



QMSU President's Report

Outcome requested:	QMUL Council is asked to note the QMSU President's report for November 2015 and the 2014–15 QMSU Impact Report.
Executive Summary:	<p>The QMSU 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.</p> <p>The proposal for the an additional student representative on Council will be submitted in February 2016.</p>
QMUL Strategy:	Effective governance supports the achievement of all strategic aims.
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:	There are no equality and diversity impacts that arise from this paper.
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.
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Date:	19 November 2015
Senior Management/External Sponsor	N/A

President's Report

QMUL Council, Tuesday 24 November 2015

QMBL Voter Registration

On 16th November, a group of students started a campaign around voter registration which was facilitated by the Union. The campaign consists of getting students across the campuses registered before the electoral register is wiped on the 1st December. The Union is collaborating with students and residential services on going into halls to speak to students residing across the campuses and speaking to students in communal areas. The Union has launched a section of its website at www.qmsu.org/voteqmb.

Collaboration with Citizens UK on the Housing Campaign

The Union is collaborating with other Unions as well as Citizens UK on a Housing Crisis campaign in London, in the run up to the London Mayoral Elections. The Housing Crisis has been highlighted as a key concern by many candidates, as well as citizens across London and thus a few Unions across London have decided to collaborate on a campaign to address this with candidates as well as the final elected Mayor.

Students across QMUL are increasingly concerned around the rise in housing costs in London, as well as the constraints on lack of sufficient University housing available on campus. This has been seen in particular regard to the expansion of Genomics England on the Charterhouse Square Campus, where there has been a 3% decrease in the number of accommodation rooms available to students this year.

Library Opening Hours

A letter addressed to the Students' Union was printed out and distributed in the Library regarding students' dissatisfaction with the current opening hours of the Mile End Library, specifically those at the weekend. The current weekend opening hours are 13:00-20:00 (Saturday and Sunday), which is 29% of weekend hours in general. This issue was brought up in 14/15 and a bid was put forward to PAR in order to achieve 24/7 opening hours, which was unsuccessful. Students have stressed their dissatisfaction with this and want to run another campaign this year in order to address this once more, especially in the case of weekend opening hours.

Queen Merry Market

The Union and Residential Services are collaborating on a festival on the 8th December to celebrate how different cultures celebrate festivals. Student Groups will be coming together to showcase different traditions and it will be open to all students and staff. There will be music performances and catering also provided.

Sexual Health and Dry January

The Union will be running campaigns around both Sexual Health and Alcohol Impact in both December and January this academic year. Students will be pledging to a Dry January campaign and the Union will be looking at offering more alcohol free events and getting sport clubs involved.

Student Council and Annual Student Meeting

This year, the Union is composed of a full Student Council, and has seen a great increase in quorum at Student Council meetings. Student Council have met twice in the first term, with a great deal of

motions passed. The Annual Student Meeting is due to take place on the 8th December where all students will be able to vote on different motions.

Strategic Plan

The Union is pleased to have completed an evaluation of the first year of the Strategic Plan and has already achieved progress. Some of the highlights include:

- A 61% increase in the number of students involved in student groups across the Union.
- 9% increase in the number of women participating in Get Active.
- 2 community focused campaigns.
- 17.36% increase in the number of students believing the Union is empowering students to make changes.
- 82% of students who took part, state that the Buddy Scheme helped to make the transition into university easier.
- 43.1% of students recognise the Unions mission.
- 17.3% increase in the number of students who can recognise one of the Union's campaigns.

Carolina Mantzalos, President 2015/16

2014/15

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Impact Report

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QUEEN MARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
STUDENTS' UNION



Introduction

Queen Mary, University of London Students' Union is a registered charity working to improve the lives of students. The impact report highlights some of the key achievements from across the Union and demonstrates the benefit that the Union provides to students at Queen Mary University of London.

Some Particular Highlights Include:



The record number of members in student societies



The strong stance the Union has taken on sexual harassment



The national nominations for students and student groups in media and volunteering



The community sport programme



An expanded alcohol free events programme

Overview of the Union

This is the first year of the new strategic plan and the Union's Board of Trustees, Student Council and the Annual Member's Meeting have been active setting policy and making decisions for the benefit of students. Some key decisions made by the Student Council include better promotion of Halal food, supporting the SaveME campaign, the adoption of a Social Events and Initiations Policy and to play Quest Radio in Union venues.

