



President's Report [QMSU]

<b>Outcome requested:</b>	QMUL Council is requested to <b>note</b> the QMSU President's report President's report and the QMSU Returning Officer's Election Report.
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p>[a] 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. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QMSU Elections</li> <li>• Bursaries</li> <li>• The Nest (formerly the Hive)</li> <li>• Zero Tolerance Campaign</li> <li>• Green Mary Market</li> <li>• Sporting Success</li> <li>• Awards</li> <li>• Best Bar None Awards</li> <li>• UCU Strike</li> </ul> <p>[b] The Students' Union ran its main election from 5 - 8 March 2018 to elect the Executive Officers, Student Trustees, Student Councillors and additional non-representative positions. The Returning Officer's Election Report is appended to this report. The results for the Executive Officer positions are:</p> <p>President – Ahmed Mahbub  Vice President Education – Redwan Shahid  Vice President Welfare – Ella Harvey  Vice President Barts and The London – Tom Longbottom</p>
<b>QMUL Strategy:</b>	<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>
<b>Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:</b>	<p>Education Act 1994 and related Code of Practice;  QMUL Ordinance C5  Memorandum of Agreement between QMUL and QMSU</p>
<b>Strategic Risks:</b>	<p>Risk 2: Student experience: teaching, learning &amp; assessment  Risk 13: Maintain effective and constructive governance</p>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	<p>The report describes the work being undertaken jointly by QMUL and QMSU to address issues around bullying, harassment and discrimination.</p>

<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>	Yasir Yeahir, President 2017–18
<b>Date:</b>	29 March 2018
<b>Senior Management/External Sponsor</b>	N/A

# QMSU President's Report

QMUL Council, April 2018

## QMSU Elections

We had a record number of total votes in this year's QMSU elections. Next year's elected sabbatical officers are as follows;

Ahmed Mahbub – President

Redwan Shahid - VP Education

Ella Harvey - VP Welfare

Tom Longbottom VP Barts and the London

*Please see the Returning Officer's Report for full details*

## Bursaries

In the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> March, students took part in demonstrations against the cuts announced by the university. Students have occupied the Octagon to raise awareness of the issue and to put pressure on the university to reverse the changes. At the Annual Student Meeting in February 2018, a motion was passed to support direct action against Queen Mary until adequate funding for the bursary is restored. The motion states that these cuts may affect the wellbeing of low-income students through the potential of changing the work-study balance, mental health issues, increased financial strain, debt and an inability to meet basic survival costs.

The Students' Union is asking students to tell us their views on the bursary changes and meeting Principal Colin Bailey to highlight the widespread concern about proposed changes to QMUL student bursaries.

We are pleased to have confirmed the following outcomes with the university;

- QMUL will be allocating £200,000 from the 2018/2019 budget, which is additional to and above the formal allocation to bursaries agreed through OFFA a year ago. This fund is separate and outside of the hardship fund.
- A significant proportion of the £200k will be made available for those students whose family income is in the £15,000-30,000 bracket for the transition period of 2018/19.
- Funds will be allocated towards research to consider evidence that QMUL may be different to other institutions, which may in future influence and support decisions around future submissions to OFFA / access agreements or similar (The Office of Students may of course make some changes in the future).
- The Students' Union will continue to sit on the Access Monitoring Group and Steering Group to review agreements going forward. The parameters for this research will be established jointly and the work will be conducted jointly.
- The President and another Exec Officer will be invited to the QMSE meeting end of April, during which the Access Submission is considered and agreed.

## The Nest (formerly the Hive)

QMSU, in collaboration with Estates and Facilities and the Library, has successfully refurbished the existing Hive space located just above the Students' Union hub. The aim of the refurbishment was to provide a social space for students on campus, particularly for commuter students. The space has four bookable pods for student groups which will launch after the Easter break.

We have seen an increase in students using the space and look forward to the potential uses of the space during the following academic year. It will also accommodate for Friday prayers (Jummuah) with the first prayer being led in April/May.

The new name for the space was suggested by students and voted upon at our Annual Students' Meeting.

## Zero Tolerance Campaign

This year, the university and Union have been working on launching a Zero Tolerance campaign that looks to tackle all forms of sexual harassment, bullying and discrimination for all students and staff alike. The campaign launched at our recent Merger Cup and we saw many students talking about Zero Tolerance in person and on social media. We are now in a position to roll out Consent training workshops at the start of the next academic year and have developed a supporter base among our engaged students following our Merger Cup campaign. We have also reached out to other institutions in London to discuss good practice and start thinking about ways we can collaborate across institutions to tackle bullying and harassment beyond our campuses.

Furthermore, having attended the last Equality and Diversity Steering Group it is also important to identify how the campaign fits reaches staff within our university. We're keen to progress discussions with the university about the right structures can be put into place to facilitate this.

## Green Mary Market

The Green Mary Market launched on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2018. Over 200 students and staff attended and visited the market stalls available. It was a success with most participants saying they would attend the market again. Participants also engaged in conversations around their own healthy living habits. I hope to see this work carried on annually and look forward to the potential of this market growing and really being a campus community hub for sustainability.

## Sporting Success

Will Hughes, one of our elite athletes has won a BUCS gold medal for boxing. Will had also recently fought in the Welsh National Championships.

