Senate Election Statements 2024

Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

Candidate 1: Dr Jürgen Groet

Election Statement:
I have been at QMUL for 23 years, active in research and for the last 10 years in education. I believe that my involvement in a wide variety of roles equips me to contribute effectively to senate. I lead a range of modules, an educational programme, am mentor for colleagues undertaking fellowships of the Higher Education Academy, am an academic misconduct officer, director of education for the Blizard Institute and head of intercalated degrees for FMD. I sit on a variety of committees and forums in FMD and the University. Through these roles, I have an excellent working understanding of the regulations which underpin our education and I believe I combine that with a pragmatic approach, taking into account EDI issues.

If successful, I commit to do my best to act in the interests of both colleagues and our University, and to be an enthusiastic advocate for QMUL.

Candidate 2: Dr Eleni Hagi-Pavli

Election Statement:
I have over 20 years of teaching experience in UK HE and I am a champion of the importance of research led teaching. At present, I serve as Director of Graduate Studies for Dentistry however I have held other leadership roles including course director with responsibilities for managing assessments, programme development, research provision and pastoral support.

I successfully managed Dental postgraduate courses for 17 years and my active involvement on PGT courses continues as a module lead, teaching, assessment, and research. I have developed strong educational, assessment and research skills that are underpinned by high academic standards and the desire to provide the best student experience.

I have been involved in the QMUL-Teaching Recognition Project since 2017, which supports staff applying for Advance HE Fellowships which contributes to raising teaching standards and promotes excellence in education. These experiences will enable me to be a useful contributing serving member of Senate.

Candidate 3: Dr Haidar Hassan

Election Statement:
As a candidate for membership of the senate, I am determined towards advancing our academic institution – advocating for the progress of its research, integrity and organisation. Throughout my time contributing to the research in my field I have been able to identify concerns and support my colleagues in advancing in their field of research. During my tenure as clinical senior lecturer and student experience lead at QMUL, I have been a strong advocate for our students, assisting in representing and supporting them throughout their

studies and concerns making sure that they have their views canvassed to the relevant bodies as well as signposting them to ensure they receive the support they need. As a panel deputy lead of the QMUL ethics of research committee, I have strongly upheld ethical research to ensure the practicing of safe and reliable research at QMUL. In summary I am committed to progressing our academic institution in any way that I can and humbly seek your support and trust in this endeavour.

Candidate 4: Professor Angray Kang

Election Statement:
I will be running for Senate because I can contribute to University mission of creating an inclusive environment, which enables students and staff to engage in higher education across QMUL.

I have experience in pedagogy at this and at other institutions. In the past 2 decade I have developed modules for the BSc BDS and have been Director of Study for the MSc in Experimental Oral Pathology in addition to teaching/supervising roles across FMD and SBBS.

If fortunate to be elected, my role will be to support the Senate to ensure academic and research standards are maintained and enhanced to encourage greater participation by students and staff across QMUL.

In addition, I as a member of the Senate I will use the role to engage nationally and internationally to raise the profile of QMUL.

Candidate 5: Dr Ali Nankali

Election Statement:
I am honoured to stand for re-election to the Senate, leveraging my experience and diverse background to continue serving QMUL. As a Clinical Reader in Digital Dentistry, I lead the DSCP MSc course, supervise PhD students, and actively engage in teaching and research, resulting in number of, novels, patents and publications.

My interdisciplinary expertise in business management, industrial engineering, and clinical practice enables me to systematically enhance our academic programs. Over the past four years on the Senate, I have worked diligently to represent our faculty and students, fostering an environment of innovation and excellence.

As an international speaker, I bring diverse perspectives to our Senate discussions. My prior term has provided valuable insights into our university's operations, and I am committed to further advancing our strategic goals. Re-electing me will ensure continued dedication to enhancing the academic experience and supporting the mission of QMUL.

Thank you for your support.

Candidate 6: Dr Swati Nehete

Election Statement:
I am an upstanding member of Queen Mary University of London appointed in 2004.

I understand the work ethic and ethos of the university, its staff and vision for the future. I

recognise employability, social visibility and mobility and have true buy-in into the Athena Swan charter. I recognise widening participation and attainment gap as important issues for UK student outcomes and public sector funding.

I am the Academic Lead for Assessment at Institute of Dentistry and the Chair of the Dental Schools Council Assessment Alliance. I have the privilege of raising awareness of good assessment practice at IoD, QMUL, at the RCS Eng and other national forums.

I acknowledge the invaluable contribution and needs of the international student, having been one. I recognise the value of excellent QS rankings for QMUL standing internationally for research and international student recruitment.

I work with the Health and Safety Advisory Group whilst representing the British Dental Association and the Institute of Dentistry. I have worked with the University teams to review Covid work arrangements.

I have a strong focus on translational research and introduced QMUL to Group Pharma, India, to enable the manufacture of BioMin patented products. I am a Clinical Advisor and an international Key opinion leader for Bioactive glass toothpaste applications.

 I appreciate the importance of maintaining high standards within restrictive finances and a framework of safety. I bring an international perspective combined with experience from the Health and Safety Directorate and Trade Union representation to this forum.

Candidate 7: Dr Melanie Smuk

Election Statement:
I am running for election to the Senate to champion excellence, innovation, and inclusivity in our academic standards. My deep commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion is evident through my pivotal role in the data analysis team that secured the FMD Athena SWAN (AS) Gold award. I continue to promote inclusivity as part of the AS Self-Assessment Team, driving the implementation of our action plan. Additionally, as a member of the institute staff survey committee, I work diligently to enhance our work environment and staff well-being.

With over 9 years of experience at QMUL across three FMD institutes, I possess a robust understanding of academic standards and research excellence. My current research, spanning multiple institutes/medical fields, equips me with a broad perspective. I would bring to the Senate my passion for supporting policies that uphold academic freedom and foster innovative research/teaching, which will inspire and benefit our entire community.