



Paper title	Vice-President Education's report (February 2020)
Outcome requested	The Board is ask to consider the report
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Sponsor	

Vice-President Education's Report



EQSB – 19th February 2020

Student Experience and Learning Resources

Study well was successful, with activities planned over Mile end and Whitechapel selling out each time. Whilst the plan was originally to have Study Well activities mostly based on the Mile End Campus as this was where exams would be taking place, we received feedback that students at the Whitechapel campus would appreciate activities to also be held on their campus. Where students did not show up to a booking, there was always a surplus of students wanting to do the activity. The most well-received activity was doggy de-stress, where we had to turn away extra students who showed up due to lack of capacity. We also received interest from students on the medical campus in Gozo, which will now be considered in the summer round of Study Well planning, led by the VP Welfare.

Having discussed the lack of revision week this academic year at the Student Engagement Working group, it became apparent that there was a need to consider having this in for next year's semester based exams. This, alongside considerations for student maintenance loans, resulted in the change of semester dates for 2021/2022, with the inclusion of a re-named, "study week" instead of revision weeks to deter last-minute cramming.

As flagged by the HSS Faculty Rep, the introduction of semester based exams has led to timing conflicts with Friday prayers. The student's union is working to distribute a survey that will estimate the number of student's affected so that the university can make changes accordingly.

With increasing student numbers and the introduction of QM Online, I have been in contact with the library about extending the SCONUL access scheme to students, which allows students to use libraries part of the scheme in other parts of the UK. They have agreed to do a scoping exercise next academic year, as capacity considerations will have to occur. This project will have input from the Mile End First Year Rep, as well as course reps.

Through my involvement with the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure solution project, students will be able to access specialist software from home using their own devices, furthering accessibility and eliminating the need for commuter students to come in. This project was piloted for staff and was extremely successful, thereby highlighting an area for expansion with students.

As the students decided to support the UCU strikes, the executive officer team could not engage with the university in the strike period except for emergency cases. In the meantime, I have been conducting a student consultation on industrial action compensation, as it has been recognised that students have raised concerns about the quality of their education being affected. Results of this research will be made available through the SU, with the resolution also being publicised as soon as possible.

Last EQSB it was decided that I will be taking forward the results of the Student Experience Survey 18/19 with the new Vice-Principal of People, Culture and Inclusion. I have met with her to discuss the results and we are in the process of creating an action plan to help take forward the recommendations from the survey. I will also be presenting the survey at Senate in March for the wider university to receive and discuss.

Course Reps and Part-Time Officers

We have been running 'Course rep of the month' successfully for 3 months now, with the nominations coming from different faculties and courses. The winners are decided using a scoring matrix filled out by the SU's executive officer team and are invited to come in and collect their certificate and receive their prize. The winners of course rep of the month will also be automatically entered into the course rep of the year award for the annual Education Awards occurring in March.

I have also written a Student Union Bye-law for course reps in order to address the issue of low engagement with the role, which was previously identified by our faculty representatives and by the students. The bye-law

will enable the SU to remove a course rep from the position and allow for either re-election or for another student to be co-opted into the role by their school. This bye-law will be submitted into the upcoming Student council to be voted on by our councillors.

Education Awards

Nominations are now open for the Education Awards and close on 21st February 2020. Every year the Education Awards celebrate the contributions of staff and students to improving the Queen Mary learning experience. The Education Awards include the Course Rep Awards, awarded to Course Reps who have made a huge difference to students and their courses, and the Teaching Awards, awarded to teaching and support staff that have made an outstanding contribution to the student experience.

They also include student council awards. Councillors are invited to submit nominations for themselves or other councillors, as recognition of good work.

Student's Union Policies

The Union should lobby for Science and Engineering (S&E) faculties to record tutorial sessions being led by one select PhD student for each module (where possible)

As per a policy passed by student council last academic year, I have been in contact with e-learning who has showed interest in doing a pilot with Science & Engineering to record tutorials and workshops. Further policy and governance work will have to occur in cases where students may not want to be recorded.

QMSU should lobby the university to provide subtitling on Qreview videos

E-learning are currently working with the Head of Disability and Dyslexia Service and the student's union to implement this policy by doing a scoping exercise on the products available. Considerations on accuracy, reliability and other technical issues will have to also be made.

QMSU should lobby the University to implement a Housing Guarantor Scheme

I have also been inputting into the proposal for a rent guarantor scheme to be made in partnership with Housing hand. This scheme will benefit our students through discounts, and will especially aid in supporting care-leavers and estranged students. This is currently waiting for approval by the director of student and academic services and the university's senior executive team.

Should the university abolish the £50 administration fee for Postgraduate Taught students who want to pay in instalments?

Engagement, Retention and Success team have expressed interest on working on this with the Students' Union. The International part-time officers will also be working to update this motion so that it includes international students.

Annika Ramos

Students' Union Vice-President Education