



Senate

Paper Title	Minutes of the last meeting of Senate held on 14 December 2023
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to approve the minutes of the last meeting.
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 to approve.
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Sponsor	Professor Colin Bailey, President and Principal

Senate

Minutes of 14 December 2023

Present:

Prof Colin Bailey (Chair)
Dr Georgia Black
Dr Lucy Carter
Dr Giorgio Chianello
Prof Kavita Datta
Dr Lei Fang
Prof Michael Harker
Dr Philippa Lloyd
Prof Scott McCracken
Prof Mike Noon
Dr Anthony Phillips
Aisha Qadi
Prof Christopher Tredwin

Amaan Abbas
Prof Frances Bowen
Dr Livia A Carvalho
Dr Dianne Cooper
Dr Jayne Dennis
Prof Emma Griffin
Prof Boris Khoruzhenko
Dr Michaela MacDonald
Prof Wayne Morrison
Dr Émilie Oléron Evans
Prof Richard Pickersgill
Prof Hazel Screen
Prof Wen Wang

Dr Oscar Bandtlow
Prof Christopher Bray
Prof Sir Mark Caulfield
Prof Martin Coward
Dr Pedro Elston
Prof Richard Grose
Prof Andrew Livingston
Prof Stephanie Marshall
Prof Rachael Mulheron
Jovani Palnoni
Dr Sharri Plonski
Prof Elizabeth Tanner

In attendance:

Simon Hayter
Prof Anthony Michael
Dr Emily Salines
Kaya Wiles (Secretary)

Prof Stefan Krummaker
Jonathan Morgan
Adam Streames

Prof Rachel Male
Jane Pallant
Prof Nick Vriend

Apologies:

Prof Amrita Ahluwalia
Prof Adrian Bevan
Prof Liam Campling
Dr Giulia De Falco
Elizabeth Gillow
Prof Jonathan Griffiths
Prof Steffi Krause
Prof John Marshall
Prof Thomas Prellberg
Dr James Strong
Prof Fiona Walter

Serena-Amani Al Jabbar
Dr Erik Blair
Prof Mary Collins
Prof Panos Delokas
Dr Abimbola Giwa
Prof Martin Knight
Prof Nicholas Lemoine
Dr Ali Nankali
Dr Simon Rawlinson
Prof Jason Sturgess
Prof Anthony Warrens

Prof Adrian Armstrong
Prof Rob Briner
Dr Joseph Cronin
Dr Paula Fonseca
Prof Neve Gordon
Prof Ioannis Kokkoris
Prof Arunthathi Mahendran
Dr Michael Page
Prof Kathryn Richardson
Prof Steve Uhlig
Dr Yannick Wurm

Part 1: Preliminary items

Welcome and apologies

2023.065 The Chair welcomed new members to Senate and **noted** the apologies received.

Minutes of the last meeting on 19 October 2023

(SE2023.24)

2023.066 Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2023.

Matters arising

(SE2023.25)

- 2023.067 Senate **noted** two amendments to postgraduate admissions policies that it approved in November 2023 via email circulation of members: one enabling the University to recognise 3+1 Degrees; the other recognising the equivalence of one year of undergraduate study in a majority English-speaking country to the minimum English language requirement. Members noted the responses to the comments that had been submitted during the email consultation.
- 2023.068 Senate **noted** that the Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech had been approved by Council at its meeting on 23 November 2023. The new Code had been published and a communication plan, together with proposals for training, would be implemented from January 2024. Members **noted** that the Office for Students had yet to define its free speech complaints scheme and a further review of the internal complaints process would take place before 01 August 2024, when the Office for Students complaints scheme would be put in place.

