



**Council Report**

<b>Outcome requested:</b>	To Note
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p>The report is an update from July through to October on activity within the Students' Union.</p> <p>           Blended Learning            Fees            COVID-19 cases            Welcome 2020            Online "Welcome Fair" events            Return to Campus            Students' Union Digital review            Training for student representatives            Autumn Elections            SSLC Project and Guidance Review            SEED Project Involvement            HSS Faculty EDI Committee            Online Exams Project Board            Project: Doctorate            Research Dissertation Threshold            Decolonising the Science &amp; Engineering Curriculum            Strike Funds &amp; Survey            Postgraduate finance clarity            Raising concerns            Financial Assistance Fund            Sexual and gender based violence            Mummies and Daddies            Welfare Reps and Consent            Supporting individual students            Safer campuses plans            Black History Month            Islamophobia Awareness Month            Antisemitism Definition            University of Sanctuary            Supporting our Student Groups            Sustainability            Club Sport            Get Active            Social Leagues and Campus Games            Community Foundation            Employability Project            School of Business and Management (SBM) Step-Ahead Programme            Return to placements         </p>

	Connecting Practices ULIPSU BLSA Facilities
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# President's Report

October 2020

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# President's Report

## Blended Learning

The University has been pushing for a blended approach since the outbreak. All communication to students encourages them to be on campus as there will be face to face teaching and physical activities. These were the expectations students arrived on campus with and unfortunately, they have not been met. In the lead up to the first week of teaching, the Executive Officers received a high-volume of queries from students regarding blended learning, as their timetables displayed all teaching was to be held online. This conflicted with the messages that students had been receiving over the summer from central communications that the University was offering 'blended learning'. Other issues were also reported included a lack of content on QMplus explaining module structures and reading lists, and issues with access to Welcome Week content.

The disparity in teaching across the schools is massive and students are not receiving the blended learning they were promised. The Students' Union has been working hard to provide as much physical activity on our campuses as possible and make sure students are supported to the best of our ability with the resources we have, whilst ensuring they are safe. However, if no face to face teaching is timetabled, then a vast number of students will not be on campus in the first place and their overall student experience will be affected.

As a Students' Union, we have fed back to the relevant people, including the Vice Principal for Education and the Faculty Vice Principals. For example, Cameron Storey (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences) met with Stephanie Marshall to discuss this, who then set out to have every School inform students at a programme level of what on-campus activities they would receive this semester, with a draft email template developed by Christina Perry (Humanities & Social Sciences Dean for Education) sent out to Schools to be emailed to students. At present, both Cameron and Aphrodite Murray-Liddington (Vice President Science & Engineering) plan on having regular meetings with the Faculty Vice Principals and the Students' Union President to highlight concerns and issues with blended learning and teaching to ensure that all students are receiving some form of on-campus educational activity, as promised by the Principal's message to students over the summer period as part of the blended learning experience.

This matter has also been brought up on many occasions, in various relevant meetings. It is concerning that there is such disconnect between central communications and school level communication; students are not receiving the correct level of reassurance and are being fed mixed messages.

Council should be aware that failure to provide the promised quality of education not only increases student dissatisfaction but also could accumulate into a reputational risk to the University.

## Fees

This is another area of concern for students. We are receiving more and more queries about the fees and why they are so high despite the move to online learning, not just from individual students but also representatives of different communities within the student body. Students' Union President, Shamima Akter, has contacted the Principal about this and has yet to receive a response. This was also brought up in the Finance and Investment Committee. She has suggested that the principal directly addresses the students about their fees and give the students a breakdown of what their fees are used for.

It is the belief of the Students' Union that the University must openly communicate why the fees are so high and where the money is going, directly to the students. Our students, especially international students, are growing restless and feel as though they are being taken advantage of. They are looking to the Students' Union to campaign against the fees. This is why it is important that the University, especially the Principal, at the very least address the students' concerns and respond.

