

COUNCIL
Friday 13 April 2018

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Present:

Lord Clement-Jones (Chair)	Professor Colin Bailey	Dr Véronique Bouchet
Monica Chadha (Vice-Chair)	Sarah Cowls	Celia Gough
Stella Hall	Isabelle Jenkins	Dr Darryn Mitussis
Dr Mangala Patel	Luke Savage	Bill Spence
Peter Thompson	Professor Steve Thornton	David Willis
Professor Wen Wang	Yasir Yeahia	

In attendance:

Rakin Choudhury	Laura Gibbs	Joanne Jones
Dr Nadine Lewycky	Jonathan Morgan	Mike Wojcik (minutes 2017.059-060)

Apologies:

Professor Richard Ashcroft	Kath Barrow	Sian Marshall
Bushra Nasir	John Yard	

Welcome and apologies

2017.052 The Chair **welcomed:**

- [a] Isabelle Jenkins to her first Council meeting after having joined Council as an external member in January 2018.
- [b] Peter Thompson to his first Council meeting after having joined Council as an external member in November 2017.
- [c] Mike Wojcik, Chief Executive of Queen Mary Students' Union, who was attending for items 8 and 9.

Minutes: 30 November 2017 (Paper QM2017/37)

2017.053 Council **confirmed** the confidential and non-confidential minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2017.

Minutes: 14 February 2018 (Paper QM2017/38)

2017.054 Council **confirmed** the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2018.

Matters Arising (Paper QM2017/39)

2017.055 Council **noted** the matters arising from the meeting held on 30 November 2017. The following points were made in discussion:

[a] *Minute 2017.055[a] is confidential.*

[b] *Minute 2017.055[b] is confidential.*

[c] *Minute 2017.055[c] is confidential.*

[d] *Minute 2017.055[d] is confidential.*

Prevent duty

[e] QMUL had received its 'monitoring outcome' in relation to the Prevent duty from HEFCE which concluded that QMUL had 'demonstrated sufficient evidence of due regard to the Prevent duty.'

Chair's Opening Remarks (Oral Report)

2017.056 The Chair **said** that:

He had held useful meetings with individual Council members as part of the annual review of Council effectiveness. The feedback received showed that members had appreciated how issues had been presented this year by the Senior Executive and the opportunities for open discussion during meetings. Council members also appreciated their role in upholding the values and culture of QMUL.

President and Principal's Report (QM2017/40)

2017.057 Council **received** the President and Principal's Report. The President and Principal **said** that:

[a] Queen Mary had received a number of high profile visitors including Professor Sir Mark Walport, the Chief Executive Designate of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). A visit by Sir Michael Barber, Chair of the Office for Students was also planned. These visits enabled the Senior Executive to showcase Queen Mary and to discuss in confidence issues facing Queen Mary and the sector.

The following points were made in discussion:

Industrial relations

[b] Members felt that the criticisms of Council by staff regarding the pensions dispute through internal channels could have been shared with members more promptly, particularly as the accusations that Council had not discussed pensions were considered to be untrue. It was asked that the university reflect on communication with Council members in similar situations in future.

[c] The Chair had sent a letter on behalf of Council to the University and College Union (UCU) union setting out dates and times when pensions issues had been discussed. He had held a meeting with UCU

representatives to discuss the inaccuracies of the letter and the governance issues it had raised. He said that he had been disappointed by the tone of the letter from the UCU Branch Committee and by the tone of some of the social media discussions surrounding the issue, and had drawn attention to this during this meeting.

- [d] Concern was also raised about privacy, as some Council members had been contacted via personal email addresses which were not publicly available.

Alumni relations and development

- [e] The recent appointment of a Director of Development and Alumni Relations would help to drive forward work in this area. Queen Mary did not have a strong track record in developing endowments when compared with other Russell Group institutions. Better engagement with alumni could also help to improve links with industry highlighted in an earlier presentation by the VP (Science and Engineering) as an area for improvement. Alumni relations was an area being considered by QMSE for additional investment.

Life Sciences

- [f] *Minute 2017.057[f] is confidential.*

Strategy

- [g] The new QMUL strategy would be developed over the coming year through workshops with staff and students. The workshops would provide an opportunity for staff and students to contribute to the development of the strategy and to discuss visions for the future of the university.
- [h] Council **congratulated** Professor Wen Wang who has been appointed as Deputy Vice Principal for Science and Engineering.

President's report [QMSU], including QMSU Impact Report for 2016–17 (QM2017/41)

2017.058 Council **received** the QMSU President's Report. The President **said** that:

- [a] There was a significant increase in student engagement at the recent executive officer elections, including an increase in the number of candidates standing for election.
- [b] The Nest, previously called the Hive, had formally opened and provided communal space on campus for students. The name had been voted on by students in a poll. Early feedback from students had been positive.
- [c] The Students' Union venue, Drapers Bar, had recently been awarded best bar in the Tower Hamlets Council Best Bar None awards. The Griff Inn had also received an honourable mention.
- [d] QMSU was pleased with some of the modifications that had been made to the allocation of bursaries which included an additional £200K in 2018-19, a significance proportion of which would be made available to students whose family income is in the £15-30K bracket. QMSU would also continue its engagement with the decision-making for bursaries, including

membership of the Access Monitoring Group and the Steering Group.