President and Principal's report

(SE2023.26)

- 2023.069 Senate **received** the President and Principal's report. The following points were **noted**:
- (i) The University had not met its student number targets for entry in September 2023. There had been a reduction in both applications and offers, a trend which had been seen across the sector. Steps were being taken to manage the financial impact in-year and to improve future recruitment prospects, including by promoting Queen Mary and the UK through marketing channels. Achieving a top 100 position in the QS World University Rankings could also improve future recruitment, particularly as graduating from a top 100 ranked institution opened up a range of opportunities in certain cities in China, including Hong Kong and Shanghai. Improving the University's academic reputation ratings could make significant improvements to Queen Mary's position on the QS World University Rankings.
 - (ii) There were four bills progressing through parliamentary processes which could have an impact on university activities; the Economic Activities of Public Bodies (Oversees Matters) Bill, the Renters (Reform) Bill, the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill, and the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill.
 - (iii) There had been a small reduction overall in the number of students who had been Not Eligible to Progress (NEtP) following the 2022-23 academic year.
 - (iv) The High Court had ruled that it would consider an appeal case which could determine whether universities legally owe a duty of care to their students. The High Court would also consider a range of issues under the Equality Act, including practices on reasonable adjustments. Members noted that Queen Mary would continue to provide high quality support and care for students as reasonable regardless of the outcome of this tragic case.

Vice-Principals' reports

(SE2023.27a-f)

2023.070 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Health) (SE2023.27a). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The Faculty had been awarded an Athena Swan Gold Award; one of only seven faculties in the UK to achieve the accolade. Thanks were sent to those who had contributed to the achievement, including Professor Chloe Orkin, Equality Diversity and Inclusion Lead in the Faculty and the central Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team.
- (ii) The Faculty's income was promising, with full-year cash generation forecast to be £2 million higher than budget. This was predominantly due to higher tuition fee income and research overhead income.
- (iii) The Faculty had introduced January intakes for 2023-24. It was expected that an additional 50-70 PGT students would join in January 2024.
- (iv) The Digital Education Studio had been awarded the Excellence in Digital Health Education award at the Med-Tech awards event in October 2023.
- (v) The Faculty had attracted significant new funding between September 2023 and October 2023. Awards had been received from the National Institute for Health and Care Research, Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK and more.

2023.071 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Humanities and Social Sciences) (SE2023.27b). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The Faculty held the HSS Awards on 20 November 2023. The event was well attended and recognised 25 individuals and teams across a range of categories spanning education, research and professional services.
- (ii) The Faculty continued to make good progress towards their income target of £10 million in 2027-28. Research awards for 2022-23 totalled £12.1 million; the highest on record.
- (iii) The Faculty had been working to address challenges in student recruitment, education and experience. All Schools had developed National Student Survey (NSS) action plans and analysed their NEtP data to inform their actions.

2023.072 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Science and Engineering) (SE2023.27c). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Professor Kaspar Althoefer, Professor of Robotics Engineering, had won Queen Mary's first European Research Council (ERC) prestigious Synergy grant. The award was one of only 34 made across Europe.

- (ii) The Faculty was in the process of recruiting professorial strategic hires. There had been around 240 applications across all five schools.
- (iii) The Faculty held their annual celebration lunch in December 2023. The event was well attended and a good opportunity to welcome new strategic hires and celebrate recent promotions. The Faculty sent their thanks to those who had collaborated with and supported them over the year.

2023.073

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Education) (SE2023.27d). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) A network for Directors of Education across all Schools and Institutes had been established. The education enabling plan would be a key area of work for the Directors of Education.
- (ii) The National Student Survey (NSS) would launch on 29 January 2024.
- (iii) The Queen Mary Academy would run a series of workshops and programmes, including the Heads of School Leadership programme which had already been launched and had received positive feedback. There were also plans to launch workshops for teaching and scholarship staff providing opportunities to explore their career progression prospects.
- (iv) Students were able to self-enrol onto Studiosity, an online service which provided students with access to 24/7 writing support. Members queried Studiosity's quality control processes and how colleagues should manage a student's expectations of this service. There were also queries around maintaining academic integrity. It was noted that the service was designed to support students and was in use at many higher education institutions. Although the system collected data on overall usage, it did not record data on which individuals had accessed the service.

ACTION: Professor Stephanie Marshall, Vice-Principal (Education) and Professor Stefan Krummaker (Deputy Vice-Principal (Education)) to facilitate presentations by Directors of Education on Studiosity at School Board meetings.