Therefore, we urge Council to push the University to be as transparent as possible with students and address them directly. The last thing the University needs is an angry student body who feel the University has

wronged them for their own financial gain. Whether that is the case or not, the students currently know no better, due to the silence on this matter.

## **COVID-19 cases**

With growing cases, communication to students and their safety is a massive concern currently. Students are not receiving communication about the number of positive cases currently reported, and they need to be aware of the accurate information. This is to avoid mass panic and also to allow students to make their own decision around their safety based on facts rather than rumours.

The Students' Union and the members of the University have scheduled regular meetings to look at updates and discuss relevant information. The Students' Union President has also sent out an email expressing these concerns and has asked to see a communications plan to students. It is important the University is prepared to communicate outbreaks appropriately and timely to students. It is also important to tie in the Students' Union in the plans, to avoid mixed messages and to ensure students are adequately supported and reassured. We will keep an eye on the developments surrounding this and hopefully work with the University to support students.

## **Welcome 2020**

The Students' Union was proud to deliver a varied programme of over 50 events during Welcome Week and week one to welcome students to Queen Mary. These events were delivered both on-campus through COVID-secure socially distanced activities and also online. The programme represented the majority of on-campus activities available for students.

Events included the Re-Use Fair, outdoor cinema nights, food and drink-led events, quiz nights, Escape Rooms, picnics in the park, craft afternoons and art sessions, Get Active and Sport pop-ups and online events with celebrity guests. We also delivered specific events for commuter students, postgraduate students and students living on campus. There was also an increased effort to ensure events also happened in Charterhouse Square, a space traditionally less utilised during Freshers Fortnight.

In addition to our central events programme, we worked with the Residences team to deliver a curated programme of on-campus and online events exclusively for students living in halls of residence to ensure new residents could socialise and meet new people. BLSA representatives also manned info stalls at Dawson Hall, Floyer House and Albert Stern on all move in days to provide Fresher Guides, answer questions and welcome the new students. Capacity at events was a challenge at times, as well as students securing tickets then not attending the event. Where possible we added additional event slots and will look at what options we can introduce to ensure attendance, or the re-release of tickets for those no longer wanting to attend.

Alongside our events, we produced a strong digital communications campaign to welcome students to Queen Mary. This included providing the new student Facebook group – now populated by over 7500 members, a new Students' Union video and regular social media and email communications to new students. The Executive Officers also introduced a new TikTok channel. Unfortunately, due to the late receipt of new student data there was disruption to our email communications to new students in August, and we were not able to send out our Welcome Pack to new students' home addresses prior to their arrival.

The Students' Union also prepared new online school induction sessions tailored to each faculty, alongside other online sessions such as our Life in London introduction for international students. We also worked closely with the Student Transition Manager to co-lead and deliver the Library Square Information Points and the Welcome Market events. The first Market featured Students' Union activities and services, with the second day showcasing University services. The Students' Union provided operational support on both days, including providing the ticketing solution for both events.

BLSA also successfully managed to move their buddy scheme online allowing new students to be paired with current students to form a support family within the SMD (School of Medicine and Dentistry.) This year, these "families" held quizzes online which focused on introducing members to each other and also provided a fun ice breaker. For those who could and were happy taking part, BLSA also provided a timeslot during which these "families" could go for a socially distanced picnic in a local park. The scheme was a success and will be

a vital part of this year's efforts to ensure all new students don't feel too lonely or isolated and integrate well into the university.

As a Students' Union, we will be completing a review of our Welcome activities, and also providing feedback to the University, informed by the experiences of students throughout the week.

