



**Senate minutes 15 December 2022**

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| <b>Outcome requested:</b>  | Council is asked to <b>consider</b> the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 15 December 2022.   |
| <b>Executive Summary:</b>  | <p>The minutes of the meeting are provided in full for members. The following key items of business were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation from the Vice-Principal (International) [m 2022.052]</li> <li>• Enhancing support for students' fitness to study policy [mm 2022.053-055]</li> <li>• Programme level approach to assessment [mm 2022.058-063]</li> </ul> |
| <b>QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies [e.g., SA1.1]</b> | N/A   |
| <b>Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:</b>                | QMUL Charter and Ordinances<br>Office for Students conditions of registration   |
| <b>Strategic Risks:</b>  | N/A   |
| <b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>   | N/A   |
| <b>Subject to prior and onward consideration by:</b>                           | No  |
| <b>Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA:</b>                                      | No  |
| <b>Timing:</b>   | Minutes of Senate meetings are provided to the following Council meeting.   |
| <b>Author:</b>   | Jane Pallant, Deputy Academic Registrar   |
| <b>Date:</b>   | 17/03/2023  |
| <b>Senior Management/External Sponsor:</b>                                     | Jonathan Morgan, Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary  |

**Senate**

**Minutes of 15 December 2022**

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**Present:**

Prof Colin Bailey (Chair)  
Prof Mark Caulfield  
Prof Mary Collins  
Dr Jayne Dennis  
Prof Colin Grant  
Muneer Hussain  
Dr Michaela MacDonald  
Prof Anthony Michael  
Professor Christina Perry  
Prof Thomas Prellberg  
Dr Prakash Shah  
Prof Daniel Todman

Prof Adrian Armstrong  
Dr Giorgio Chianello  
Dr Dianne Cooper  
Dr Pedro Elston  
Prof Jonathan Griffiths  
Prof Andrew Livingston  
Prof Stephanie Marshall  
Prof Wayne Morrison  
Dr Anthony Phillips  
Prof Kathryn Richardson  
Dr James Strong  
Prof Wen Wang

Dr Lucy Carter  
Prof Alex Clark  
Dr Giulia De Falco  
Prof Neve Gordon  
Prof Peter Hobson  
Dr Philippa Lloyd  
Prof Seán McConville  
Dr Émilie Oléron Evans  
Prof Richard Pickersgill  
Charlie Sellar  
Prof Elizabeth Tanner  
Dr Yannick Wurm

**In attendance:**

Dr Sharon Ellis  
Prof Stefan Krummaker  
Kaya Wiles (Secretary)

Prof Yang Hao  
Jonathan Morgan

Simon Jarvis  
Prof Tim Warner

**Apologies:**

Dr Jason Berry  
Prof Rob Briner  
Prof Kavita Datta  
Dr Paula Fonseca  
Prof Henri Huijberts  
Prof Steffi Krause  
Prof Arunthathi Mahendran  
Dr Ali Nankali  
Prof Mauro Perretti  
Adi Sawalha  
Prof Jason Sturgess  
Prof Anthony Warrens

Dr Erik Blair  
Prof Paul Coulthard  
Dr Debbie De Girolamo  
Dr Abimbola Giwa  
Prof Martin Knight  
Dr Theo Kreouzis  
Prof John Marshall  
Prof Mike Noon  
Dr Amitha Ranauta  
Prof Hazel Screen  
Prof Steve Uhlig  
Dr David Williams

Prof Frances Bowen  
Dr Joseph Cronin  
Prof Panos Deloukas  
Prof Richard Grose  
Prof Ioannis Kokkoris  
Prof Nicholas Lemoine  
Prof Scott McCracken  
Dr Michael Page  
Dr Simon Rawlinson  
Saynab Sharif  
Prof Fiona Walter

**Part 1: Preliminary items**

**Welcome and apologies**

2022.039 The Chair welcomed new members to Senate and **noted** the apologies received.

**Minutes of the last meeting on 20 October 2022**

**(SE2022.18)**

2022.040 Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2022.

