



QMSU President's Report

Outcome requested:	Council is requested to note the QMSU President's report.
Executive Summary:	<p>The QMSU President submits a report to every meeting of QMUL Council which highlights some of the projects the Students' Union is undertaking and the key successes since the last meeting.</p> <p>The report also identifies some areas that the SU would like QMUL Council to be aware of, provide advice on or to take action.</p>
QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies [e.g., SA1.1]	<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>
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	<p>Education Act 1994 and related Code of Practice; QMUL Ordinance C5; Memorandum of Agreement between QMUL and QMSU.</p>
Strategic Risks:	<p>2. Student experience: teaching, learning and assessment. 13. Maintain effective and constructive governance.</p>
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 SU President report on the activities of QMSU to every Council meeting.
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Date:	23 November 2017
Senior Management/External Sponsor:	N/A

QMSU President's Report

QMUL Council, Thursday 30th November 2017

QMSU Strategic Plan

Following last year's research and consultation, we have now completed the development of our new Strategic Plan which has been approved by Student Council and is awaiting approval from the QMSU Board of Trustees.

We have developed strategic objectives across five themes:

- **Student Voices**
- **Education and Welfare**
- **Opportunities and Communities**
- **Student Futures**
- **Enablers**

We will be launching the new Strategy on Thursday 25th January 2018.

Joint Sports Strategy; QMUL & QMSU 2018-2021

The Joint Sports Strategy working group has now met six times since early 2016. The group initially considered the evaluation of 2012-2016 sports strategy (a copy of which the board has considered in the past), sector assessments, report and visits, and a broad range of research. The working group is representative of key stakeholders and has on a number of occasions considered student views through surveys and contributions. The discussions have also considered existing pressures, such as increasing costs, breaking barriers to accessing physical activity, and cross campus themes. The working group considered the first draft of the joint Sport Strategy.

A paper is being drafted supporting the draft and will be presented to QMSE, with particular emphasis on key questions to be asked around strategic themes such as 'student recruitment and retention', student experience, especially considering top up fees, diversity, inclusion and accessibility, social capital and employability, cross campus provision and resources and facilities and seeking a view on the weighting and the extent to which each of the areas are important. The current draft Mission and Vision is as follows:

Our Mission

Together we inspire our University community to engage in sport and activity. Through our facilities and sport provision we enhance the physical and mental well-being of our students, making life long changes.

Our Vision

Sport and physical activity will be exemplary, diverse and inclusive.

Annual Fund Disbursement

We are disappointed to see that QMSU has been awarded very little funding through this year's Annual Fund. Additionally, there was an absence of a transparent process and a delay in feedback. Below is a summary of our bids and resulting allocations.

	SU Submission	Outcome	Comment
Welfare and student finance			
Affordability access to Sport	£15k	Unsuccessful	Submitted £40K (including £10K capital) through QMUL Par - Unsuccessful
Welfare & academic representation software to track student cases and wellbeing £3k	£3k	Unsuccessful	
Additional Part Time academic caseworker , with well-being remit added to the role.	£12k	Unsuccessful	
On-line student group finance system – real time access	£5.9k	Unsuccessful	
Student future			
Activities excellence award	£2k	Unsuccessful	
Employability projects; - £5k skills award - £1k Career Conversations Information Portal - £1k Information portal	£7k	£2k	Sum £3k Santander funding ceased after three year cycle. Offset for the next year by £5k awarded through Westfield Fund
Student future fund	£3k	unsuccessful	

Zero Tolerance

Student Council passed a motion to ensure that two committee members of each student group undertake consent workshops, allowing group members to signpost services. Additionally, we hope to roll out consent workshops in the 2018/19 academic year.

This will run alongside the Dignity Policy and joint Zero Tolerance campaign which will be launching at the start of the New Year in partnership with QMUL. This also fits in with NUS investigating sexual harassment within universities - this will be the first survey of sexual misconduct by staff in Higher Education in the UK. We hope this campaign will have a real impact on our students and staff as a result of working in partnership.

This research project, along with all the work done currently by the QMUL and the Union, show how academically, the problems of harassment, bullying and discrimination have not been addressed. The Union looks forward to opening this space for discussion to challenge the culture of entitlement and the abuses of power this campaign tackles across staff and student spaces.

The Hive

At the last College Council, I outlined key priorities for the year, including 'Maximising space on campus', with particular emphasis on the Hive space, adjacent to the SU Hub. This was also a priority of my predecessor. I've been impressed by the collaborative approach taken by the QMUL Student Services, particularly the Library, and Estates and Campus Services, Finance and senior executive. Collectively, we have recognised the need to address a several long-term student satisfaction issues, particularly around space, social and communal learning, recreational and relaxation space, particularly for

commuter students, and a Friday prayer space. The investment in the space has been agreed, and work will commence in December, and in part be completed for the beginning of January, with new furniture being installed in February.

The space will be overseen by QMSU, with additional resources being allocated to clean and support use of this space to play an important part in student community life:

- Informal learning and community space.
- Student groups / societies bookable activity space.
- Friday prayer space.
- Summer conference canteen for halls of residence business.
- Secondary, occasional events, including student community events, and corporate (outside term time)
- Student display / showcase – e.g. Student campaigns, well-being information.

Please see appendix for artist drawings of the new space.

Homelessness Campaign

We are aware that homeless people have been based on Newark Street on the Whitechapel Campus, outside the Barts and The London Students' Association building. We are concerned for ongoing safety risk this poses and are keen to work with all the relevant parties to ensure the security of students and staff.

Additionally, we will be putting together a campaign addressing the problem of homelessness in our local community, encouraging students to understand the issue and what they can do to help. QMSU currently offers volunteering opportunities for students to support those people who are homeless and has relationships with Whitechapel Mission, Hackney Night Shelter and Bow Foodbank. We will be working with Local Charities and Tower Hamlets Council to understand how we can best help to tackle this issue in Tower Hamlets.

National Student Survey

Last year, the Union boycotted the National Student Survey (NSS). This was a policy passed by Student Council and stated we should campaign with the NUS to boycott the NSS (see the following link) <https://www.qmsu.org/pageassets/policy/Should-the-Union-boycott-the-NSS-6-Dec-16.pdf>.

The NSS and TEF has been de-linked from student fees and, whilst TEF may be somewhat flawed in its metrics, the debate has somewhat altered because of it. The Sabbatical Officers will seek consultation from Student Council representatives about the NSS and then decide whether to continue to boycott or not.

Paris Campus Visit

Union representatives visited the Students' Union of the University of London Institute in Paris to share practise and develop a relationship. We explored a potential relationship agreement and, importantly, spoke about the effects of Brexit and the importance of students feeling comfortable wherever they are located within QMUL. It is imperative that students feel the institution is open for all and this also applies to students who want to study abroad during their time at QMUL.

Appendix 1

