



QMSU President's Report

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| Outcome requested: | Council is requested to note the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. QMSU President's report dated 01 April 2016; ii. Returning Officer's election report. |
| Executive Summary: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 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. The report also identifies some areas that the Union would like QMUL Council to be aware of, provide advice on or take action on. ii. The Returning Officer's election report summarises the outcome and conduct of the 2016 elections for the Executive Officers, Student Trustees, NUS Delegates, Student Councillors and additional non-representative positions, which were held from 07-10 March 2016. Voter turnout was higher than in previous years at 20.5% of members participating. |
| QMUL Strategy: | Queen Mary, University of London Strategic Plan 2014–19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SA2.2 - EA1.1 |
| Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points: | Education Act 1994 and related Code of Practice; QMUL Ordinance C5 |
| Strategic Risks: | 2. High quality student experience throughout the student life cycle |
| Equality Impact Assessment: | The report highlights the ongoing concerns regarding the provision of space for multi-faith activities. It further describes the work being undertaken to address issues around 'lad culture', sexual harassment and anti-social behaviour. |
| Subject to prior and onward consideration by: | N/A |
| Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA | No |
| Timing: | The President reports on the activities of QMSU at each meeting of Council. |
| Author: | Carolina Mantzalos, President 2015–16 |
| Date: | 01 April 2016 |
| Senior Management/External Sponsor | N/A |

President's Report

QMUL Council, Tuesday 5th April 2015

Multi-Faith Provision

The Union is continuing to receive significant pressure from Islamic students to provide a space for Friday Prayer. After meetings with Estates & Facilities, there has been further delays in using the Great Hall as several Health and Safety Concerns have been raised. A meeting took place recently where it was highlighted that the space available in the Great Hall is now further limited, which suggests that the Great Hall may not be able to accommodate the number of staff and students who require the space for Friday Prayer.

The Union would like to thank Professor Rebecca Lingwood with her continued support on this, however, it has been somewhat concerning that there has been great delay in correspondence from Estates & Facilities regarding the updates on the Great Hall, impacting the use of this space throughout both Term 1 and 2 of this academic year.

The Union would like QMUL to find a permanent solution for the start of semester 3 and for future years to prevent this ongoing issue which is leading to student and staff dissatisfaction.

Additional student member on QMUL Council

The Union would like to thank College Council once more for the decision taken at the last College Council meeting on the 17th February, where it was approved that the Deputy President would sit in attendance at future Council meetings.

Highlights

QMSU Elections

The annual QMSU Elections took place from 7-10th March 2016, where the Executive Officers, Student Trustees and Student Council for 2016/2017 were elected. The total number of voters was **3759** with a total number of **47051** votes were cast. This year was one where a great number of the positions available were heavily contested, with some part-time officer positions being contested by up to 7 students. This was seen in particular by students running for the BL specific part-time officer positions.

The newly elected Executive Officer Team for 2016/2017 are:

President: Miranda Black

Vice President Barts & The London/BLSA President: William Atkins

Vice President Education: Sumeera Ahmad

Vice President Welfare: Adam Sparkes

A full list of results may be found here: <http://www.qmsu.org/elections/results/>

Education Awards

The annual Education Awards took place on the 29th February 2016 at the Drapers Hall. It was a very successful evening where we presented awards to both students and staff at QMUL, and we would like to thank Patricia Newton, Professor Rebecca Lingwood and Professor Peter McOwan, whom greatly contributed to the presentation and delivery of the awards ceremony.

The list of nominees and winners of these awards may be found here: <http://www.qmsu.org/awards/education/>

Society and Media Awards

Our annual Society and Media Awards ceremony took place on the 24th March 2016 and is one that celebrates the hard work and achievements of Societies and Media. This is a great opportunity to recognise the work of individuals and student groups over the year. With over 230 societies, and 8 media outlets, it has been a fantastic year for both Societies and Media. QMSU would also like to thank Professor Peter McOwan who contributed to the welcome and the opening of the ceremony.

A list of the winners can be found here: <https://www.qmsu.org/news/article/6965/Society-and-Student-Media-Awards-2016/>

QMUL Students to lead on Graduate Centre Café name

The Union is greatly looking forward to facilitating a student competition in order to name the new café that will be present in the new Graduate Centre, opening January 2017. This competition will encourage students studying at QMUL to name the new café, and to increasingly feel part of this great project on campus.

QMUL/QMSU Sports Strategy Task & Finish Group

A QMUL/QMSU Joint Sports Strategy Task and Finish Group has been set up. The group is being chaired by Professor Rebecca Lingwood, and is tasked to review the previous joint Sports Strategy 2010-2015, in order to draft a new strategy by autumn 2016.

The Strategy has been primarily focused on growth in participation levels and opportunities to access physical activity. It was reported that participation levels increased by 66% from 4426 participants within sport in 2010/2011, to 7345 participants in 2014/2015, and increasing attendances by 46% from 148,545 in 2010/2011 to 217,181 in 2014/2015. There has also been a significant increase in the number of coaches and officials from 178 in 2010/2011 to 504 in 2014/2015.

QMUL/QMSU Lad Culture Working Group

A QMUL/QMSU Lad Culture Working Group has been set up to review current policy regarding Lad Culture on campus, specifically looking at anti-social behaviour and sexual harassment, and the information that is provided both by the University and the Union regarding the reporting of these incidents, as well as information made available. The first meeting will take place on the 26th April and is due to be completed by June 2016.

Annual Survey

Our annual survey has now been launched and incentives have been offered to those completing the survey. This survey provides the Union with valuable information to monitor our progress and plan for future years.

Carolina Mantzalos, President 2015/16

Returning Officers Report

The Students' Union ran its main election which elects the Executive Officers, Student Trustees, NUS Delegates, Student Councillors and additional non-representative positions from 7-10 March 2016.

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: Alison Chappell, National Union of Students
Deputy Returning Officer: Charlotte Kendrick, Queen Mary, University of London Students' Union

Election Statistics

Members of the Union: 18,172*

**Figure provided by ARCS correct as of 7 March 2016.*

2015-16

Number of candidates (in total) standing for positions this year: 107**
 Total number of students who voted this year: 3759
 Election turnout as percentage of membership: 20.6%

***114 nomination forms were submitted, but 7 later withdrew.*

2014-15

Number of candidates (in total) standing for positions this year: 95**
 Total number of students who voted this year: 3556
 Election turnout as percentage of membership: 20.5%

***106 nomination forms were submitted, but 11 later withdrew.*

Complaints

Number of formal complaints submitted to the Returning Officer: 2
 Number of complaints upheld: 1
 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 2016 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 the complaints and evidence presented. This means voters were able to vote freely and fairly in this election.

This year has seen the Unions highest ever voter turnout of 3759, which is 187 more cast than in 2014. We received 13 nominations for the four Executive positions, which is less than in 2015. Student Council was considerably more contested, with 24 of 35 contested (in 2015 it was 14 of 35).

Some posts are still unfilled and the Union will need to run a by-election in September/October for the First Year Representative and Postgraduate Taught Representative on both campuses. This is required as we cannot elect these positions before they arrive.

The results for the Executive Officer positions are:
 President – Miranda Black
 Vice President Education – Sumeera Ahmad
 Vice President Welfare – Adam Sparkes

Vice President Barts and The London – William Atkins

If you wish to find out more about the candidates and those who have been elected please go to 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: Charlotte Kendrick
Date: 14 March 2016