Queen Mary
University of London

Executive summary of Senate on 9th June 2016

Outcome requested:	Council is asked to **note** the executive summary of the meeting of Senate held on 9th June 2016.
Executive Summary:	The summary provides Council 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:	14 June 2016
Senior Management/External Sponsor	Jonathan Morgan, Academic Registrar and Council 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 j.pallant@qmul.ac.uk

Date of Meeting: 9 June 2016

Main Items Discussed

1. **Higher Education and Research Bill 2016**
   Higher Education White Paper: *Success as a knowledge economy*
   1.1 Senate received a summary paper of the key points contained in the Government's White Paper. Members noted that the Higher Education and Research Bill 2016 provided legislation to support the proposals contained in the White Paper: the establishment of an Office for Students, the creation of a single route into the higher education sector, the provision of alternative payments to students and revisions to the UK's research infrastructure.

   1.2 The President and Principal provided further information on the themes contained in the White Paper, noting that both Universities UK and the Russell Group were engaged in discussions with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

   1.3 Members noted that the President and Principal was the Chair of a Universities UK group which was working with parliamentarians to ensure that appropriate input from the sector was advanced before the second reading of the Higher Education and Research Bill.

2. **Teaching Excellence Framework year 2: technical consultation**
   2.1 Senate received an oral update on a consultation from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills regarding the second year of operation of the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF); members noted that year one of the TEF would be based on the outcomes of a higher education institution's most recent Higher Education Review, conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency.

   2.2 Members noted that a group comprising the Deans for Taught Programmes, or their delegates, would review a first draft of QMUL's response to the consultation. Members further noted that QMUL would feed in to the responses prepared by Universities UK and the Russell Group.

3. **HEFCE Annual Provider Review**
   Senate received an update on the summary of HEFCE's revised operating model for quality assessment (full details of the operating model are available at http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/year/2016/201603/). Members noted that all institutions would be subject to the new quality assessment arrangements from 2017-18, but that QMUL would be required to comply with elements of the new process from 2016 because, under the previous model, QMUL was due to undergo the QAA's Higher Education Review in autumn 2016.

4. **Freedom of Speech Policy**
Senate received the revised Freedom of Speech Policy, approved by Chair's action on 30 March 2016, following feedback from Senate members after the March 2016 meeting of Senate. Senate agreed to review the Freedom of Speech Policy on an annual basis for the time being.

5. **QMUL Model**
5.1 Senate received a paper on the QMUL Model which summarised the work completed on the project to date, illustrated how the Model would operate in practice and set out a formal case for approval.

5.2 Members noted that the project team had conducted an internal consultation on the proposals for the QMUL Model and had visited (or would visit) all schools and institutes to discuss the proposals in more detail. These discussions had been invaluable in the evolution of the proposals for Senate's consideration.

5.3 The consultation exercise with schools and institutes had led to discussion of the current structure and value of academic credit at QMUL. At present, QMUL's degree programmes were structured in multiples of 15 credit modules; however, some schools expressed an interest in moving to a 10 credit module (or multiples thereof) structure to allow greater portability of credit since this model was more commonly used across the sector. It was agreed that a consultation on the value and structure of academic credit would take place during 2016-17; members noted that this consultation would impact on the QMUL Model, but was a separate issue in its own right.

5.4 Senate members were in broad agreement with the concept of the QMUL Model; however, some members were concerned about the implementation process and timescale. While some schools and institutes had indicated that the QMUL Model as set out in the paper could be accommodated with relative ease from 2017-18, others expressed concern about elements of the proposals for their particular school or institute. Members were concerned that the paper did not articulate fully all of the risks associated with the project; although the project's risk register would be made openly available on QMPlus (QMUL's virtual learning environment), it was felt that risks relating to the implementation of the QMUL Model should be included in the paper.

5.5 Senate agreed that the QMUL Model would be implemented for the start of the 2017-18 academic year, while recognising that some local variations within schools and institutes would be accommodated in the first year ahead of full of implementation of the Model. Members agreed with this approach to implementation but felt that Senate needed to receive the project's risk register and regular updates between meetings of Senate.

6. **Academic Regulations (Taught Programmes)**
Senate approved a number of revisions and clarifications to the academic regulations for students on taught programmes in advance of the 2016-17 academic session, together with updates to the Assessment Handbook 2016-17.

7. **Code of Student Discipline**
Senate approved an updated version of the Code of Student Discipline. The Code had been reviewed by a task and finish group which had recommended some amendments to improve the operation of the Code for students and staff.

8. **Fitness to Study Policy**

    Senate considered a draft Fitness to Study Policy which sought to provide a framework for schools and institutes supporting students with complex mental or physical health problems. Senate endorsed the draft but agreed that it required further refinement and would be considered again at the October 2016 meeting of Senate.

9. **Q Review policy**

    Senate approved a policy for Q-Review, QMUL's system for lecture capture. The policy governed the use of Q-Review and covered areas including consent, ownership, security, copyright and the options available to users of the service.

10. **Suspensions of Regulations**

    Senate considered the summary of recent requests to suspend the academic regulations for individual students. Senate monitors these requests at each meeting and had established a task and finish group to explore ways of reducing the number of requests received. Members noted that the task and finish group planned to enhance communications with schools and institutes to reduce the number of these requests, and that this approach would be monitored at future meetings of Senate.

Jane Pallant
Deputy Academic Registrar
March 2016