



### QMSU President's Report

<b>Outcome requested:</b>	QMUL Council is requested to <b>note</b> the QMSU President's report.
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	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.
<b>QMUL Strategy:</b>	Queen Mary, University of London Strategic Plan 2014–19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SA2.2</li> <li>- EA1.1</li> </ul>
<b>Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:</b>	Education Act 1994 and related Code of Practice; QMUL Ordinance C5
<b>Strategic Risks:</b>	2. High quality student experience throughout the student life cycle
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	There are no equality and diversity impacts that arise from this paper.
<b>Subject to prior and onward consideration by:</b>	N/A
<b>Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA</b>	No
<b>Timing:</b>	The President reports on the activities of QMSU at each meeting of Council.
<b>Author:</b>	Miranda Black, President 2016–17
<b>Date:</b>	15 November 2016
<b>Senior Management/External Sponsor</b>	N/A

# President's Report

QMUL College Council, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016

## Student Activities

### Quest

Our student-led radio station, which was previously broadcast from the Queen's Building, now has a new and fully accessible radio station in the Students' Union Hub. Construction and equipment for the new radio studio were funded by the Westfield Fund and Campus Community Fund.

### Raise and Give

Following a successful charity week our RAG total is now up to £66,213.04, a figure we're expecting to 'grow' during Movember. Students can now sign up to take part in a range of challenges through the RAG brokerage service; in May, I will be doing a sky-dive for Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

### Societies Excellence Award

The Societies Excellence Award launches this year; it will encourage and recognise Societies' involvement in and commitment to the wider community through volunteering and fundraising, among achievements in a range of other categories such as engagement with the Union, creative marketing and following financial procedures. This project has been made possible by the Annual Fund.

## Campaigns

### Scream Mary / Be Kind to Your Mind

On 31<sup>st</sup> October we spoke to students about housing, overcrowding and fees as part of Scream Mary. We also launched 'Be Kind to Your Mind', encouraging students to speak openly about their wellbeing. We engaged over 300 students with our Study Well bags and Halloween-themed conversation starters.

Our initial data collection on housing was particularly interesting. While we collected feedback from a small sample, 1/3 of those who filled in our scare-vey said that they didn't live on campus during their first year and wish they had the opportunity to. This is something I want to explore further as part of the Accommodation Strategy Group.

We also asked about the affordability of rent, both on site and locally. I found a comment from one student particularly poignant as it highlighted the barriers that our students face due to financial restrictions. They said 'Last year I wasn't able to get involved in any societies or really be involved in student events because I was so busy working to earn enough money to live on. I have to pay excess on top of my loan to just cover my rent'.



### QM International

This year above all others, we recognise how important it is to ensure that all of our students feel welcome wherever they're joining us from. On 25<sup>th</sup> November we will be hosting QM International, an event which will showcase our cultural societies.

On arrival at the Octagon, students and staff will receive a passport to get stamped at each stall- it's time to travel the world in one afternoon! Guests will be invited to learn about different traditions, try different delicacies, or even learn different alphabets.



## **Prevent**

The Students' Union has been mandated to hold a protest against the Prevent duty following a motion that passed at Student Council in the last academic year. We are holding the 29<sup>th</sup> of November as a provisional date, aware that we are also busy promoting the National Demo on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Student Council**

A motion has been put forward that will be debated and voted on at Student Council on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, mandating the Union to boycott the National Student Survey. This is in response to the dissatisfaction with the Teaching Excellence Framework, its metrics and its link to increasing fees. The Executive Officers oppose any rise in fees, especially for continuing students, and have been meeting with the senior leadership of the University to make clear our position, and prevent a rise in fees.

## **Other Highlights**

### **Retail Champions**

Staff across our retail services are taking on niche projects and areas to champion. Mo, the Manager of the Village Shop, is the champion for sustainability. He's currently working with our Commercial Services Officer, our Volunteering Coordinator, myself, and other interested students to implement the 'Save our Sandwiches' campaign. We are keen that our food does not go to waste and is instead distributed to local shelters or food banks. We are hoping to find partners who can take perishable foods and launch the campaign soon. We're also looking into compost bins for our 'Mission Compostable'. I think that the creation of retail champions has helped to create greater cohesion between our charity activity and services.

### **Communications**

The Students' Union App has been successfully launched and rolled out. Over 1400 students have downloaded the app, with approximately £2000 worth of transactions passing through in the first couple of weeks in the form of student group memberships and event ticket sales. We are now looking for

### **Redbrick Research Project**

Our "Big Change" survey launched on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November and will be open until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This major piece of research will help the Union in meeting its aim to "find out who the Union members are and what they want their Union to do them." The segmentation study will result in a set of coherent profiles being identified, including key student motivations and satisfaction drivers. Furthermore, the project will produce a set of "Golden Questions" which can be asked when students join QMUL to ensure that we can continue to understand our students in the future, and can target our messages to the relevant students.

The results from this survey should help both the Union and University stimulate new ways of thinking, direct strategic priorities and influence decisions relating to communications and services in the future. The dataset will be shared with relevant stakeholders, including QMUL's Marketing and Communications department. We are very grateful that this was funded by the Westfield Fund.

## **Themes from the last College Council**

### **National Student Survey**

We are also using our segmentation research as an opportunity to include the new NSS question on Students' Unions, "The students' union (association or guild) effectively represents students' academic interests", so that we can get an early indication of our standing.

### **Malta**

As places are now being publicised to prospective students, we are discussing how the Union can support and represent students on this new campus in Malta.

**Miranda Black**, QMSU President 2016/17