### **Online "Welcome Fair" events**

The Students' Union supported volunteer student leaders to co-deliver a series of online Welcome events. BLSA organised an event for SMD-focussed groups and this was followed by a Clubs & Societies Welcome Event. The event featured video calls with student groups, and this gave them the opportunity to promote themselves, their amazing work and their activities. It also featured videos from the part-time activities representatives and an introduction to volunteering at Queen Mary. With more than 6500 page visits, this event was a huge success and many students expressed an appreciation for the opportunity to meet each other and our student groups. The final event in the current series was the Club Sport Welcome Event held on 30<sup>th</sup> September featuring over 40 of our Sports Clubs, supported by our Sports Development Team. In addition to these events, we have prioritised and increased the promotion of Clubs and Societies due to the lack of an on-campus Welcome Fair. These groups are important in helping students to meet new people, continue existing hobbies or try something new, and are vital in developing communities on campus. We have improved the visibility of student group welcome events and showcased their activities via our social media channels, and will continue to do so over the coming weeks.

### **Return to Campus**

Qmotion Health and Fitness centre reopened at the end of July, as soon as government restrictions were lifted. This was important from a health and well-being perspective and welcoming all back to campus. Care and focus were taken to ensure it felt and was a safe and welcoming space for students and staff. The membership has slowly been returning, however there are fewer students on campus than anticipated from the blended learning. From a cash-flow perspective this is creating challenges. Further cost savings have been made as well as increased marketing.

The Village Shop opened soon after in early August, followed by the rest of the operations in early September. The Draper Venue launched a new street food concept, Burritos cantinas in Godward square. The operating plans and risk assessment have been carefully developed and updated at least bi-weekly, as and when government guidelines change, and other feedback is provided. Lunchtimes on campus are fairly quiet. Our events have been creative and a number are popular. The digital social events have not worked as well, with exception of clubs and societies events. We are actively reviewing and adding to the programmes, and involving students.

The Hub and BLSA buildings re-opened on 7th September. The buildings have been repurposed for staff and students, ensuring that we provide a safe space for everyone. In both buildings, we have created new individual learning spaces for students to study (or eat lunch) at a social distance. We have also reopened our Media and Radio suite at the Hub, and the Music Room at BLSA. We have also reopened both of our Multi-Faith Centres with measures in place. Friday Prayer began on 25th September. Some of our spaces will remain closed until we feel we can open them safely. These include the Fitness Suite, Dance Studio, Games Room and the Nest.

### **Students' Union Digital review**

Over summer the Students' Union had to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19, including moving a significant proportion of our activities and services online. To do this we completed a comprehensive digital review of our existing platforms, and identified areas that needed to move online and required new digital solutions through a needs analysis. We then researched the most suitable platforms that would ensure the successful delivery of our services, whilst reviewing any best practice from across the sector, and industry where relevant. It was important to us that any new digital and online activity adhered to our policies and procedures, met accessibility needs and upheld our values. Due to our financial constraints, value for money or using free, open source software was an important factor in our decision making.

Activities we have successfully moved online include our student leader training, ordering in our commercial outlets through a new mobile ordering app (Wi5), delivering a series of online events and ticketing through a new custom-built online events platform, moving aspects of student voice online (i.e. Student Council meetings now streamed), offering Qmotion classes and training plans online and adapting many of our student group processes.

An important part of the process was upskilling our staff members, developing new online training guidance and ensuring that the aims of our content and activities were still being met in a virtual environment. We completed new online training resources for staff to support them in designing and delivering online content. Many of our staff were involved in collating learning, knowledge and research to put the guidance together to ensure we deliver the best online experience throughout our activities.

### **Training for student representatives**

During the summer, the new Executive Officers and Part-Time Officers have taken office. In July and August, the Executive Officers took part in a comprehensive training programme. The programme gave them an introduction to higher education, and also included skills training, networking and introduction meetings with key contacts inside and outside Queen Mary.

In September, the training for Part-Time Officers took place. The training included sessions on how to be a representative, Student Council and inclusive leadership. To accommodate the needs of different learners, some of the training was delivered as synchronous online training on MS Teams, while other parts of the training were delivered using MS Sway.

