



QMSU President's Report

Outcome requested:	Council is asked to note the QMSU President's report.
Executive Summary:	This is the QMSU President's report for October 2014.
QMUL Strategy:	Effective governance supports the achievement of all strategic aims.
Internal/External 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:	N/A
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.
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Date:	03 October 2014
Senior Management/External Sponsor:	N/A

President's Report

Council, Tuesday 28 October 2014

The Union is entering an exciting year with a full new Executive Committee and the start of its new strategic plan. The Union was very fortunate to have been granted an increase in the block grant from QMUL for 2014/15 and has been successful in achieving funding from other internal and external sources such as £28,468.40 from the Success Projects pot to create an enhanced social mentoring scheme.

Welcome Week Review

It was another successful welcome week and the Union has seen a great level of engagement from new and returning students. Some of the great activities the Union would like to highlight include:

Moving in weekend

The Union was successful in receiving a grant to support the Students' Union Welcome Crew volunteers. This allowed the Union to provide an enhanced version of the former Freshers' Crew to welcome new students to campus over moving in weekend and throughout the rest of the week. Students have reported back that it was nice to be welcome to campus by a friendly, informed and easily recognisable student.

Events

Feedback received from previous years suggested students wanted a greater variety of non-alcohol events. As a result of this feedback the Union has invested in a new events program which includes activities such as speed meeting (which over 300 students attended), a comedy night, a postgraduate welcome event, a floating cinema on the canal and fun things to do in library square such as a climbing wall and a graffiti workshop. The Griff Inn had a particularly successful first week with all events being full.

Freshers' Fair

The Union decided to split the fair again this year to increase capacity and used the sports hall, the Hive and the Hub. There was also a range of activities taking place across campus which created a buzz and a real sense of a student community. We will be looking to run a Welcome Back Fair in January.

Buddy Scheme

The Buddy Scheme which gets first year students matched with second or third year students within their department to create a social network when they arrive has continued to grow this year. We are looking at some interesting changes which will hopefully see all first year students automatically matched up in future years.

Officer Action Plans

The Executive Officers have created their plan for the coming year and decided what they want to work on, they are:

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee as a group will be working on the General Election, Union on Tour and increasing participation in student activities. Union on Tour is about going out and engaging with students in places where they will be, we aim to talk to 1000 students about issues that affect them.

President

I will be working on creating a cross campus community to improve relations around QMUL. Another real passion for me and one of the objectives in the strategic plan is to become a more environmentally friendly Union to which I will be running campaigns and activities around. Students always identify cost as a real issue so I want to get QMUL to provide course packs as well as review the costs in our shops, cafes and bars. My final key area is supporting students to develop skills and become more employable.

Vice President Barts and The London

The Vice President Barts and The London (Sam Rowles) has been elected as Deputy President for this academic year. Sam will be working on improving the representative structure at BLSA as well as making more of the building. He will do this through providing a diverse range of events and trying to promote the Griff Inn so it meets its budget. One of Sam's key aims for the year is to ensure that all of the Medical students can graduate as one single cohort, which was not possible last year.

Vice President Welfare

This academic year the Vice President Welfare (Mashalle Asim) plans to constitute a stronger community within QMUL. Mashalle aims to do this through improving schemes such as Hall Representatives, the buddy scheme and working closely with commuters. Furthermore she plans to work on diversity which includes international students, multiculturalism and faith as she believes they are key aspects which need more recognition and development. Along with this, Mashalle believes mental health is a fundamental part of everyone's lives and affects many students and staff at QMUL. Mashalle will aim to promote fitness which will contribute to a healthier state of mind.

Vice President Education

The Vice President Education (Carolina Mantzalos) has identified 5 key areas that she intends to work on over the coming year. One areas is about working with the library to try and help meet the demand of students on space and books whilst also looking at the available space. Other areas that Carolina will be working on include developing the Course Rep system and trying to get a more consistent usage of Qreview (lecture capture) across QMUL. The final two key areas are reviewing the way in which academic appeals are prioritised to reduce excessive delays and to create better relations with students in BUPT.

Staff changes

The Union has undergone a restructuring of the charity side of the Union, not including sport. This has led to better alignment with the strategic plan, greater capacity for certain activities and improved succession planning for the Chief Executive Officer.

The key changes include creating the position of the Deputy Chief Executive Officer who will manage four core departments including Marketing & Communications, Student Engagement, Community & Employability and Advocacy, Representation & Democracy. Most positions have now been filled and we are recruiting for those that are currently vacant.

General election

The General Election is a key project for the Union and we hope to work with QMUL on certain elements. Key aspects of this project included getting students to register to vote, obtaining a polling station on campus, identifying issues that students want candidates to be talking about and the running of a high profile event.

Society memberships 2013/14

Members of Council expressed an interest in seeing the numbers of students engaging in societies. The below table demonstrates the growth over the last 4 years.

Year	No. of societies	No. of individual members		No. of memberships	
		No.	% increase from previous year	No.	% increase from previous year
2010/11	131	2419		3221	
2011/12	139	2246	-7%**	3080	-4%**
2012/13	155	3238	44%	4838	57%
2013/14*	177	4559	41%	7457	54%

Dola Osilaja, President 2014/15