- [e] The students occupying the Octagon had left on Tuesday 10th April. QMSU would conduct a review session to reflect on the way in which it had handled the situation. It was felt that a number of factors coalesced to lead to the student activism, including dissatisfaction with the external environment as well as bursaries.

The following points were made in discussion:

- [f] It was important that students were made aware of the involvement of the QMSU executive officers in the decisions made by the university regarding bursaries. The QMSU President had agreed that there was scope for the executive officers to improve communication of their involvement in the university's decision making processes to students and with their successors.
- [g] The Zero Tolerance campaign had been launched to students at the Merger Cup. QMSU continued to work with the university, through the Equality and Diversity Steering Group, to ensure that the campaign is also communicated to staff. QMSU would also be meeting with students' unions at other universities in London to discuss best practice in tackling harassment.

QMSU Memorandum and Articles of Association (Paper QM2017/42)

2017.059 Council **considered** and **approved** the QMSU Memorandum and Articles of Association. The following points were made in discussion:

- [a] Concern was raised about the composition of the student council as defined by the bye-laws; SMD represented only 17% of the total student population but held 50% representation on the student council.
- [b] The CEO of QMSU said that the issue had been discussed by the Board of Trustees and that Task and Finish groups were being established to review various aspects of the bye-laws.
- [c] Council's responsibility in overseeing the relationship with QMSU is carried out through the Memorandum of Agreement Review Panel, chaired by the VP for Student Experience, Teaching and Learning. The Council was represented on the Panel by Bushra Nasir.
- [d] Council **noted** the change of name to Queen Mary University of London Students' Union to bring it into alignment with the name of the university.

QMSU Financial Statements 2016-17, current financial position and five year plans (Paper QM2017/43)

2017.060 Council **received** a paper on the QMSU Financial Statements for 2016-17, the current financial position and five year plans.

2018-19 Budget and financial forecasts to 2022-23 (Paper QM2017/44)

2017.061 Council **considered** and **approved** the 2018-19 budget, and **noted** the financial forecasts to 2022-23.

Minute 2017.061 is confidential.

Current financial position (Paper QM2017/45)

2017.062 Council **received** the Period 6 management accounts.

Minute 2017.062 is confidential.

Finance and Investment Committee minutes (Paper QM2017/46)

2017.063 Council **received** the minutes of the Finance and Investment Committee meeting held on 13 November 2017.

Registration with the Office for Students (Paper QM2017/47)

2017.064 Council **received** the process for registration with the OfS and agreed that QMUL should apply for registration in the Approved (Fee Cap) category. The Academic Registrar and Council Secretary said that:

[a] The OfS registration process required the university to share with students before enrolment a Student Protection Plan which assessed the risks of the university being unable to deliver the programme, what mitigating steps the university would take, and how the university would compensate students if it was unable to continue offering the programme. Under HEFCE, the university was not required to provide students with this information up front, and this change highlighted the 'student as consumer' approach of the OfS.

[b] OfS registration would be a phased process whereby those universities with medical schools were required to submit their applications by the end of April 2018. As this was the first time universities were required to register with the OfS, questions remain around the expectations.

Audit and Risk Committee report (Paper QM2017/48)

2017.065 Council **received** the report of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 08 March 2018 and **approved** the re-appointment of Deloitte LLP as Queen Mary's External Auditors for 2017-18 on the basis of satisfactory performance during the previous year.

Health, safety and fire annual report (Paper QM2017/49)

2017.066 Council **received** the Health, Safety and Fire Annual Report. It was noted that the direction of travel with regards to health and fire safety has been good over a number of years, and the Audit and Risk Committee agreed that it had been provided with adequate assurance. Additional work had been undertaken this year to inspect and test the cladding on a number of university buildings for fire safety risks.

Updated policies (Paper QM2017/50)

2017.067 Council **approved** the updated policies and procedures based on the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Senate Report (Paper QM2017/51)

2017.068 Council **received** the report of the meeting of Senate held on 15 March 2018. The following points were noted:

- [a] Discussions had been held in Senate regarding the industrial action, pensions and the student occupation of the Octagon.
- [b] Senate had considered the Annual Report on Student Casework 2016-17 and noted the increase in both academic appeals (36%) and assessment offences (25%) during 2016-17. There did not seem to be any distinguishable factors to account for these increases. Council would receive the report at its meeting in May 2018.
- [c] Senate was consulting with Schools regarding the introduction of semester-based examinations in some modules which would reduce the overall burden in the main examinations period.
- [d] Senate had approved recommendations on the access for disabled students to teaching and learning resources. This was a positive move for improving the student experience of all students.

Use of the Common Seal of the College (Paper QM2017/52)

2017.069 Council **received** the report of the use of the Common Seal of the College since the last meeting of Council.

***Agenda for the next meeting (Paper QM2017/53)**

2017.070 Council **noted** the agenda for the next meeting.

Dates of Meetings 2017–18

- Thursday 31 May 2018, 1600 hours, 3.06 Garrod Building, Whitechapel
- Thursday 12 July 2018, 1600 hours, G05 Rotblat Building, Charterhouse Square