Key Achievements

Putting the Unions ethical and environmental ambitions into practice

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 2.8)

As defined in the Union Strategic Plan the Union has ambitions to achieve Gold in NUS Green Impact by 2017. This year the Union took its first step on that journey and was successful in securing a bronze award.

Giving students the help they need

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 2.7)

The Union was able to support 441 new student cases through the Academic Advice Service. These are typically cases and enquiries around academic appeals, extenuating circumstances, assessment officers and fitness to practice.



Creating communities for students from BUPT

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.3)

In January the Union hosted a visit from 18 students from the BUPT (Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications) Joint Programme in Beijing. Our visitors were paired with students from QMUL for a week of cultural and educational activities. This successful initiative will be built upon in the future.

NEWS STORY

Helping students to recognize the skills they have developed

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 3.2)

The QM Skills Award re-launched in January 2015 to help students record and strengthen the employability skills they develop whilst volunteering and/or working in the Students' Union. In April, 43 students received awards after having completed at least 30 hours of volunteering/work, attended three training sessions and completed reflective exercises.

The cohort included students undertaking an exciting mix of roles from different areas in the Union and students benefited from finding out what their fellow students were leading on.

The award programme offered 10 soft-skills training sessions with a total of 101 attendances. Attendees reported that the sessions effectively strengthened their employability skills. Students found that the reflection session helped them capture and rate the skills they developed and identify the skills that potential employers will be looking for. By the end of the session students had created a Skills Development Plan having explored further developmental options available to them in the Union and QM Careers and Enterprise Centre.

YOU SAID

You wanted the Union to help you become more employable.

WE DID

The Union re-launched the QM Skills Award with an enhanced training program!

Making Changes

One of the key purposes of the Union is to improve QMUL. Some of this work is done through the Education Zone (working to improve the quality of students' education) and the Welfare Zone (working to improve student life in areas such as access, finance, and equality of opportunity).

Key Achievements

Helping Course Representatives to develop and make changes

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 2.3 AND 2.4)

At the end of the first year of our revised Course Rep system, we were pleased to announce that 109 Reps would be continuing in post next academic year, with only 35 vacancies to be filled in the autumn along with first year and postgraduate Reps.



Working with students to campaign in the local community – SaveME

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.5)

With The East London Citizens Organisation (TELCO) and students, the Union campaigned to tackle road safety in the local area. Over 400 students and local residents attended a demonstration on campus. Tower Hamlets Council is implementing a borough-wide 20MPH speed limit and the Tower Hamlets mayoral candidates are committed to supporting SaveME.

Creating a safer QMUL – Zero Tolerance

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 2.1)

This year over 1000 students and staff took the pledge to end sexual harassment at QMUL. Students were involved in a range of activities and student leaders pledged their agreement in photos. The Union is now working with the university to update their policy on harassment.

NEWS STORY

Giving first year students a great start to their QMUL experience

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.2 AND 2.7)

Previously known as “Mums and Dads”, the Union Buddy scheme has expanded rapidly. The Union built close ties with student support officers at 12 schools in Humanities & Social Sciences and Science & Engineering to ensure that the scheme is a fundamental part of the transition process. 250 mentors have now been recruited and trained and will take up their role for the 2015/16 academic year. These volunteer numbers are four times the size of last year’s cohort. Almost every incoming undergraduate student in participating schools will be grouped with 15-30 course mates and

looked after by two mentors. The scheme now caters for around 2,500 new students.

Having been trained to help guide new students through their first year at QM, mentors will meet mentees during Welcome Week. They will be there to answer any questions, give information, provide support, and organise social events. The scheme has already created a sense of community at QMUL and with almost 3000 students involved in the 2015/16 academic year this community is set to grow.

YOU SAID

That sexual harassment should not be tolerated by the Union.

WE DID

The Union got over 1000 students and staff to sign a pledge to end sexual harassment!

Activities

The Union supported 212 societies, led by 550 principal officers, the largest society community to date. Many students are also involved in leading our two Raise and Give (RAG) fundraising groups which raise thousands of pounds for student chosen charities each year.

Key Achievements

Societies continue to grow to meet the needs of students

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.2, 1.3 AND 1.4)

The Union affiliated more societies than ever, increasing its engagement to over 7,500 members. This meant over 40% of QMUL students were a member of at least one society, with many joining several, taking membership totals to over 11,500.

