

Annual General and Annual Members Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Annual Members meeting of Queen Mary Students' Union, held on Tuesday 29 October 2019, commencing at 6.30pm in the Mason Lecture Theatre on the Mile End Campus

Chair

Joe Vinson, Deputy Chair of QMSU Student Council

Secretary

Brad Coales, QMSU Secretary and Governance Adviser

1. Chair's Welcome and Introductions

Joe Vinson (Student Council Chair) welcomed all to the meeting.

Throughout both meetings, members may raise 'points of order' and 'procedural motions', information on which can also be found in the meeting guidebook. Any member wishing to raise a point of order should raise their hand and wait to be called. When speaking or debating, Joe reminded members not to name or criticise any members of Union staff as they do not have the right to reply.

A recording of the meeting would be made in order to assist with the writing up of the minutes.

Joe reminded all members to treat each other with respect.

Annual General Meeting (held under the Articles of Association)

2. Ratification of Minutes of previous meeting

The previous meeting was held on the 4th December 2018. Minutes had been available online on the Students' Union website and would be taken as read.

There were no questions from the group and the minutes were ratified by the members.

3. Report from the Trustees on the Students' Union's activities since the previous Annual Members Meeting

This was available online and was taken as read.

4. Accounts of the Students' Union for the previous financial year

Accounts of the Students' Union for the previous financial year - *'if approved and signed by the time of the AMM.'* These will not be available until Semester two when they will be published online.

5. Appointment of the Auditors

It was noted that the Union's Auditors were currently within their contracted period of appointment.

6. Approval of the list of affiliations of the Students' Union

The meeting approved the Union's affiliations as presented.

7. Open Questions to the Trustees of the Students' Union

There were no questions put to the Trustees.

8. Special Resolution to Amend the Articles of Association

The meeting were asked to approve a Special Resolution to amend the Union's Articles of Association. This would require three-quarters of those voting to approve the Special Resolution for it to pass.

This Special Resolution was proposed by the VP Barts and the London. This amendment was to enact changes agreed to in the recent Governance Review which proposed that the number of Sabbatical Trustees from four to six, and would also ensure that the balance of the Board was maintained.

The text of this Special Resolution was as follows:

Delete

30. Appointment of Trustees

The Trustees shall be made up of the following persons:

- 30.1 not more than five Sabbatical Trustees, elected in accordance with Article 31;
- 30.2 not more than five Student Trustees, elected in accordance with Article 32; and
- 30.3 not more than five Lay Trustees, appointed in accordance with Article 33.

Replace with

30. Appointment of Trustees

The Trustees shall be made up of the following persons:

- 30.1 not more than six Sabbatical Trustees, elected in accordance with Article 31;
- 30.2 not more than six Student Trustees, elected in accordance with Article 32; and
- 30.3 not more than six Lay Trustees, appointed in accordance with Article 33.

Delete

51. Quorum for Trustees' meetings

51.2 The quorum for Trustees' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the Trustees, but it must never be less than six. Unless otherwise fixed, the quorum shall be six and such quorum must include at least two Sabbatical Trustees. Where the resolution or issue under discussion concerns a matter in respect of which some or all of the Trustees have a conflict of interest, the quorum shall be four.

Replace with

51. Quorum for Trustees' meetings

51.2 The quorum for Trustees' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the Trustees, but it must never be less than six. Unless otherwise fixed, the quorum shall be six and such quorum must include at least two of each class of Trustee. Where the resolution or issue under discussion concerns a matter in respect of which some or all of the Trustees have a conflict of interest, the quorum shall be four.

There being no speeches against, the summation was waived and the Special Resolution was put to a vote and was **passed unanimously**.

9. Special Resolution to Amend the Articles of Association

The meeting were asked to approve a Special Resolution to amend the Union's Articles of Association. This would require three-quarters of those voting to approve the Special Resolution for it to pass.

This Special Resolution was proposed by the VP Barts and the London. This amendment was to enact the changes agreed to in the recent Governance Review which proposed that Student Trustees should in future be selected by an Appointments Committee, rather than elected by the Members.

The text of this Special Resolution was as follows:

Delete

32. Student Trustees

32.1 Subject to Article 32.2 below, Student Trustees shall be elected by secret ballot by the Members at an election to be held in accordance with the Bye-Laws. There should be at least one Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry Student and at least one Student from **either** the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences or the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Replace

32.1 Subject to Article 32.2 below, Student Trustees shall be appointed or re-appointed by a simple majority vote of the Appointments Committee provided that the appointment of each Student Trustee is ratified by a simple majority vote of the Student Council. For the avoidance of doubt, such appointment shall not take effect until it has been ratified by the Student Council. There should be at least one Barts

and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry Student and at least one Student from each of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences or the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

There being no speeches against, the summation was waived and the Special Resolution was put to a vote. The vote failed to achieve the required three-quarters threshold and so this Special Resolution was **not passed**.

