



**Senate**

<b>Paper Title</b>	Students' Union President's Report
<b>Outcome requested</b>	Senate is asked to <b>note</b> the report from the President of the Students' Union
<b>Points for Senate members to note and further information</b>	<p>The Students' Union President submits a report to every meeting of QMUL Council which highlights some of the projects the Union is currently working on and the key successes since the last meeting. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study Well</li> <li>• The Nest (formerly the Hive) / First Friday prayer (Jumu'ah)</li> <li>• Open Iftar with Student Life</li> <li>• Zero Tolerance , SU Harassment forum</li> <li>• QMUL Access Monitoring Group</li> <li>• London Marathon Volunteering</li> <li>• Final Draft of the Joint Sport Strategy</li> <li>• NUS Green Impact Award for sustainability</li> <li>• Governance update</li> </ul>
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	
<b>Regulatory/statutory reference points</b>	Education Act 1994 and related Code of Practice; QMUL Ordinance C5 Memorandum of Agreement between QMUL and QMSU
<b>Strategy and risk</b>	<p>1.2 Support students to ensure that they can succeed and match their own and the university's high expectations for their academic and personal progress, providing both academic support and co-curricular development.</p> <p>3.1 Encourage all students to achieve their potential by ensuring that teaching, learning and assessment, and student support are optimised, with the provision of appropriate levels of resource.</p>
<b>Reporting/consideration route for the paper</b>	
<b>Authors</b>	Yasir Yeahia, President of Queen Mary Students' Union
<b>Sponsor</b>	

# President's Report

May 2018

## Education Awards

Every year, the Education Awards celebrate the contributions of staff and students to improving the Queen Mary learning experience. The Education Awards include the Course Rep Awards in six categories, awarded to Course Reps who have made a huge difference to students and their courses, and the Teaching Awards in twelve categories, awarded to teaching and support staff that have made an outstanding contribution to the student experience.

The competition was especially strong this year, with the highest number of nominations ever, making the selection extremely difficult and the awards even more prestigious. The Education Awards Ceremony was held on Monday 26th March, in a beautiful environment of Drapers' Hall, with the record high attendance of 150 people who thoroughly enjoyed their special evening.

## Student Experience Seminar

Each year the Students' Union conducts research into a key education-related topic and presents our findings to the University and recommends improvements. This year students have chosen digital resources (in teaching, learning and assessment) as the subject and shared their experiences and views on:

- What do they think about digital resources at Queen Mary?
- Are all their lectures recorded on Q-Review?
- Do they have to use a specialist software on their courses or to complete their assessments?
- Do they have easy access to any specialist software needed for their courses?
- Can they access a plagiarism checker before they submit their assignments?

...and other topics.

## Study Well

Study Well aims to support students to minimise stress during the very intense exam season. The Students' Union work closely with the University, including Residences and Student Services, to deliver this campaign. The campaign has specifically tailored events, studying tips, sport activities and general signposting of study space to ensure that students are well aware of the facilities available to them and that they are maximising their preparation for the upcoming exams they have.

We are also giving away water and fruits with general freebies all in a wheelbarrow!

## The Nest (formerly the Hive)/ First Friday Prayer (Jum'uah)

Following years of hard work and campaigning from students, sabbatical and part-time officers, the Students' Union and societies, Friday Prayer (Jum'uah) was held in the Nest for the first time on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This has been a culmination of work from alumni, students, former sabbatical officers and members of the various University departments to make this all possible. I will give thanks to some of the people who have supported this process this year but I am also aware of the work done behind the scenes and the years before in order for this to become a reality. So, thanks to Zehra Yumsak, Hassan Falafat, Martin Beeson, Richard Halsall, Matthew Hill, Sarah Cows, Rebecca Lingwood and QMSU ISoc for all the work done contributing to the #RightToPray campaign.

To find out more, check <https://www.qmsu.org/news/article/6965/First-Friday-Prayer-in-the-Nest/>



## Open Iftar with Student Life

This year, the Students' Union have been working with the University in setting up open Iftar sessions for all those students studying late hours and working past sunset. Iftars are held during Ramadhan and are for those who observe the fast, as it gives them the opportunity to break them after sunset. This is also an opportunity for all those students to take a break from studying and share food with those that are breaking their fast. We are coordinating with the Student Life team for the setup of Iftar, with food, snacks and the opportunity to pray as well.

## Zero Tolerance, SU Harassment Forum in London

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April, QMSU hosted 10 other students' unions in a forum to discuss some of the work that London-based institutions have done in tackling forms of sexual harassment. The feedback was very positive and began to look at areas of best practice from which to take ideas and use for future collaborative work. It also gave other Unions the opportunity to discuss with similar organisations the work others are doing and highlight the same patterns and areas they can help with.

## QMUL Access Monitoring Group

The Union have been working closely with the University in settling the issues surrounding the bursaries and have embedded feedback in the recent participation plan sent by the University to OFFA. We have also begun conducting preliminary meetings with members from the Bursaries department around the procedure for the student wellbeing fund and how that money can be successfully allocated.

In terms of the new recent piece of work that we have collated, the Union have been heavily involved in its decision making process as well. We look forward to seeing the data that emerges out of this, showing the impact bursaries has on our students wider than just retention.