**Chair's actions**

**(SE2022.19)**

2022.041 Senate **noted** the extension of Professor Anita Berlin's tenure as Chair of the Professional Capability Committee until 31 December 2022.

2022.042 Senate **noted** the appointment of Mr Mark Farenden as Complaints Assessor. Complaints Assessors volunteered to consider student complaints under the Student Complaints Policy.

### **President and Principal's report**

**(SE2022.20)**

2022.043 Senate **received** the President and Principal's report. The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The government had announced £484 million in funding to support the research and development sector in lieu of a decision from the European Union on the UK's association to Horizon Europe. Research England had allocated an additional £2.4 million in quality-related research (QR) funding.
- (ii) The first draft of the University's Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) provider submission was due to be completed by the end of the calendar year. The draft had been developed with staff and students from across the University. Metrics on subject-level student outcomes and student experience indicators had been shared with Faculties for analysis and to identify initiatives that had been undertaken during the academic years covered by the TEF (2018-19 to 2021-22).
- (iii) There had been an increase in the percentage of students who were Not Eligible to Progress (NEtP) from the first to second year. The concerns would be investigated to provide further clarity around the reasons why students failed academically or withdrew. Consideration would be given to students who transferred to another institution and to the support being provided to students.
- (iv) Three colleagues had been successful in securing funding from the European Research Council (ERC). Dr Sydney Calkin, Senior Lecturer in the School of Geography, would study those who opt to obtain medicines and treatments outside the formal healthcare system. Dr Carlo Inverardi-Ferri, Lecturer in the School of Geography, would be mapping solar panel production, consumption and disposal in China, Ghana and India as a snapshot of the impacts of the global photovoltaic industry. Dr Cristina Moreno Almeida, Lecturer in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film, would be working to develop understanding in the role of digital media in shaping historical events among different, but related, reactionary groups.

### **Vice Principal's reports**

**(SE2022.21a-g)**

2022.044 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Health) (SE2022.21a). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Recruitment to Postgraduate Taught (PGT) courses had been lower than the target. Courses with January start dates would hopefully help to address some of the shortfall.

- (ii) The Faculty's National Student Survey (NSS) action plan had four primary areas of focus: student voice, student learning and experience, organisations and management, and assessment and feedback.
- (iii) The Faculty had been successful in attracting funding from various research bodies. Professor Nicholas Lemoine and Professor Thomas Prowles had received notable awards from Cancer Research UK and Merck respectively.
- (iv) The Garrod Building on the Whitechapel Campus would be refurbished into a staff-student hub. Both the Barts and The London Student Association and the Institute for Health Sciences Education would be located in the building. The refurbishment would also include the addition of a new computer learning suite and upgraded teaching facilities.
- (v) Congratulations were extended to academic and professional services colleagues who had been recognised through the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMD) Awards Ceremony in November 2022.

2022.045 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Humanities and Social Sciences) (SE2022.21b). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The Faculty were focussing on addressing recent changes to their NEtP data at both Faculty and School level. Discussion had focussed on underlying reasons for failing to progress. A deep dive would be undertaken in Schools with the lowest NEtP scores.
- (ii) The Faculty were reviewing policies and practices relating to engagement monitoring with the aim of standardising the approach and platforms used across the Faculty.
- (iii) There had been significant activity around the NSS action plans.

2022.046 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Science and Engineering) (SE2022.21c). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The Faculty had hosted several successful events, including the launch for Centre for Academic Inclusion in Science and Engineering (CAISE).
- (ii) The Faculty had been awarded several prestigious fellowships and large grants including a Wellcome Trust Discovery Award in Molecular Mechanisms.
- (iii) The Faculty was working with Schools to develop and support initiatives that further enhanced the student experience. The Dean for Education, Deputy Dean for Education (Quality & Standards) and Faculty Education Manager were working to refine and support the Schools' NSS action plans. This work would include identifying and sharing good practice.

- (iv) The Schools of Biological and Behavioural Sciences (SBBS) and Physical and Chemical Sciences (SPCS) had submitted requests to transfer their existing Silver Athena Swan awards following the School restructures. SPCS and the School of Engineering and Materials Science (SEMS) had also requested an extension to the new five-year awarding period.