Over the summer, a small group of Course Reps from SMD have also been trained. As requested by the SMD reps, the Course Rep elections for some SMD reps have been moved to ensure students are represented from the beginning of the academic year, and following the elections, these Course Reps received training on effective representation.

### **Autumn Elections**

The Autumn Elections include more than 400 positions that students can nominate themselves for. The majority of the positions are Course Rep roles, but a small number of Part-Time Officer positions and NUS Delegate positions are also available. Nominations for the Autumn Elections are open until 30th September, with voting taking place from 6-8th October.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, we have adapted our elections events and processes to enable students that are studying remotely to fully engage with the elections.

### **SSLC Project and Guidance Review**

A review of the Education Manual, SSLC (Student Staff Liaison Committees) agenda template and Course Rep roles and responsibilities was the first project that Cameron Storey (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences) was involved with when he started the role. He provided comments on all three documents to make the role of Course Rep easier to understand and to clarify ambiguities within these documents. Working with the Vice President Science & Engineering and Vice President Barts and The London, they have incorporated within the membership of SSLC meetings the compulsory attendance of a student co-chair in order to make the meetings more student-led and place the student voice at the heart of all conversations. The Students' Union also developed an Annual SSLC Report to be completed at the end of the academic year by the staff and student co-chairs that will provide a summary of each Schools' SSLC activity for monitoring purposes, as well as to ensure that substantive actions are carried over to the next academic year.

Cameron presented all the documents for approval and implementation at ESQB (Education Standards and Quality Board) in late September. He has also been working on improving the Course Rep contribution and reward scheme, reworking the awards to account for the fact that representatives are now elected on an annual basis.



Furthermore, he has been drafting and developing a comprehensive handbook for both School Reps and Course Reps that gathers all relevant information that these roles need to successfully carry out their duties.

### **SEED Project Involvement**

Cameron Storey (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences) and Aphrodite Murray-Liddington (Vice President Science & Engineering) were invited to provide comments on the Student Enhanced Engagement & Development Project, a proposal developed by Louise Younie, Janet De Wilde and Maxwell Ado. They have both attended meetings with the working group to provide feedback on the proposal, ensuring that there is alignment and coherency with the Students' Union. Cameron noted the importance of the work that students would be doing to be formally recognised. They will both attend bi-weekly meetings with the group to move the proposal and project forward.

### **HSS Faculty EDI Committee**

Cameron Storey (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences) attended the first HSS Faculty EDI Committee of the new academic year. He agreed with the chair of the committee that in future meetings there would be an appointed brief agenda item that would allow Cameron to feedback on developments arising from the student side and to discuss these points with the committee. He is also working on including the School Reps on their individual School EDI committee meetings.

### **Online Exams Project Board**

Cameron Storey (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences) and Aphrodite Murray-Liddington (Vice President Science & Engineering) were invited as 'senior users' to the Online Exams Project group, led by Project Executive Henri Huijberts, tasked with the developing an effective online assessments solution to deliver efficiencies in grading and feedback response times. They also sit as ex-officio members on the Working Group. They have currently been tasked with finding student representatives, 2-3 per faculty, to sit on the group to ensure there is student representation. They have also contributed to the project requirements, highlighting what they believe is necessary for the project.

### **Project: Doctorate**

As part of their manifestos, Cameron Storey (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences) and Tiana Dinard-Samuel (Vice President Communities) started a project centred on increasing the Students' Union engagement with postgraduate students. They both saw that there was a need to better represent the postgraduate community and make Students' Union events more inclusive.

Tiana is currently focused on organising listening forums and student consultations to gather ideas and ways of improving the Students' Union offering of events for postgraduate students. She is also researching other students' unions to adapt different practices for implementation at Queen Mary.

Cameron is undertaking a review of societies and volunteering opportunities to understand how postgraduate students engage with student groups and to create new opportunities that are more specific to the interests of the community.