Debate Society win Society of the Year

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.4)

After coming 2nd in the UCL Inter-Varsity, our Debate Society hosted its first IV competition since 2008. They also collaborated with a wide range of societies to put on 2 events a week, a few of the reasons they were awarded Society of the Year.

Maths Society get involved in a worldwide project

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.2 AND 1.4)

The Maths society took part in the worldwide MegaMenger project, building the biggest fractal in the world made out of over a million business cards.

Barts and The London RAG continue to make a massive contribution to charity

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.5)

BL RAG Week; held from 2nd-9th February, was a great success which saw over £8000 raised for the RAG nominated charities in a single week. Events included Take Me Out, a Murder Mystery Night, Pub Quiz and RAG Raids at Westminster, London Bridge and Clapham.

NEWS STORY

Student Groups get involved in Raise and Give

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.5)

This year saw a number of our Union student groups partnering with Mile End and Barts and The London RAG to raise money for the five nominated RAG Charities. Highlights included Barts and The London Boat Club organising a 24 hour Ergathon (continuous rowing event) that raised £3105.96 for the London Air Ambulance. Dental Society partnered with BL RAG Week for their Dental Race, raising over £1000 in the process, part of a wider effort by BL students which saw over £8000 raised during RAG Week alone. Meanwhile at Mile End RAG, Quest Radio undertook a 24 hour

broadcasting marathon titled "Questathon" that raised over £700 for the nominated charities. Knit-a-Soc also hand created and sold various unique knitted treats throughout the year, raising further funds.

All of these events benefitted from RAG introducing its own online fundraising platform for the first time through the MyDonate service. The streamlining of our other RAG and charity fundraising processes has laid a solid foundation for the development and growth of RAG in 2015-16.

YOU SAID

The Union should help students build communities on campus.

WE DID

The Union affiliated more new societies than ever before. More than 40% of all students are now a member of at least one society!

Activities

The Unions Volunteering programme provides short or long-term opportunities, allowing students options for making a difference in the community. Student Media grew to 8 outlets, the largest amount ever recorded at the university. These included traditional print, film and radio outlets as well as arts and culture, politics and academic publications.

Key Achievements

Nationally recognised Student Media

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.4)

This year saw the Unions' Student Media shortlisted at the National Student Publication Associations' Awards for the first time. The event held at the University of Southampton saw 4 of our publications shortlisted for "Best Design" against strong competition.



Student media goes from strength to strength

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.4 AND 3.1)

There were 438 paid Student Media memberships this year, with 100 students in editorial/leadership positions. Over 350 individual contributors provided content through print, online, radio, TV and events, with many more attending events and training.

An award worthy Volunteering Officer

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.5)

The BL Volunteering Officer was shortlisted for the National Student Volunteer of the Year Award. Her Union supported volunteering group, Project Play, has engaged over 60 medical students, providing play activities in A&E and Children's Wards in the Royal London Hospital.

NEWS STORY

Providing the volunteering opportunities that students want

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.5)

QMUL students volunteered at over 50 one-off volunteering events in 2014/15, involving 24 community partners, through over 600 individual student placement opportunities.

One example includes:
As part of the launch of London Student Volunteering Fortnight 2014, QMUL students volunteered alongside other volunteers from London universities and volunteers from the public. They worked to assemble and plant poppies in the moat of the Tower of London,

as part of an art installation commemorating the centenary of World War One. With an overwhelming level of interest from volunteers from all over the UK, who wanted to contribute to the most visited and talked about public art installation for a generation, the Unions Volunteering programme was privileged to offer the opportunity to 50 QMUL students. New friendships were formed and this volunteering opportunity gave volunteers a "compelling and eye opening experience" and a "real insight into the hard-hitting true meaning of what (the) installation represents".

YOU SAID

You wanted more one-off volunteering opportunities.

WE DID

The Union offered over 50 one-off volunteering opportunities students could participate in!



Sport and Fitness

The Union delivers the entire sport provision on behalf of QMUL. The delivery and support for sport is sub-divided up into four areas; Qmotion Health and Fitness Centre, Club Sport, Get Active and Community Sport.

Key Achievements

Training students to become coaches and officials

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.5 AND 3.1)

The target in 2014/15 was to successfully train 50 students as coaches/officials with national governing body qualifications. Sixty-one students became qualified, 29 as Level 1 coaches, 8 as Level 2 coaches and 24 Umpires.

Developing an elite athlete programme

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 3.1)

A pilot programme was established where dedicated students received both financial and training support from the Sports Department. Successes included a gold, silver and bronze medal in Karate and a 4th place in the women's 400m within British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) Competitions.