2022.047 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Education) (SE2022.21d). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Applications for the 2022-23 round of Education Excellence Awards and President and Principal's prizes would open in December 2022. Information would be shared on the Connected webpages.
- (ii) The Office for Students (OfS) had published its prioritisation criteria for assessing compliance with Condition B3 in the 2022-23 academic year. The OfS would decide which institutions to assess by considering the number of students affected by performance below the numerical threshold in the prioritised category, the distance from the relevant threshold, the statistical certainty, the number of other indicators/split indicators below the threshold, and any other regulatory intelligence.
- (iii) Subject-level TEF data was being cascaded down by Heads of Schools and Directors of Institutes. School/Institute NSS action plans would address areas where the TEF indicators were below the benchmark.

2022.048 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (International) (SE2022.21e). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Applications from prospective international students for January-start postgraduate programmes was encouraging. Applications data for overseas and EU PGT students starting in September 2023 had increased 15% year on year. Applications data at Undergraduate (UG) level was also positive, with applications up by 18% on last year. Applications to foundation programmes were up 12% on last year.
- (ii) Queen Mary had signed new partnerships with Nanjing Normal University, University of Business and Economics and O.P. Jindal Global University.
- (iii) Queen Mary had signed a cooperation agreement with Cornell University in a collaboration focused on research and exchange opportunities.
- (iv) The alumni team had launched the 'Queen Mary France alumni chapter – Paris' at the University of London in Paris. The launch event was attended by over 70 guests, including alumni, current and prospective students, staff, and University Partners.

2022.049 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships) (SE2022.21f). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Queen Mary had successfully passed the Designated Quality Body in England (DQB) process quality assuring our end point assessment process for all three relevant degree apprenticeship standards.
- (ii) Readiness checks ahead of Ofsted inspection and Education and Skills Funding Agency (EFSA) audit had commenced on 28 November 2022.
- (iii) The Institute of Technology (IoT) had enrolled 208 students Queen Mary and Newham College. An additional 60 students were expected to enrol mid-year at levels 3-5.
- (iv) The annual Public Engagement Large Grants round had received 18 applications and awarded seven grants of up to £10,000 for public engagement projects.

2022.050 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) (SE2022.21g). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The research and innovation team were working closely with the Senior Executive Team (SET), Faculty Vice-Principals and Faculty Deans for Research to determine how to allocate QR funding. It would be important for funding to be allocated strategically and to make sure staff across the University continued to feel incentivised.
- (ii) The Precision Healthcare University Research Institute (PHURI) and the Digital Environment Research Institute (DERI) were recruiting Professors. PHURI was recruiting four inaugural Chairs to lead Centres in its four thematic areas and four 0.2 full time equivalent (FTE) Professors. DERI was recruiting for a Professor and Head of Data Science for the Environment and Sustainability.
- (iii) The Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) would be meeting with Heads of Schools and Directors of Institutes and their teams to discuss preparations for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2028. The meetings would inform how Schools and Institutes would be supported at University-level, help to share best practice, and to identify other support and resources colleagues may require.

### Students' Union President's report

(SE2022.22)

2022.051 Senate **received** the Students' Union President's report. The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The Course Rep Conference was held on 12 November 2022 and attended by over 90 Course Representatives. The conference provided Course Representatives with in-person training and the opportunity to network with their peers.
- (ii) Queen Mary Students' Union (QMSU) had provided funding to enable 104 students to attend their graduation ceremonies in

January 2023. The Graduation Fund covered the cost of a graduand's cap and gown.

- (iii) Leaders from across QMSU met with SET on 21 November 2022 in the second annual event of its kind. The event was attended by 25 student leaders, including part-time officers and representatives from welfare and student groups. Topics of discussion included student wellbeing, sustainability, and inclusivity.
- (iv) The Study Well campaign would be running ahead of January examinations, with wellbeing events scheduled throughout January 2023.

