

COUNCIL
Thursday 09 July 2026

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Present:

Lan Tu (Chair)	Professor Adrian Armstrong	Professor Colin Bailey CBE
Ken Batty	Professor Liam Campling	Paul Goswell
Malcolm Hitching	Indy Hothi	Dr Michaela Macdonald
Dr Natalie McCloskey	Tracey McDermott CBE	Professor Anthony Phillips
Dr Alix Pryde	Diya Selastin	Melissa Tatton CBE
Rob Whiteman CBE		

In attendance:

For m. 2025.087	Dr Maggie Leggett	Louise Lester
For m. 2025.088	Professor Stephanie Marshall	
For m. 2025.089	Dr Philippa Lloyd	
Dr Sharon Ellis	Karen Kröger	Dr Nadine Lewycky
Jonathan Morgan	Maria Rubbani	Eshwinder Singh

Apologies:

Patricia Gallan QPM	Maryanne Matthews
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Welcome, apologies and declaration of interests

2025.083 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies. There were no declarations of interests.

Chair's update

2025.084 The Chair congratulated the staff and students whose good work had contributed to the positive results in the recent QS rankings and the National Student Survey (NSS).

President and Principal's Report (QM2025/73)

2025.085 *Minute 2025.085 is confidential.*

QMSU President's report (QM2025/74)

2025.086 Council **considered** the QMSU President's report. The following points were noted in the discussion:

[a] The Students' Union welcomed the University's investment of £500,000

into refurbishing The Lounge and Students' Union Quarter. The project presented a significant opportunity to transform the student experience by creating a vibrant, inclusive, year-round destination at the heart of the Mile End campus.

- [b] The Society, Student Media and Volunteering student groups had completed round two of their elections with a high level of engagement, concluding the main student group elections for this academic year.
- [c] Appeals against the outcomes of the sabbatical officer elections had been resolved after which the results had been released. A set of measures to improve candidate behaviour and streamline the appeals process would be introduced ahead of next year's elections.
- [d] Charitable activities were being reviewed to ensure that they remained aligned with the changing higher education environment and the Students' Union's charitable objectives and priorities, alongside delivering efficiencies. A review of the liberation campaigns was also underway to ensure that they continued to deliver meaningful outcomes for students while making effective use of resources.
- [e] A strategic partnership group between the Students' Union and the University was being created to strengthen collaboration on shared institutional priorities, including graduate attributes, NSS performance, student engagement and partnership working. The group would provide a forum to develop and oversee joint initiatives with a focus on delivering greater impact for students.
- [f] The findings from this year's Student Experience Forum on student usage of generative AI for academic and non-academic purposes had been released. The findings showed that AI usage was widespread, and that many students used AI for a wide range of purposes including studying, revision, assessed work and wellbeing support.
- [g] The Students' Union was delighted with the positive result for student voice in the NSS, which was above benchmark and better than last year. The result placed Queen Mary near the top of the Russell Group on this measure.
- [h] Council asked what steps could be taken to improve the take up of the Students' Union's employability initiatives. Actions were in place to increase visibility and improve access for students.

Strategy 2030 and brand narrative (QM2025/75)

2025.087 *Minute 2025.087 is confidential.*

Update on TEF2027 preparations (QM2025/76)

2025.088 *Minute 2025.088 is confidential.*

Environmental sustainability annual report (QM2025/77)

2025.089 Council **considered** the environmental sustainability annual report. The following points were noted in the discussion:

- [a] We had submitted to the Times Higher Education impact rankings last November and had scored within the top 25% of universities globally. Our work on the UN Sustainable Development Goal on reduced inequalities had scored particularly well.
- [b] Council asked how becoming an AI enabled university would be balanced against the environmental impacts from use of the technology. The Digital Environment Research Institute (DERI) was conducting research into how to ameliorate the impacts. The next Ethical Investment Forum would discuss AI procurement, costs and energy with students and ways to mitigate the need to use AI in an education and work context.
- [c] The uptake of training was low and Council asked what steps could be taken to increase engagement. Some of the courses were in their first year and, while the overall feedback had been positive, there were aspects that could be improved. Instilling a strong culture of sustainability would support greater engagement with the training.

Update on Whitechapel campus (QM2025/78)

2025.090 *Minute 2025.090 is confidential.*

Finance and Investment Committee minutes (QM2025/79)

2025.091 *Minute 2025.091 is confidential.*

Current financial position (QM2025/80)

2025.092 Council **noted** the current financial position.

North-East London Dental Outreach Clinic (QM2025/81)

2025.093 Council **considered** and **approved** the addition of the North-East London Dental Outreach Clinic to the capital plan.

Audit and Risk Committee minutes (QM2025/82)

2025.094 Council **noted** the minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 09 June 2026.

Remuneration Committee (QM2025/83)*

2025.094 Council **noted** a summary of the Remuneration Committee meeting on 19 June 2026.

Senate minutes (QM2025/84)

2025.095 Council **noted** the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 11 June 2026.

Degree Outcomes Statement (QM2025/85)

2025.096 Council **considered** the Degree Outcomes Statement for 2024–25. The following points were noted in the discussion:

- [a] The paper highlighted an upward trajectory in the number of good honours that was out of step with OfS modelling. Council asked that Senate continue to investigate the causes and report back to a future meeting.
- [b] Council **approved** the Degree Outcomes Statement 2024–25, subject to an amendment to reflect planned changes to the weighting of the first undergraduate year in degree classifications.

Action: President and Principal [b]

Naming of the new Queen Mary Business School building (QM2025/86)

2025.097 Council **approved** the name '1 Canalside' for the new Queen Mary Business School building.

Minutes of the last meeting (QM2025/87)

2025.098 Council **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2026.

Matters arising* (QM2025/88)

2025.099 Council **noted** the matters arising from the last meeting.

Annual schedule of business for 2026–27 (QM2025/89)

2025.100 Council **considered** the annual schedule of business for 2026–27.

Other business

2025.101 Council thanked Diya Selastin, Eshwinder Singh and the other Students' Union sabbatical officers for their contributions over the past year.

Dates of Meetings 2026–27:

- Thursday 08 October 2026 at 1600 hours.
- Wednesday 25 November 2026 at 1600 hours.
- Thursday 25 March 2027 at 1600 hours.
- Thursday 20 May / Friday 21 May 2027 – Annual conference including Council meeting.
- Thursday 08 July 2027 at 1600 hours.