Heads of Schools asking for Council to intervene in the negotiations between the university and UCU.

Council **agreed** to establish a group comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council, and the Chairs of Finance and Investment Committee and Audit and Risk Committee, to seek assurance on the way the University was dealing with industrial relations with UCU during the current dispute, including Council's duties regarding student protection and academic assurance. The exercise would aim to establish the facts in relation to the issues raised in correspondence from the UCU and would not reopen discussions about the policy or principles which had been discussed by Council previously.

2. **Arts and Culture strategy**

Council **received** a presentation about the Queen Mary Arts and Culture strategy, including case studies and examples of engagement with the local community. Council heard that the arts and culture strategy spanned across the university and that six of the impact case studies involving arts and culture submitted to the last REF had been in science disciplines. Council heard that the Arts and Culture team were effective at brokering networks making Queen Mary a desirable collaborator. Council heard how Arts and Culture was working to support work opportunities for students.

3. **Tuition fee regulations 2023–24**

Council **approved** the tuition fee regulations for 2023–24.

4. **Committee and Senate reports**

Council **noted** the minutes of Finance and Investment Committee, Audit and Risk Committee and reports from Remuneration Committee and Senate.

Main Items Discussed

1. Strategic Risk Register and KPIs

Council **considered** the strategic risk register and KPIs. Council discussed some of the KPIs that were out of tolerance and how quickly the mitigating actions could bring those risks into tolerance. Council discussed the regulatory risks in relation to the degree apprenticeship programmes that are regulated by Ofsted. Council discussed the university's decision to exit the University of London careers group and the opportunity it presented to create a bespoke programme aligned to the needs of our graduates. Council discussed how employability and skills is supported and embedded in the curriculum.

2. Staff survey results and next steps

Council **received** a report on the staff survey results and approach to action planning. Council heard that the next steps included cascading the results to faculties and professional services departments to enable teams to develop action plans. One of the key areas for attention would be increasing the engagement score. The steering group would meet in October to consider the action plans. Council suggested ways to improve the process so that results are available earlier in future surveys. Council would receive an update on action plans at its meeting in March.

3. Review of governance effectiveness

Council **considered** the final report on the review of governance effectiveness conducted by Advance HE. Council said that the report offered some practical suggestions that could be implemented quickly. Council acknowledged that there was more work to be done to improve its oversight of academic assurance, which was an emerging priority of the Office for Students, and an area of challenge for the sector. Council discussed the right level of information that would be appropriate for effective decision making. Council discussed its membership in terms of size and composition and noted the role of the current recruitment round for improving diversity in a number of ways.

4. Review of industrial relations

Council **considered** the report of an assurance exercise on industrial relations between the university and the local UCU branch during recent industrial action. Following correspondence received from UCU ahead of the Council meeting in July, Council resolved to establish a review group to seek assurance on the way that the university was dealing with UCU during the current dispute, including Council's duties regarding student protection and academic assurance.

Council **agreed** that the report provided assurance on its regulatory duties. Council discussed approaches to any future industrial action, including communication and the Joint Consultative Forum.

5. Infrastructure business cases

Council **considered** business cases for the new School of Business and Management; Queens' Building Phase 2a; and the Mile End Library extension. Council discussed how the projects would support the strategy by providing additional student space to support growth and contribute to student satisfaction. Council **approved** the business cases.