## Part 2: Matters for Discussion

### Presentation from the Deputy Vice-Principal (International)

2022.052 Senate **received** a presentation from the Vice-Principal (International) on Queen Mary's international profile. The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Queen Mary's ability to attract global talent was key to the University's ambitions and identity. Record numbers of overseas postgraduate students had enrolled in September 2022. Queen Mary recruited more taught students from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan than any other Russell Group university. Recruitment from China certainly offers further growth potential in the context of a strongly diverse intake.
- (ii) Associate Student recruitment had recovered from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was anticipated that 2022-23 would see the University's highest ever intake of Associate Students, with many from leading Ivy League institutions.
- (iii) Queen Mary continued to strengthen partnerships with universities in the United States. New partnerships had been established with American University, Connecticut College, Pace University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- (iv) Queen Mary's global community continued to grow. Alumni chapters were being set up to develop links between alumni, staff and students. The Paris Alumni Chapter had been launched in November 2022 and chapters in Kuala Lumpur and Lahore would be launched in 2023.
- (v) Transnational Education (TNE) enrolments grew to over 5,400 students in September 2022. A new TNE policy in India would provide an opportunity for further growth.
- (vi) The University had been successful in continuing to diversify education partners. Over the past year, new partnerships had been signed with partners in Brazil, Egypt, France, India and Pakistan. Significant partnerships had also been signed with Cornell University and FGV/Fiocruz in Brazil, with research seed funding being launched in 2023 across all Faculties.

- (vii) The Queen Mary Global Policy Institute's Policy Pathways aligned strongly with Queen Mary's Research Highways. The focus of the Institute was to bring together cross-disciplinary insight to respond to key global challenges.
- (viii) Responsibility for alumni giving was shared by SET and the Directorate of External Relations. The University hoped to build on the current number of pre-departure events being held to enhance the sense of community and brand identity. The Director of Development and Alumni Engagement would be invited to speak to Senate about alumni and giving initiatives.
- (ix) Thanks were expressed to colleagues across the University for their contributions to developing Queen Mary's international portfolio.

### **Enhancing Support for Students' Fitness to Study policy**

**(SE2022.23)**

- 2022.053 Senate **considered** the draft Enhancing Support for Students' Fitness to Study policy and **noted** that most of the revisions were minor. The policy had been updated so the online version would be compatible with screen readers. There had also been updates to job titles and service names. The key change had been to the title. The title had been revised having previously been the Fitness to Study policy. This had been to highlight the supportive nature of the policy.
- 2022.054 Members **noted** that Senior Tutors were often key to both the academic and pastoral support provided to students. Senate **agreed** that Senior Tutors would be added to the list of members of staff who may attend a case conference (appendix A, section 1).
- 2022.055 Members **approved** the Enhancing Support for Students' Fitness to Study policy.

### **Suspension of Regulations Report 2021-22**

**(SE2022.24)**

- 2022.056 Senate **noted** the Suspension of Regulations Report 2021-22. The annual report provided an overview of themes and an opportunity to identify trends across the years. Suspensions of Regulations should only be requested where the normal application of the regulations would be manifestly unfair to one or more students or where an unforeseen situation has arisen. They should therefore be rare. There had been 96 requests to suspend the regulations between 01 October 2021 and 30 September 2022.
- 2022.057 Senate **noted** that most suspensions had been to validate unapproved module assessment schemes. Strengthening communication between Schools/Institutes and the Directorate of Governance and Legal Services (DGLS) could reduce the number of suspensions.

### **Programme-level approach to assessment**

**(SE2022.25)**

- 2022.058 Senate **considered** the proposed programme-level approach to assessment.