2023.074

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships) (SE2023.27e). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Queen Mary had achieved a 2:1 ranking on the People and Planet University League table, which ranked universities by their environmental and ethical performance.
- (ii) The Arts and Culture team had been rebranded as the Centre for Arts, Culture and Creative Collaboration. The new centre would continue the work set out in the arts and culture strategy in the

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and extend it to cover the wider University.

- (iii) QMSU and Queen Mary held a series of events during Sustainability Week in November 2023. Events included the launch of the Sustainability Climate Action Network.

2023.075 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) (SE2023.27f). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The next Research and Innovation awards would be held on 02 May 2024. Members were encouraged to apply for and promote the awards. Applications would open on 08 January 2024.
- (ii) The team were establishing the governance structure required for REF2028. Each of the groups had a faculty representative who would be able to provide feedback to Heads of Schools/Directors of Institutes.
- (iii) The research culture team had launched two funding schemes to enrich Queen Mary's research culture. The Enhancing Research and Innovation Culture Fund was open to all researchers and research-enabling staff who wanted to enrich or support research culture across Queen Mary. The Carers' Career Development Fund aimed to support parents, guardians and carers with additional care costs incurred as a result of attending conferences or other important development and networking events.

Students' Union President's report

(SE2023.28)

2023.076 Senate **received** the Students' Union President's report. The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Aisha Qadi, QMSU Vice-President (Science and Engineering), had established the Employability Curriculum Group which would map employability principles addressed within the curriculum in the Faculty.
- (ii) Aisha Qadi and Jovani Palnoni, QMSU Vice-President (Humanities and Social Sciences), were working on a qualitative survey to gather student feedback on their experiences with employability principles, the skills gained in their course, their confidence in how their assessments reflect those principles and their engagement with employability support services. QMSU would also seek feedback from relevant services.
- (iii) QMSU was working with the Queen Mary Advice and Counselling team to support the delivery of a pilot referral programme for students who had mild to moderate anxiety and/or depression. The Scheme would provide students with free access to Qmotion Sport and Fitness Centre, timetabled exercise classes and Get Active sessions for 12 weeks.
- (iv) Tahmid Khan, QMSU Vice-President (Welfare), had launched a large-scale data collection exercise to determine usage rates and

trends for the multi-faith centre on the Mile End campus. If successful, the data collection would be replicated at the multi-faith centre within the Garrod Building on the Whitechapel campus.

Part 2: Matters for Discussion

Programme review (SE2023.29)

- 2023.077 Senate **received** an update on a revised approach for programme review being piloted during the 2023-24 academic year.
- 2023.078 Senate **noted** that the revised approach had been developed through discussions with the Education, Quality and Standards Board (EQSB) and Faculty Vice-Principals.
- 2023.079 Senate **noted** that the revisions aimed to address challenges with previous formats, build consistent engagement, reduce the burden on Schools and Institutes and move towards an agile, data-informed, and risk-based approach to programme review. The revisions would support alignment with the Office for Students (OfS) Conditions of Registration and the requirements of Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies.

Suspension of Regulations report 2022-23 (SE2023.30)

- 2023.080 Senate **received** the Suspension of Regulations Annual Summary Report for 2022-23.
- 2023.081 Senate **noted** that one of the aims of the annual report was to consider ways to reduce the number of suspensions of the Regulations, as these should ideally be the result of rare situations which were not foreseen by the Regulations.
- 2023.082 Senate **noted** that colleagues could benefit from more feedback when submitting module amendment requests.

ACTION: Simon Hayter, Head of Academic Quality and Standards, to provide breakdowns of the Suspension of Regulations Annual Summary Report by School and Institute to Heads of Schools and Directors of Institutes.

Masters in Education (MEd) (SE2023.31)

- 2023.083 Senate **received** a proposal to introduce Master of Education (MEd) awards, for addition to the Ordinances by Council.
- 2023.084 Senate **noted** that the proposed MEd programme would complement the existing provision available to Queen Mary educators, including the Certificate in Learning and Teaching (CILT) and postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PGCAP). The MEd would be delivered by the Queen Mary Academy (QMA) and include more practical elements than a MA.
- 2023.085 Senate **noted** that members would like to see presentation and other practical skills, including voice projection, included in the programme. The

area was covered in the PGCAP and the QMA would give consideration to including it in the MEd.