They both have also participated in social media campaigns aimed at explaining how the Students' Union works for new students, with a specific section for postgraduates. They will also be working with Students' Union staff to hold a Postgraduate Week in Semester B, reviewing annual campaigns to increase inclusivity and accessibility for students, and supporting PhD students with funding and extension requests issues.

### **Research Dissertation Threshold**

In SET Aphrodite Murray-Liddington (Vice President Science & Engineering) discussed that in the faculty of Science and Engineering students' overall grade must reach a certain threshold (the threshold percentage can change yearly) to be eligible to do a research project in their third year. Aphrodite had a meeting with



Stephanie Marshall to explain that first year grades are not an equitable measure of how competent students will be regarding research in third year. Aphrodite has also discussed this issue with academics, a great majority of whom support the idea to decrease or even scrap the threshold. The benefits to the BAME community and underrepresented demographics in post-grad careers were also discussed, with Stephanie stating this project 'would encourage these communities to pursue post grad and research vocations'. Stephanie organised an introduction between Aphrodite and Andrew Livingstone (Vice President of Research & Innovation) which will occur in October to further action this project.

### **Decolonising the Science & Engineering Curriculum**

Aphrodite Murray-Liddington (Vice President Science & Engineering) attended a meeting with Daisy Crowfoot (Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Officer) to discuss decolonising the S&E curriculum. The S&E curriculum is currently very Eurocentric and fails to acknowledge a more diverse and factual version of events throughout the history of science. Both have been compiling research in a shared document. Aphrodite pitched this idea to Tony Michaels (Dean for Education), Henri Hujiberts (Deputy Dean for Education) and Norman McBreen (Faculty Student Experience Manager) who are supporting her in this project. Tony and Aphrodite have been in contact with a student group called POC Squared who run a website and produce podcasts discussing race and discriminatory experiences that have occurred during their studies at Queen Mary. Both are having another meeting with them in November to discuss decolonising the curriculum in hopes of collecting some feedback. Aphrodite will present research and feedback to Sheila Gupta (Vice Principal of People, Culture & Inclusion) to further action this project.

### **Strike Funds & Survey**

Cameron Storey (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences) has been following up with Stephanie Marshall about the strike funds to clarify how the monies that were ring-fenced will be used. The IASG (Industrial Action Strike Group) went, unanimously with the outcome of the student poll, with the desired solution for the money to go to bursaries. In his meetings with Stephanie, Cameron highlighted the importance that those who were affected by strike action, but were no longer students at Queen Mary, needed to be included in what the money, as set out by Stephanie, was going to be used for: improving the student experience. As such, Cameron noted that the Alumni Team could be a potential option, to ensure that Queen Mary Alumni who were affected by strike action are benefited by the distribution of the funds. Going forward, he noted that it was crucial that the Executive Officer team and Stephanie work together on determining how the funds will be used to improve the student experience and work collaboratively on this.

Furthermore, Cameron has also been in conversations with Trudy Mason and Lesley Green about undertaking a review of the hardship fund to make it easier to access for students. Both parties agreed that the strike fund shouldn't be absorbed by the hardship fund but should instead be dedicated to supporting both students and alumni affected by the strike action.

### **Postgraduate finance clarity**

Aphrodite Murray-Liddington (Vice President Science & Engineering) has been contacted by postgraduate students (primarily studying Masters) regarding the lack of clarity of payment plans for their courses. Some of the students had started a Masters in the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences after having been an undergraduate at Queen Mary. Aphrodite raised a complaint to the University on the students' behalf regarding the transparency of the payment plans. The Queen Mary website deposit was capped at £500, yet Mysis declared the deposit to be £1000 with a £50 admin fee. Aphrodite proposed to Norman McBreen (Faculty Student Experience Manager) that the payment plan was not student-friendly or clear to understand. Moreover, a large demographic of students who use the payment plan do so because they cannot afford full payment upfront. Mysis also required an implied additional £50 due once the payment plan was set up, via Student Finance. Emails received by the students were potentially distressing as they stated that the individual was a debtor and may not be able to complete enrolment due to the process. Additionally, the students highlighted to Aphrodite that there were extended waiting times to receive responses to their queries. Aphrodite wrote a letter compiling these case studies and sent and discussed this with Norman McBreen. They will be reviewing this issue in October once an update has been received.