Club Sport participation continues to grow

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.4)

This year has seen a significant increase in participation in the Club Sport programme with the number of participants rising to 2470 students, an increase of 15.5% from the previous year. This underlines the increasing popularity of sport at QMUL.

NEWS STORY

More female students get involved in the recreational sport programme

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.3)

The Union's recreational sport programme, Get Active, has seen a surge in female participation in sport through the 2014/15 academic year. The proportion of female students involved in the programme rose to 39.7% of participants during 2014/15 compared to under 30% for previous academic years.

The rise in female participation has been supported by continued Sport England investment in Get Active through the University Sport Activation Fund from 2014-17. This investment has allowed the Union to run

women's only sport sessions as well as offer a wider variety of sports including cheerleading, diving and archery which have in particular appealed to more female participants. In addition, Get Active has worked to break down some of the barriers students face in getting involved in sport by making sessions fun, flexible, affordable and social activities as well as linking in with national campaigns such as 'This Girl Can'.

YOU SAID

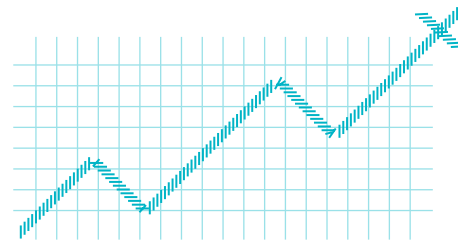
You wanted more opportunities to get involved in sport.

WE DID

The Union trained 61 students to be coaches and officials!

Commercial Services

The Union runs a range of venues, cafes and shops to both provide a service to students and to generate income to support the activities of the Union. Some of these venues include the Drapers Bar and Kitchen, the Shield, Infusion and Ground Café.



Key Achievements

Providing fun opportunities for students to meet one another

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.1)

The Union produced its most diverse events programme to date totalling 301 events, activities and day trips with 95 promoted as alcohol free events, up 11 on last year. This included events such as a floating cinema, graffiti workshop, speed meeting and the Freshers' Boat Ball.



Cafés continue to improve their options

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.1)

The Union cafés contributed towards the QMUL community through the introduction and active promotion of a wide range of products including vegan, vegetarian and gluten free, which support healthy living. The cafés continue to also provide an excellent space for students to relax in during the day.

The shops continued to freeze its prices for students

(STRATEGIC PLAN ENABLER: COMMERCIAL SERVICES)

The retail department continues to provide the student population with access to quality products on campus, and through its promotions the shops have been able to offer students essential food, stationary and merchandise. Despite increasing costs, the shops have maintained their price freeze for the second year running.

NEWS STORY

A Fantastic Year for Venues and Events

(STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE 1.1)

This year saw an increase in student groups and society bookings using the Drapers Lounge space, with a total of 117 bookings between September and April. Everything from quizzes, debates, rehearsals, live performances and film screenings has taken place in the venue. Drapers Lounge is also a relaxing chill out study space during the day, becoming a truly versatile campus space. The range of events has increased year on year. The biggest increase has been in alcohol free events which now accounts for 31.6% of the overall events programme. Across the Venues and Events team the Union has employed over 85 students including bar,

kitchen, events and audio visual staff. Its customers have enjoyed a new range in our food and grab and go menus. From the venues kitchens the union has sold 1160 new wraps, 5000 portions of curly fries and the homemade pizzas were enjoyed by 3771 customers. To round off the year both the Griff Inn Bar and Kitchen and Drapers Bar and Kitchen received one of the highest accreditations, achieving the gold award for both venues in the Best Bar None scheme. This is a nationally recognised scheme for licensed venues across the UK that showcases responsible bar operations of the highest standards in the best interests of their customers.

YOU SAID

The Union shops should not increase their prices.

WE DID

The Union shops maintained a prize freeze for the second year running!



Conclusion

Moving into 2015/16 the Union is embarking on its second year of the strategic plan and has high ambitions, such as the achievement of a Silver in the NUS Green Impact Awards, a 25% election turnout and to rank 25th in the National Student Survey.

Some of the highlights from the elected Executive Officer manifestos for the coming year include campaigning for 24/7 libraries, increased support for graduates and commuters, better teaching quality and supporting mental health and wellbeing.

The Union would not be what it is without the engagement of thousands of students. If you want to get involved in any of the opportunities available go to www.qmsu.org.



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