



QMSU President's Report

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| Outcome requested: | QMUL Council is requested to note the QMSU President's report. |
| Executive Summary: | 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. The report also identifies some areas that the Union would like QMUL Council to be aware of, provide advice on or take action on. |
| QMUL Strategy: | Queen Mary, University of London Strategic Plan 2014–19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SA2.2 - EA1.1 |
| Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points: | Education Act 1994 and related Code of Practice; QMUL Ordinance C5 |
| Strategic Risks: | 2. High quality student experience throughout the student life cycle |
| Equality Impact Assessment: | There are no equality and diversity impacts that arise from this paper. |
| Subject to prior and onward consideration by: | N/A |
| Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA | No |
| Timing: | The President reports on the activities of QMSU at each meeting of Council. |
| Author: | Carolina Mantzalos, President 2015–16 |
| Date: | 24 June 2016 |
| Senior Management/External Sponsor | N/A |

President's Report

QMUL Council, Tuesday 28th June 2016

Multi-Faith Provision

The conversations over the use of the Sports Hall as an alternative space are still ongoing. However, due to health and safety in the area, including the building works in Godard square, the capacity allowed in that venue may in fact not exceed 100 people. This could suggest that the Sports Hall is not a suitable alternative.

This space additionally continues to be an examination venue throughout Semester 3, leaving the University without a suitable space for Friday Prayer. The Union will continue liaising with Rebecca Lingwood, the Vice Principal Student Experience, Teaching and Learning in order to reach a solution.

The Shield is currently starting a pilot to provide some space for multi-faith use on Fridays, for both students and staff located at Charterhouse Square campus.

Graduate Centre

Earlier on this semester, the Union was given the chance to tender for the operation of the Graduate Centre Café. The Union's case was presented by the CEO, at the Graduate Centre Task and Finish Group on the 5 May 2016. However, a criteria selection template was circulated on the 6 May 2016, to be completed by the Union by Monday 9 May, a timeframe of two days over a weekend. Unfortunately, the Union's bid was unsuccessful, and the operations of the Graduate Centre Café will now be run by Estates and Facilities.

This short notice, and administrative inconsistency over the tendering process, demonstrates some communication concerns, and the Union is disappointed that the tendering process for the Graduate Centre Café did not seem thorough, and in fact seemed rather rushed. However, it is important to stress that the Union is thankful of the chance to tender now and in the future, and will seek to communicate a continued desire to allow for Postgraduate social and community events to be held in the café space, as was proposed in the Union's tender.

Highlights

Renovations to the BLSA Building and the Shield Café

BLSA has secured £40,000 of funding to renovate the BLSA Building in Whitechapel, and £25,000 of funding to renovate the Shield Café at Charterhouse Square. The BLSA Building renovations will enhance the multi-functionality of the Griff Inn bar and other facilities in the rest of the Building in order to enable students to use it more for casual study and social space, and for extracurricular activities such as dance, fitness and peer teaching. The Shield Café will be enhanced so that it can be used as an out-of-hours common room facility for the students living at Dawson Hall, for which there is currently no provision. The funding for the BLSA Building was kindly donated by the Trust of the Medical College of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. The funding for the Shield Café was obtained from BATLAA, QMUL Estates, and the BL Annual Fund.

QMSU Services

The Union has drafted a financial plan that assess the overall balance sheet of the Union over the next 5 years. This will be used by both the Services and Trustee Boards to agree and approve measure that will enable the Union to work towards building its reserves and a higher budgeted profit aiming to achieve long term financial stability.

Recreational Sport

Recreational Sport has achieved record attendances during the academic year with 1915 participants and 21,000 taking part in Get Active and the QMSU Sport Leagues throughout the year. The Recreational Sport programme offers a variety of turn up and play sessions and intramural leagues across a number of sports including: traditional sports such as football, basketball and netball as well as non-mainstream sports such as

cheerleading, diving, fencing and kickboxing. The programme allows students to take part in sport in a fun, social and flexible environment whilst keeping sessions affordable for students.

Raise and Give

This year RAG committees and student groups have raised £35,254.49, £25,638.89 of which was raised through groups participating in the new RAG Adopt a Charity Scheme.

Employability

97 students were awarded the QM Skills Award this year with a significant increase in student staff (53), postgraduates (28) and overseas students (127) taking part.

Societies

In May and June the team ran 2 Pre-Big Hello training sessions to prepare students for Welcome Week and are developing an accreditation scheme for all activity groups that will be launched in September aiming to recognise and reward groups for all their hard work throughout the year.

Volunteering

The Annual Volunteering Awards event was successfully held in May in small intimate ceremony attended by volunteers, staff and community stakeholders. Also as part of the Centre of Public Engagement Festival of Communities, QMSU Volunteering organised a Volunteer Fair for students and local residents with opportunities with local charities.

NUS Green Impact and Sustainability

The Union was audited by NUS Green Impact and awarded Silver. This puts the Union on track to reach Gold by 2017 in line with the strategic plan. Green Mary Sustainability Awards) workbook was submitted and an audit carried out by students.

International Students

The Westfield and Annual Funds, funded both bids that were submitted in collaboration with the University International Student Experience Officer. These bids focus on providing non-alcohol events targeting international students. The International Welcome Programme will now include an afternoon of activities organised by QMSU.

Student Housing and Study Well

The Housing Fair was rearranged to April coinciding with the start of the successful Study Well campaign, but had smaller attendance (172 students) than in previous years. Discussion on Halls costs and conditions will continue into 2016-17 but the College has agreed to revive the Residential Strategy Group.

Graduate Centre Café

The shortlist of names for the Graduate Centre Cafe will be going to the project board on the 20th of June, where the final decision will be made.

Academic Registry

The Union has been working with the University's Academic Registry, in order to review current policy and documents, in order to make them more accessible to students and staff at QMUL. An example of the latter being reviewed are the Student Handbook and policies addressing anti-social behaviour.

Carolina Mantzalos, President 2015/16