- 2022.059 Senate **noted** that reviewing and coordinating assessment design, planning and delivery at programme level could be useful in addressing student satisfaction with assessment and feedback, staff concerns over workload, and strategic ambitions relating to assessment and feedback. A key part of the outlined approach was to provide Schools and Institutes with the opportunity to engage meaningfully with the process and develop policies and practices from this engagement.
- 2022.060 Senate **noted** that Schools who had undertaken a review of assessment at programme level had positive feedback and welcomed the approach.
- 2022.061 Senate **noted** that information sharing across Schools and Institutes running joint programmes could be enhanced by the approach. Mapping the learning outcomes and assessments for joint programmes would be complex. Particular consideration would need to be given to Schools and Institutes with multiple joint programmes.
- 2022.062 Senate **noted** the support for the approach but that there were concerns around implementation and timescales.
- 2022.063 Senate **endorsed** the proposal to hold further discussions on reviewing assessments at programme level. In the first instance, the Education Quality and Standards Board (EQSB) and Assessment and Feedback workshops would be asked to consider the paper. An update would be provided to Senate in March 2023.

#### **Industrial Action Strategic Contingency Group**

**(SE2022.26)**

- 2022.064 Senate **received** a summary of the actions taken by the Industrial Action Strategic Contingency Group (IASCG) during 2021-22 and the draft terms of reference for 2022-23.
- 2022.065 Senate **noted** that the IASCG had been established to determine mitigations needed to prevent adverse effects on students and to make sure Queen Mary did not compromise on standards. The terms of reference had been updated to ensure greater alignment with the OfS's ongoing conditions of registration and updated guidance.
- 2022.066 Senate **noted** that IASCG had delegated authority to consider changes to assessment and make recommendations to the Chair of Senate on changes that require a temporary suspension of regulations. Consideration would be given to whether the IASCG membership could be expanded to include two elected staff members of Senate.
- 2022.067 Senate **noted** that further consideration would be given to occasions where Senate may be able to hold wider, strategic-level discussions around possible mitigations during periods of industrial action.
- 2022.068 Senate **noted** that Council had performed an [assurance review of industrial relations with UCU](#). There had been concerns raised by students that missed teaching had not been rescheduled. Council recommended more robust monitoring of missed teaching. As a result, students have been asked to report where teaching has been missed.
- 2022.069 Senate **approved** the IASCG terms of reference for 2022-23.

## **Degree Outcomes Statement 2022**

**(SE2022.27)**

- 2022.070 Senate **considered** the draft Degree Outcomes Statement for 2022 and **noted** that the statement was an initiative introduced by the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment (UKSCQA) in response to concerns of grade inflation. The 2022 statement was required to show how Queen Mary would comply with the Universities UK (UUK) commitment to return to pre-pandemic classification distributions for 2022-23.
- 2022.071 Senate **endorsed** the Degree Outcomes Statement for 2022 for approval by Council.

## **Honorary Degrees and Fellowships (*confidential*)**

**(SE2022.28)**

- 2022.072 Senate **approved** the recommendation to award the Queen Mary Medal to Mr Ian Yeats for consideration by Council. Mr Yeats had made an immense contribution to the Department of Law, undertaking a number of roles including Director of Admissions, Chair of the Board of Examiners and Chair of Teaching Quality Assurance in addition to his teaching responsibilities. Senate expressed their gratitude for Mr Yeats' commitment to Queen Mary and welcomed the recommendation.

## **Part 3: Matters for Report**

### **Council Report**

**(SE2022.29)**

- 2022.073 Senate **noted** executive summary of business considered by Council at its meeting on 17 November 2022.

### **Taught Programmes Board**

**(SE2022.30)**

- 2022.074 Senate **noted** proposals relating to programme and module academic developments that have taken place between 22 September 2022 and 02 November 2022.

### **Education Quality and Standards Board**

**(SE2022.31)**

- 2022.075 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Education Quality and Standards Board at the meeting on 23 November 2022.

### **Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board**

**(SE2022.32)**

- 2022.076 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board at meetings held between October 2022 and November 2022.

### **Partnerships Board**

**(SE2022.33)**

- 2022.077 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Partnerships Board between 28 September 2022 and 16 November 2022.

## **Part 4: Other matters**

## Dates of future meetings

- 2022.078      Senate **noted** the upcoming Senate meetings for 2022–23:
- Thursday 16 March 2023, 3–5pm
  - Thursday 8 June 2023, 3–5pm