Queen Mary
University of London

Executive summary of Senate on 8 June 2017

Outcome requested:	Council is asked to note the executive summary of the meeting of Senate held on 8 June 2017.
Executive Summary:	The summary provides Council with an update on business considered by Senate.
QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies [e.g., SA1.1]	n/a
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	n/a
Strategic Risks:	n/a
Equality Impact Assessment:	n/a
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	n/a
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA	n/a
Timing:	n/a
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Date:	16 June 2017
Senior Management/External Sponsor	Jonathan Morgan, Academic Registrar and Council Secretary

SENATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting: 8 June 2017

Main Items Discussed

1. **Presentation from the Vice-Principal (Research)**
   1.1 Senate members received a presentation from Professor Bill Spence on current projects and developments at QMUL. Members noted the challenges of the research funding landscape which included the Higher Education and Research Act which introduced UK Research and Innovation (UKRI); uncertainty over access to EU funding and networks; and the increased research concentration of funding for top performing higher education institutions.

   1.2 QMUL had been expanding its research collaborations, including Doctoral Training Centres, partnerships with the creative sector and strategic industrial partnerships with Google and IBM.

   1.3 New funding opportunities had presented in the form of the Global Challenges Research Fund and the Industrial Strategy Research Fund. It was important to facilitate effective collaborations between the disciplines in order to provide a quick and co-ordinated response to these initiatives. QMUL had established the Strategic Grants Advisory Group to coordinate activity in this area, and to undertake horizon scanning for future opportunities.

   1.4 The Research Support Review task and finish group had been established by the Vice-Principal (Research) to review the research support arrangements at QMUL. The group comprised the Deans for Research, the Chief Operating Officer and an external member. It was intended that the group would make recommendations for improvements in specific areas of research.

   1.5 Senate members were pleased to note the summary of recent successes in research, including the £10 million Cancer Research award for Barts Cancer Institute.

2. **Application for university title**
   2.1 Senate received an oral update on the progress of QMUL's application for university title. Members noted that there were no implications for QMUL's membership of the University of London, but that university title would be helpful in that QMUL would automatically feature on lists of recognised awarding bodies internationally. At present, some international students had experienced problems with the accreditation of QMUL degrees; this issue would be removed once QMUL was featured on these lists in its own right.

   2.2 Members were advised that the application process for university title was likely to be completed early in 2018. The process would involve supporting a

joint application to HEFCE and work with the Privy Council on revisions to QMUL's Charter.

3. **Freedom of Speech and the Higher Education and Research Bill**

3.1 Senate received a letter (20.3.16) from the Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation to the Chief Executive of Universities UK on Freedom of Speech. Members noted that the letter had been prompted by the discussion of freedom of speech during the consideration of the Higher Education and Research Bill (Now the Higher Education and Research Act 2017).

3.2 Members were advised that Senate would review QMUL's Freedom of Speech policy in October 2017. Members were invited to contact the Academic Registrar and Council Secretary with any comments about the policy or the approach to its review. Members noted that the revised Charter would include a clearer commitment to freedom of speech, and that proposed revisions on this issue would be presented to Senate for comments.

4. **UK Scholarly Communications Licence**

4.1 Senate considered and approved a proposal to implement the UK Scholarly Communications Licence (UK-SCL) at QMUL. The UK-SCL provides a single means for authors to comply with the open access policies of Research Councils UK, HEFCE and other 'green' policies whilst ensuring that academics could continue to publish in their journal of choice, irrespective of whether that journal permitted open access publication.

4.2 Members noted that, under the terms of the UK-SCL, academics would grant the university a non-exclusive licence to all rights under copyright, except commercial reuse, for all manuscripts of scholarly articles and conference papers. The author would retain copyright in the work and the UK-SCL was not applicable to monographs, book chapters or other similar outputs.

4.3 Members further noted that the UK-SCL would be implemented by a number of UK universities during the autumn 2017.

5. **Academic Regulations 2017-18 (Taught and Research)**

Senate considered and approved the academic regulations for 2017-18 for taught and research degree programmes. Members were provided with a summary document which detailed the major changes together with the rationale for each change.

6. **Assessment Handbook 2017-18**

Senate considered and approved the Assessment Handbook for 2017-18. The Assessment Handbook contains the definitive iteration of QMUL's assessment policies and is a helpful resource for staff, students and external examiners. Members of Senate had some reservations about QMUL's policy on penalties for the late submission of work and the policy on final module marks which requires marks held to one decimal place and not rounded to the next integer. Senate agreed that these issues would be revisited during 2017-18, following a consultation exercise across all schools and institutes.

7. **Academic Credit Framework**

7.1 Senate approved an amendment to the Academic Credit Framework. The Academic Credit Framework specifies the academic level and academic credit requirements for each of QMUL's awards, and details the permitted credit

values for individual modules at QMUL. Members noted that the recommendations for revision were made following a consultation which had been prompted by the request for change by some schools who wished to incorporate greater flexibility to their programmes of study.

7.2 Members further noted that, formerly, the Academic Credit Framework permitted blocks of credit in multiples of 10, but the new model would be based on multiples of 5 credits, affording the flexibility desired by some schools and institutes, without compelling others to make radical changes to their taught provision. It was noted that, under the revised framework, modules could be approved as follows: 5 credits (QMUL Model modules only), 10 credits, 15 credits, 20 credits, 30 credits, 40 credits, 45 credits, 60 credits, 90 credits and 120 credits.

8. **Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research degree award certificates**
Senate approved an amendment to degree certificates for postgraduate students taught or supervised within the School of Medicine and Dentistry. The amendment would include 'at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry', below the title of the award. QMSE had recommended that a statement would be developed to inform students that the degree certificates would be issued by QMUL, but acknowledged the importance of the 'Barts and the London' component to students. The statement would indicate QMUL's position in the context of maintaining and maximising the 'Barts and The London' brand within and as part of the overall QMUL brand, which formed part of a wider piece of work on branding.

9. **Proposal for Alternative Higher Education Teaching Qualifications and a report on the Teaching Recognition Project**
9.1 Senate noted that QMUL's Student Experience, Teaching, Learning and Assessment (SETLA) Strategy (2014-19) required all staff with teaching responsibilities to hold, or be working towards, a recognised teaching accreditation or qualification by 2018-19. It was recognised that many staff already employed at or joining QMUL may already have a teaching-related qualification. However, it was recognised that no national guidance was available on the equivalence of international teaching accreditation or qualifications.

9.2 Members noted that it would be extremely challenging to provide a comprehensive list of all international teaching qualifications and their equivalence, but it was important for QMUL to develop a position on these qualifications. Senate approved a set of recommendations to assist QMUL with the assessment of international teaching qualifications and this approach would be adopted across QMUL.

9.3 Senate received an update on the Teaching Recognition Project which provided information on QMUL's progress with the SETLA target requiring all staff to have, or be working towards, a teaching qualification by 2018-19.

Jane Pallant
Deputy Academic Registrar
June 2017