Close of the Annual General Meeting

Annual Members Meeting (held under the Students' Union Bye-Law)

Reports from the Officers

1. Executive Officers

The meeting noted the reports of the Executive Officers which were given by video presentation.

There were no questions put to the Executive Officers.

2. Student Representatives and Part-time Officers

The meeting noted the reports of the Part-time Officers which were taken as read.

There were no questions put to the Part-time Officers.

3. Motions and Amendments

A procedural motion was proposed that motions c and g be taken together.

This procedural motion was put to a vote and was passed by a clear majority.

A procedural motion was proposed that motion h be debated first.

This procedural motion was put to a vote and was passed by a clear majority.

h. Should the Students' Union lobby the University to ensure no teaching from 1-2pm on Fridays?

The Proposer introduced the motion, stating that currently teaching clashed with Friday Prayer and that those affected had to choose between religion and study which disadvantaged them. In a climate of Islamophobia, this caused problems particularly for new students.

The Proposer was asked what was meant by no teaching, and explained that this would mean no teaching at all.

It was stated that the Union had previously passed policy on this issue, and the Proposer explained that it was necessary to pass it again as no progress had yet been made.

A Member asked the Executive Officers whether anything had been done to implement the previous motion. The VP Education replied that it had been raised with timetabling, but that it was not currently something they were working on. However they were willing to look at it for the following year.

There being no one who wished to speak against the motion, the summation was waived and the motion was put to a vote.

There was a clear majority in favour and so the motion was **passed**.

A **Point of Order** was raised requesting a **Quorum Count** and the meeting was found to be **inquorate**.

The meeting was then suspended for ten minutes whilst additional members were asked to join the meeting. There was then a further count and the meeting was once again **quorate**.

a. Should the Students' Union lobby university management to protect grade results during the strike?

The Proposer introduced the motion, stating that there was a UCU strike ballot in progress and students were concerned about the impact of further industrial action upon their studies. Schools needed to have policies in place to protect students, dealing with issues on a case-by-case basis was not sufficient. The Students' Union needed to press for a University wide policy.

A Member asked how such a policy would work, and the Proposer replied that as they were not a member of teaching staff they could not say, but extended deadlines and grade-booster were amongst the measures being suggested. Another Member added that previously, content that had not been taught had been removed from the scope of assessments.

Another Member asked what did it mean to 'protect results' and the Proposer explained that this meant sympathetic marking.

There being no one who wished to speak against the motion, the summation was waived and the motion was put to a vote.

There was a clear majority in favour and so the motion was **passed**.

b. Should the university remove the smoking area in library square?

As the Proposer was not able to be present, the VP Barts and The London proposed the motion.

The first speaker against the motion stated that the smoking area was only small and there were not sufficient alternatives. Removal would not encourage people to stop smoking - they would just find somewhere else to do it.

The next speaker in favour said that this was a health issue; most students were non-smokers and secondary smoke was harmful to them.

A further speaker against stated that they were a non-smoker themselves, but they believed that removal would just drive smokers elsewhere. At present they were isolated in one space.

Another speaker in favour said that this was not about stopping smoking, or moving elsewhere; it was about the health issues associated with secondary smoke.

A final speaker against said that this was not about moving the smoking shelter, but removing the smoking shelter. Other smoking areas were too far away from the Library.

A **Point of Order** was again raised requesting a **Quorum Count** and the meeting was found to be **quorate**.

There being no further speakers for the motion, the summation was waived and the motion was put to a vote.

There was a clear majority against and so the motion was **not passed**.

c. Should the Students' Union lobby the university to improve the accessibility of affordable student housing for undergraduates?

The Proposer introduced the motion by stating that its purpose was for the Students' Union to lobby the University to improve the availability of affordable student accommodation and to stop disposing of what it has.

A Member asked whether the main issue was availability, or accessibility and the Proposer explained that it was about ensuring there was sufficient affordable housing.

There being no one who wished to speak against the motion, the summation was waived and the motion was put to a vote.

There was a clear majority in favour and so the motion was **passed**.

g. Should the Students' Union implement a Housing Guarantor Scheme?

The Proposer clarified that they would like the title of the motion to be amended to 'Should the Students' Union implement a Housing Guarantor Scheme?'.

The Proposer began to introduce the motion, but was interrupted by a **Procedural Motion** requesting a Quorum **Count**. The meeting was again found to have become **inquorate** and as it was felt that there was little chance of regaining quoracy, the **Annual Members Meeting** was **closed**.

The Chair announced that the following motions which had not been debated would be taken to the next meeting of Student Council instead:

d. Technology of Q-Review requires updating and tutorial classes should be recorded

- e. Should the Students' Union put out a statement condemning the ethnic cleansing of minorities in North-East Syria?**
- f. Should girls toilets have specialist/new bins**
- i. Should the Students' Union declare a climate emergency, and lobby the University to do the same?**
- j. Should the Students' Union publicly acknowledge its own issues of institutional racism alongside lobbying for the University to do the same?**

DRAFT