

Annual Student Meeting 2024

Monday 25 November, 6pm

Agenda

1. Chairs Welcome and Introductions
2. Ratification of the minutes for the Additional Annual Student Meeting (held on Friday 12 July 2024)
3. Updates from the Executive Officers – hear from your Executive Officers and answer any questions you have.
4. Students' Union Affiliations – student members present to approve
5. Motions for debate

Confirmed motions to date

- a) **Should the Students' Union lobby QMUL to introduce reading weeks (across all schools)?**
- b) **Should QMSU lobby QMUL schools to stop purchasing supplies used for student training from companies or countries involved in unethical investments or actions?**
- c) **Should the Students' Union lobby for all students to be able to see their exam scripts after it has been marked?**

For the full content of the motions above please visit www.gmsu.org/studentmeeting

Pending Motions

We are awaiting further information from the motion proposers for the following motions. They are likely to be included in the agenda for the Annual Student Meeting if this information is received prior to the meeting. Please check back for further updates later this week.

- a) **Should the Students' Union lobby QMUL to ban smoking on campus?**

More details requested from the proposer of the motion.

- b) **Fair stipends for international postgraduate students**

More details requested from the proposer of the motion.

- c) **Should in-person exams be removed as part of Postgraduate professional courses and replaced with more assignments and presentations?**

More details requested from the proposer of the motion.

d) Lobby the university to reform booking restrictions on the number of room bookings per week, of societies, as part of the student experience.

We have requested further information from the proposer of the motion to understand whether this issue can be taken up and actioned without the need for formal policy.

e) Require QMSU to resolve mic issues within a week of the report.

We have requested further information from the proposer of the motion to understand whether this issue can be taken up and actioned without the need for formal policy.

f) Make it easier/simpler or clarify the process to rerun elections for course representatives when students feel as though they are not fulfilling their roles sufficiently.

This motion has been passed to Student Council taking place on 3rd December 2024 as it would require a Students' Union Byelaw (the rules that govern the Students' Union) change to take place. Byelaw changes can only be approved at Student Council, and not at the Annual Student Meeting.

Motion ideas submitted but not being considered at this Annual Student Meeting – alternative action being taken forward

The following motions were also submitted by students, but will not be considered by the Annual Student Meeting. The reasons and the alternative action being taken is detailed below;

- **Should we have pads and other sanitary products in all bathrooms?**

The Students' Union already has active policy on this topic. Following a recent Annual Student Meeting the Students' Union successfully lobbied the university to introduce pads and sanitary products across campus bathrooms to help students with their menstrual health and reduce the impact of period poverty, particularly during the recent cost of living crisis where period poverty became more prevalent.

We have committed to the student proposers to re-highlight this information to students through our regular communications and social media, and will continue to work with the university to improve provisions further across all campuses, including providing reusable period products.

Free period product dispensers were installed in a variety of locations across campus including;

- Mile End Library (1st floor gender-neutral toilets)
- Students' Union Hub (ground floor gender-neutral and 1st floor women's toilets)
- Francis Bancroft Building (ground floor gender-neutral toilet)
- Maths Building (upper 1st floor women's toilet)
- Arts One (ground floor women's toilet)
- Graduate Centre (2nd and 7th floor women's toilets)
- Whitechapel Library (basement women's toilet)
- West Smithfield Library (basement accessible toilet)
- Garrod Building (ground Floor accessible toilet)

- The Shield (accessible Toilet)

- **Should QMSU lobby QMUL to cease any direct or indirect investments into armaments and fossil fuels as well as pursuing more sustainable and ethical investments in general?**

This motion is likely to duplicate, or conflict, with existing Students' Union policy on these issues. The Students' Union has heard student concerns about these issues, including at the Annual Student Meeting last academic year. We are working with the university to establish a new Financial and Ethical Investment Forum that will include student participants and elected student representatives who will come together with the university to discuss and challenge on a range of topics, including issues such as those listed in the motion title above.

- **Urgent call for enhanced academic support and timely access to study resources on the Accounting and Management programme**

This motion is targeted at a particular subject and not all-students. Because of this the motion will be passed to the Humanities & Social Sciences Board to discuss and vote on the motion. The Humanities & Social Sciences Board is chaired by the Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences and includes school representatives from each school in the faculty.

- **Students should be able to partake in more Law related modules**

This motion is targeted at a particular subject and not all-students. Because of this the motion will be passed to the Humanities & Social Sciences Board to discuss and vote on the motion.

Queen Mary Students' Union Code of Conduct

All participants in the QMSU Annual Student Meeting are reminded of the following:

1.1 The Students' Union strives to create a culture in which equality, diversity, inclusion and liberation are respected and championed, and where bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence are not tolerated, whether in physical or online spaces, and including the use of social media.

1.2 Members of QMSU, students of QMUL and others participating in Union activities, or using Union premises or facilities, are expected to comply with the following Code of Conduct:

i) To treat all Members of QMSU, QMSU staff members, QMUL students and staff members, and any other person participating in Union activities, or using Union premises or facilities, with courtesy, consideration and respect at all times.

ii) To uphold the Students' Union's values of being supportive, inclusive and accessible and to respect the rights of those with the protected characteristics of age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation (as defined in the Equality Act 2010 and any subsequent revisions).

iii) To respect the lawful rights of others to freedom of belief, freedom of speech or expression.

If anybody present at the meeting causes a disturbance, or acts in contravention of the Bye-Laws, the Chair may admonish the offender and expel them from the meeting. Action may also be taken against them under the Students' Union's or the University's disciplinary processes.