2023.086 Senate **noted** that members would benefit from more information on the detail of the programme and how it had been shaped.

2023.087 Senate **approved** the proposal to introduce MEd awards, subject to receiving more detail on the programme and its academic governance.

ACTION: Dr Emily Salines, Head of Education Programmes, to provide more information on the MEd programme and its academic governance, for circulation to Senate.

Approval of membership and terms of reference for sub-boards of Senate for 2023-2024 (SE2023.32)

2023.088 Senate **received** the 2023–24 membership and terms of reference for the Partnerships Board.

2023.089 Senate **approved** the membership and terms of reference for the Partnerships Board for 2023–24.

Honorary Degrees and Fellowships (*confidential*) (SE2023.33)

2023.090 ***Confidential***

2023.091 ***Confidential***

Presentation from the Deputy Vice-Principal (Education)

2023.092 Senate **received** a presentation from the Vice-Principal (Education).

2023.093 Senate **noted** that the Vice-Principal (Education) had held an away day with Directors of Education, Deans for Education and QMSU Executive Officers. The away day was an opportunity to review key data, including the metrics considered for the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). It was also an opportunity to review how Queen Mary benchmarked against other institutions, an opportunity to co-create with students and reflect on the steps needed to move Queen Mary from being rated silver to gold in the TEF.

2023.094 Senate **noted** that consistency had been identified in the report from the TEF Panel as a key area to improve. There were areas of excellent practice, however the University needed to consistently deliver and record data on excellence that impacted every student. Co-creation with students helped to provide consistency across the University while also tailoring approaches to student groups. The Peer Assisted Study Support scheme was a good example of this.

2023.095 Senate **noted** that engagement with faculty QMSU Executive Officers enhanced the University's understanding of the issues affecting students. Students had indicated that opportunities to provide feedback were a key area to be addressed. It was recognised that being able to provide feedback, and feeling as though this had been acted on, influenced student engagement and engagement with the NSS. Student Staff Liaison

Committees provided an opportunity for students to raise issues, but these were not consistently operated across the University.

- 2023.096 Senate **noted** that there would be a renewed focus on pan-university approaches delivered through central policies. It was expected that this would address some areas of inconsistency.
- 2023.097 Senate **noted** that variations in training uptake and availability could account for some of the inconsistencies, particularly in relation to pastoral care. Lack of student engagement and attendance on campus was one obstacle in identifying and supporting some students. The Directorate of Student Experience were working to address engagement issues.
- 2023.098 Senate **noted** that ITS and EAF were working hard to drive improvements to infrastructure that were likely to improve student satisfaction.
- 2023.099 Senate **noted** the importance of ensuring that student evaluations and Mentimeter responses were respectful and aligned with Queen Mary's values and community culture.
- 2023.100 Senate **agreed** that further exploration of the issues around consistency and obstacles to be addressed would be beneficial.

Part 3: Matters for Report

Council Report (SE2023.34)

- 2023.101 Senate **noted** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 05 October 2023 and 23 November 2023.

Taught Programmes Board (SE2023.35)

- 2023.102 Senate **noted** proposals relating to programme and module developments considered between 14 September 2023 and 28 November 2023.

Partnerships Board (SE2023.36)

- 2023.103 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Partnerships Board between 28 June 2023 to 13 November 2023.

Part 4: Other matters

Any other business

- 2023.104 Senate **discussed** the development of a policy on teaching experience for PhD students, the purpose of which would be to ensure that PhD students had access to teaching experience and training opportunities, with appropriate oversight, as part of their career development, while recognising that their primary focus remains to undertake research and complete their PhD on time. The scheme under consideration would allow PhD students who were considering academic careers to achieve HEA Associate Fellowship via the fast-track route before they graduate. Members noted that the scheme may have implications for teaching staff if the amount of teaching that PhD students can undertake is reduced.

Dates of future meetings

- 2023.105 Senate **noted** the upcoming Senate meetings for 2023–24:
- Thursday 14th March 2024
 - Thursday 13th June 2024