



Executive summary of Senate on 12 October 2017

Outcome requested:	Council is asked to note the executive summary of the meeting of Senate held on 12 October 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 YES/NO* If yes, please specify which section/ paragraph is confidential (whole document or part)	n/a
Timing:	n/a
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Date:	15 November 2017
Senior Management/External Sponsor	Jonathan Morgan, Academic Registrar and Council Secretary

SENATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A full set of the minutes will be available online (following confirmation at the next meeting of Senate) at the following URL:

<http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/Senate/index.html>

Alternatively, contact the Secretary of the Committee: Jane Pallant

j.pallant@qmul.ac.uk

Date of Meeting: 12 October 2017

Main Items Discussed

1. Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

1.1 Senate received an update on the Teaching Excellence Framework Year 3. Members noted that the Department for Education would conduct subject-level pilot exercises for TEF 3 and had requested submissions from institutions that wished to participate. Institutions could volunteer for one or both of two possible models for the pilot exercise: model A was an exception model which would examine subjects where the metrics were not aligned with the level of institutional award and model B involved the evaluation of seven subject areas in order to evaluate these against the level of provider award. QMUL had volunteered to participate in the Model A pilot but had been notified, after the meeting of Senate, that it had not been selected. A list of providers that would participate in the pilot exercises was available from [HEFCE](#). QMUL had agreed that a 'shadow' exercise at subject level would be undertaken regardless of our participation in the pilot exercise.

2. QMUL Model

2.1 Senate received an oral update on the QMUL Model, together with the QMUL Model risk register and recruitment material that had been developed for the QMUL Model.

2.2 Members noted that the next phase of the QMUL Model involved the development of Level 5 and Level 6 Model-specific modules, together with work to develop modules which spanned the disciplines and included opportunities for working outside QMUL, including work with small businesses and charities.

2.3 Members further noted that a series of face-to-face training sessions for personal tutors had been developed. These sessions would embed the skills review and other issues to be discussed with first year students as they embarked on the personalisation of their programme of study.

2.4 Senate agreed that the risk register would be amended to include the possible problem of students attaining less well if they undertook a module outside their home school or institute. This issue would be evaluated as the QMUL Model developed.

3. Freedom of Speech

Senate reviewed the Freedom of Speech Policy, following its decision to review the Policy annually. Members noted that the Policy had been revised during 2015-16 and the purpose of the review was to ensure that the Policy was operating as intended. Senate agreed that there would be no further amendments to the Policy during 2017-18.

- 4. HEFCE Annual Provider Review**

4.1 Senate considered and approved the Annual Assurance Report 2016-17. The report had been prepared to assist Council with its role in providing assurances on the academic standards and quality of QMUL's provision, in line with the requirements of the HEFCE Annual Provider Review. The report is included in the background reading for Council members and is item X on the agenda for the Council meeting on 30th November 2017.
- 5. Honorary Degrees and Fellowships**

Senate approved for recommendation to Council the nominations for Honorary Degrees and Fellowships of QMUL. These nominations would be considered by Council at its meeting on 30th November 2017.
- 6. Joint Policy Statement on Research and Misconduct**

Senate considered and approved a revised Joint Policy Statement on Research and Misconduct. The statement had been developed in partnership with Barts Health NHS Trust.
- 7. Dignity at QMUL**

Senate considered a statement on Dignity at QMUL which had been developed by the Equality and Diversity Steering Group. Members noted that the statement formed part of a larger piece of work on preventing harassment, bullying and hate crime which would include the appointment and training of Dignity Disclosure Officers to support QMUL's work in this connection. Senate approved the statement in principle but agreed that formal approval would be given when the statement was considered alongside the supporting guidance for students and staff.
- 8. Suspensions of Regulations**

Senate considered the summary of recent requests to suspend the academic regulations for individual students. Senate monitors these requests and was concerned to note that many of the requests had resulted from situations that ought to have been avoided; members agreed that Senate would continue to monitor reports on these requests at its meetings in October and June.
- 9. Professional Capability and Fitness to Practise**

Senate approved the membership for the Professional Capability and Fitness to Practise Committees. Senate also approved some minor revisions to the Professional Capability and Fitness to Practise Regulations.

Jane Pallant
Deputy Academic Registrar
October 2017