



Executive summary of Senate 16 June 2022

Outcome requested:	Council is asked to note the executive summary of the meeting of Senate held on 16 June 2022.
Executive Summary:	The summary provides Council members 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:	No
Timing:	n/a
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Date:	28 June 2022
Senior Management/External Sponsor:	Jonathan Morgan, Chief Governance Officer and University 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

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Date of Meeting: 16 June 2022

Main Items Discussed

1. Presentation from the Deputy Vice-Principal (Education) and QMSU President

1.1 Senate received a presentation on the Queen Mary Education Approach: Active Curriculum Excellence (ACE). ACE describes Queen Mary's approach to delivering *"an outstanding, inclusive, world-class education and student experience, co-created with our diverse student body, enhanced by our world-leading research and latest technological developments."* (Queen Mary Strategy 2030).

1.2 Active Curriculum Excellence sets out the distinctive features of Queen Mary's Education Approach, built around the four pillars of excellence and the five interrelated components of education practice. Council members heard about the approach at the Council away day earlier in the year.

1.3 Senate members welcomed the presentation on ACE and noted that it should be recognised that student success came in many forms in relation to opening the doors of opportunity. Members noted that good citizenship was also a very important part of a university education, and that citizenship should form part of the curriculum and wider support offered to students.

2. Industrial Action Strategic Contingency Group

2.1 Senate received a summary of the work of the Industrial Action Strategic Contingency Group (IASCG). IASCG has delegated responsibility to protect academic standards and the overall student experience during periods of industrial action.

2.2 The Group is Chaired by the Vice-Principal (Education) and has met 20 times since February 2022. Three members of the group are sabbatical officers from the Students' Union (one for each of the faculties) who, together with senior staff on the group, perform an active role in assessing risk, monitoring impact, agreeing mitigations and advising on communications with the student body.

2.3 Senate members noted that the Group had carried out two risk assessment exercises in relation to teaching delivery and assessment. The Faculty Deans for Education were monitoring the impact of the industrial action on teaching delivery in their areas, and were also receiving daily reports on mark entry in order to identify any areas of provision with outstanding marks in advance of the Subject Examination Boards which would be held during June 2022.

2.4 IASCG was also monitoring carefully the situation in relation to the resignation of external examiners; it received regular reports with regard to the appointment of new external examiners, as well as identifying any issues where external examiners had not been appointed. The Group would continue to monitor risk in relation to the impact of the industrial action.

3. Admissions Policy 2023-24

Senate considered and approved some minor amendments to the Admissions Policy for 2023-24.

4. Student casework policies 2022-23

4.1 Senate considered and approved some minor amendments to student casework policies for 2022-23: Appeal Policy; Academic Misconduct Policy; Student Complaints Policy.

4.2 Senate noted the increase in the volume of cases considered under the academic misconduct policy and returned to a discussion from the meeting of March 2022 in relation to whether more cases could be investigated by schools and institutes. Members noted that some modelling had been undertaken on how the type of academic misconduct might be split between academic schools and institutes and the student casework team; the outputs of the modelling exercise had been considered by the Education Quality and Standards Board in May 2022. Senate agreed that a task and finish group should be established to explore the issues in more depth, and to find the optimum balance for the investigation of these cases.

5. Academic Regulations 2022-23 and Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes 2022-23

5.1 The Academic Regulations and Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes are reviewed annually and submitted to Senate for consideration. Senate received the documents in full, together with a paper summarising the changes and the rationale for these.

5.2 Members noted that there were no significant changes to the Academic Regulations or the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes 2022-23 and both documents were approved.

6. Academic Regulations for the Masters by Research (ResM) 2022-23

6.1 Members noted that the addition of the ResM award to Ordinance A16 s1.5 had been approved by Senate and Council in November 2021. Members were reminded that the Masters by Research differed from the Masters of Research as the focus was on a specific subject, studied through research methods; there were no taught modules on the ResM programme.

6.2 The Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Research Degree Programmes were applicable to the ResM, with some exceptions and some additions that were specific to the ResM alone. Senate approved the Academic Regulations for the ResM. Members noted that the introduction of the ResM aligned with Queen Mary's strategic aim to innovate in and develop education programmes, increase research student numbers, and expand opportunities to carry out research.

7. Assessment Handbook 2022-23

7.1 The Assessment Handbook supplements the Academic Regulations and codifies Queen Mary's policies and arrangements for assessment processes.

Members noted that changes to the Assessment Handbook for 2022-23 were minimal and Senate approved the revised document for the next academic year.

8. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Annual Report 2020-21

Senate received and noted the University's annual report on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion which would be external-facing. The report highlighted some of the key initiatives that had been delivered during the 2020-21 academic year in a retrospective review of the work in this area, together with information on progress and impact.

9. Progressing Race Equality Report

9.1 Senate received and noted the Progressing Race Equality Report. Members noted that in 2020, the University had established targets and key performance indicators to evaluate progress towards becoming the most inclusive university of its kind.

9.2 Members noted that the report considered the current position on progress towards race equality at Queen Mary together with an overview of the progress that has been made in relation to the key performance indicators since 2019.

10. Export Controls and Sanctions Policy

10.1 Senate considered and approved the Export Controls and Sanctions Policy, previously considered by the Senior Executive Team and the Research and Innovation Board.

10.2 The Policy had been developed to provide clear frameworks for the protection of our intellectual property and research, ensuring that it was not exposed to those who would seek to cause harm or gain competitive advantage.

10.3 Members noted that the Policy had been informed by best practice in the sector and had been developed with input from an independent expert consultant and academics whose research could be at risk without appropriate export control.

11. Honorary degree nomination

Senate endorsed the nomination from the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee for an honorary degree of Queen Mary for onward consideration by Council.

Jane Pallant
Deputy Academic Registrar
June 2022