## **Raising concerns**

As part of their preparation for clinical placements, third year medical students have received a small group teaching session on how to raise concerns and how to deal with incidents of microaggressions and other forms of discrimination in clinical settings. Jack Juckes (Vice President Welfare) has helped to facilitate a number of these sessions with Clinical Skills and Communication Skills lecturers, and helped to provide both a fellow student and a welfare perspective to the medical students.

Mat Robathan (Vice President Barts and The London) has been working with a team of students and staff within Queen Mary to develop a reporting platform for students to use to report any concerns or incidents, be it inappropriate comments, micro-aggressions or harassment that happen on placement.

The platform is hosted on a secure website that is being embedded into QMplus. This has allowed the team to develop unique features such as anonymous reporting, where students can report incidents anonymously but still log in with a unique and random reference number to check the progress of their report and edit or answer any further questions.

The platform is in the later stages of development and almost ready to launch. Mat is now working with the medical school, its trust partners and the Report and Support team to iron out any issues and ensure this platform is well integrating in the Queen Mary Report and Support platform.

## **Financial Assistance Fund**

Jack Juckes (Vice President Welfare) has begun working on a project looking at the University's Financial Assistance Fund. He has spoken with students to get their feedback and experiences of the process, from application through to decisions and receiving funding. Whilst students were very appreciative of the financial support, there were difficulties with aspects of the process such as the application form, supplying required evidence, and the length of time parts of the process take.

Jack has met with Lesley Green (Academic Registrar) to learn more about how the fund and its processes are managed and how funding decisions are made, and had some constructive and promising discussions about implementing student feedback, and ensuring there is a feedback process for students going forward. Jack will also be attending the weekly fund meetings to help award non-standard funding applications.

## **Sexual and gender based violence**

Work has continued on the agreed actions following the allegations of sexual violence and harassment that were made on social media in June. Some highlights include that Bystander Intervention Training has been developed and delivered to elected student representatives and student group leaders, and Students' Union staff have received training on how to respond to disclosures of sexual violence. The next stage of the work is a student consultation.

Jack Juckes (Vice President Welfare) has had multiple meetings with various students to gather their feedback and discuss the Students' Union's work. Jack has collected feedback from students on the University's new Consent Matters training on QMplus, and has completed the training himself to generate his own feedback, and will report this to Student Services. He has also collected feedback regarding Report and Support, and will report this to Student Services ready for the Annual Report at the end October.

## **Mummies and Daddies**

Our mentoring scheme for SMD students – Mummies and Daddies – engaged more than 333 new students and 291 returning students. In light of coronavirus, the scheme was adapted to enable students to take part in the scheme online. For students that have returned to our campuses, the pairing process included an option for students to indicate that they would like to take part in meet ups in small groups. The in-person meetings took place outdoors, and all mentors were briefed on safety measures to ensure the meetings were safe for all attendees.

## **Welfare Reps and Consent**

This year we are encouraging all student groups to have a Welfare Rep on their committee. Their role is to act as the main point of contact for students in their student group regarding welfare concerns, signpost students to relevant support services, and to foster a culture of wellbeing, accessibility and inclusivity within their groups. Welfare Reps have been receiving role specific training, as well as bystander intervention training. Bystander intervention training will also be offered out to other student group leaders throughout the year, and all committee members have been encouraged to complete the Consent Matters module.

Jack Jukes (Vice President Welfare) and Tiana Dinard-Samuel (Vice President Communities) are connecting all of the Welfare Representatives in a Welfare Network, with an open forum in October for these representatives to raise concerns and ask questions with Jack and Tiana directly, and discuss issues and ideas between themselves.