At our Sports Awards Dinner this year's award for QM Club of the Year went to QM Netball. The club have gone above and beyond this year in all areas of Club Sport from raising £3000 for charity to running their own sexual consent campaign and building the Club Sport community through their fantastic social media.

Merger cup took place on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Despite some unexpected March snow, 70% of fixtures went ahead and Queen Mary beat Barts and The London 34 – 33.

## Awards

Hundreds of students attended the Societies and Student Media Awards on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, where they were recognised for their contributions and achievements this year. At the Societies Awards, BL Psychiatry Society won Society of the Year and Farida Elwakeel and Christian Hirsekorn won the Special Recognition Award. At the Student Media Awards, The Print won Outlet of the Year and Abbie Sedgeman won Contributor of the Year.

The Education Awards took place at Drapers' Hall on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, with attendance of almost 150 people and 18 awards presented (6 of Course Rep Awards and 12 Teaching Awards). There were 937 nominations received for the awards. There was a great atmosphere and feedback from attendees.

## Best Bar None

The Best Bar None Awards is a scheme linked with Tower Hamlets Council, aimed primarily at promoting responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises with some 40 venues taking part. We are delighted that within our geographical category, Drapers won Best Bar! With Griff Inn also receiving accreditation it was a night to celebrate.

## UCU Strike

Queen Mary Students' Union is proud to support our staff in striking against the proposed changes to the UCU pension scheme following an overwhelming vote at our Annual Student Meeting. We urge the university to understand the impact these strikes have had on our students and we hope a resolution is found soon for the improvement of not only the student experience but the experience of our lecturers and academics.

# Returning Officers Report

The Students' Union ran its main election which elects the Executive Officers, Student Trustees, Student Councillors and additional non-representative positions from 5 - 8 March 2018.

## Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer

The following were appointed by the Board of Trustees to be the Returning and Deputy Returning Officer.

**Returning Officer:** Peter Robertson, National Union of Students  
**Deputy Returning Officer:** Brad Coales, Queen Mary, University of London Students' Union

## Election Statistics

**Members of the Union:** 23,902\*  
*\*Figure from Membership Solutions Limited (MSL) data correct as of 31 January 2018.*

### 2017-18

Number of candidates (in total) standing for positions this year: 53\*\*  
 Total number of students who voted this year: 5,475  
 Election turnout as percentage of membership: 22.9%  
*\*\*78 nomination forms were submitted, but 25 later withdrew.*

### 2016-17

Number of candidates (in total) standing for positions this year: 77\*\*\*  
 Total number of students who voted this year: 5,160  
 Election turnout as percentage of membership: 26.3%  
*\*\*\*85 nomination forms were submitted, but 8 later withdrew.*

## Complaints

Number of formal complaints submitted to the Returning Officer: 1  
 Number of complaints upheld: 0  
 Number of complaints partially upheld: 0  
 Number of official warnings issued: 0  
 Number of candidates disqualified or removed from the election: 0

## General comments

The 2018 Queen Mary, University of London Students' Union elections were conducted by the elections team and Deputy Returning Officer from QMSU in accordance with the articles of association and bye-laws. They are overseen by an impartial third party Returning Officer from NUS. The Deputy Returning Officer has deemed the elections free and fair for voters with one complaint presented which was referred to the Returning Officer and was not upheld. This means voters were able to vote freely and fairly in this election.

This year has seen the Union's highest ever voter turnout of 5,475 which is 315 more than 2017. The increase was in fact greater than this as there were no NUS Conference Delegate positions included (see next paragraph). We received 17 nominations for the four Executive positions (of which 2 subsequently withdrew), which is the same as 2017 (17). Student Council had 27 positions out of 39 contested compared with 18 in 2017.

This year, for the first time, the election of delegates to attend NUS National Conference was held in advance of the main elections. These elections are not part of the process regulated by the 1994 Education Act but are required by NUS who stipulate the election of Conference Delegates by cross-campus ballot. However, the voting statistics for these delegates would previously have been included in the figures contained in this report.

Whilst the overall number of voters increased, the percentage turnout figure decreased. Whilst this appears to be contradictory, it is explained by the fact that this year we have used a figure that more accurately reflects the Union's membership by including all of our registered students (who have not opted out of Union membership) wherever they are studying, using the number of students as recorded on MSL as of 31 January 2018.

Some posts are still unfilled, and the Union will need to run a by-election in September/October for the First Year Representatives on both campuses (we cannot elect them before enrolment) and the Postgraduate Taught Rep (ME), Postgraduate Research Rep (ME) and Postgraduate Research Rep (BL).

The results for the Executive Officer positions are:

President – Ahmed Mahbub

Vice President Education – Redwan Shahid

Vice President Welfare – Ella Harvey

Vice President Barts and The London – Tom Longbottom

If you wish to find out more about the candidates and those who have been elected please go to [www.qmsu.org/elections](http://www.qmsu.org/elections)

### Confirmation of fair election

I hereby declare that this election was run in a fair and democratic manner which satisfies the stipulations as laid out within the 1994 Education Act.

### Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer

Position: Deputy Returning Officer  
Name: Brad Coales  
Date: 27 March 2018