Jack has also met with the Welfare Representative from the University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP), to gain a better understanding of issues affecting students there, what initiatives their Welfare Representative will be working on this year, what support they might need, and how to link up welfare initiatives between the two sites. There are a number of issues affecting ULIP students, such as lack of access to on-site mental health support and counselling, and lack of support for postgraduate students. Jack is working collaboratively with the Welfare Representative to try and find solutions to these issues and see if there are Queen Mary support services that ULIP students can access.

## **Supporting individual students**

Jack Jukes (Vice President Welfare) has had a number of individual students contact him in need of guidance and welfare support for issues such as harassment, stalking, loneliness and trouble settling in. Jack has been guiding and supporting these students to access the appropriate support services they need, and helping to demystify how support systems work. Jack has spent a significant amount of time with one particular student who needed support with submitting a formal complaint to the Students' Union about another student's conduct.

## **Safer campuses plans**

Mat Robathan (Vice President Barts and The London) and Aphrodite Murray-Liddington (Vice President Science & Engineering) are working on a campus safety plan to improve safety on all campuses. They are currently working on a letter to send to the Queen Mary security team and Queen Mary estates team which outlines some of the areas of concern and some suggestions on what can be done to make campuses safer. This has involved contacting non-UK based campuses to ensure their security concerns and needs are also communicated. Following this, they are hoping to work in partnership with Queen Mary security, estates and any other relevant partners on improving safety on all campuses.

Mat has also spoken about some of these safety concerns, particularly those affecting the Whitechapel campus, with local MP Rushanara Ali. He is hoping to continue these constructive discussions.

## **Black History Month**

Tiana Dinard-Samuel (Vice President Communities) began planning for Black History Month in August and met with student groups to determine our vision for the month. This year, Black History Month aims to celebrate Black British culture and black heritage; educate students on black issues and the diversity of black culture; and highlight the importance of activism with a focus on the Black Lives Matter movement. The University gave us £3,200 for the liberation fund this year which has been allocated for marketing materials, and to student groups who have made successful applications for their events. Due to COVID-19 implications, students are running online events such as talks from guest speakers, panel discussions, or competitions. There will be another Diverse(ish) event (the anti-racist forum) this time in collaboration with Decolonise Society. Tiana will also be hosting an outdoor cinema screening. The campaign will be very communications based, making use of our social media through Instagram quizzes and media reviews on TikTok; and a

culture list of books, films, television shows and podcasts has been developed to recommend to students. We will also be sharing activism resources highlighting why, in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, fighting for justice and equality is important to us.

### **Islamophobia Awareness Month**

Tiana Dinard-Samuel (Vice President Communities) has been in contact with various student groups such as Islamic Society to join the organising committee and begin the preparations for Islamophobia Awareness Month in November. Students have been registering their events for the month, with topics including Prevent and Mental Health, Islam and Sustainability, and Unity in the Muslim Ummah. Applications are being accepted until the end of September, when the organising committee will allocate funding.

### **Antisemitism Definition**

Tiana Dinard-Samuel (Vice President Communities) has been working with the Jewish Society and the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) in regards to adopting the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition of antisemitism. The Executive Officers attended antisemitism training with UJS and decided as a team that we wanted to go forward with the IHRA definition, however as it would be the Students' Union adoption of a policy, it would need to be passed through council. Tiana has met with the Jewish Society president to develop a motion that will be proposed at the next Student Council in October. Tiana has also been working with the Jewish Society on Antisemitism Awareness Month which the Students' Union will be doing for the first time this year.

### **University of Sanctuary**

Tiana Dinard-Samuel (Vice President Communities) and Jack Jukes (Vice President Welfare) attended the new University of Sanctuary working group which seeks to create and promote initiatives that allow equal access to higher education asylum seekers and refugees, as well as nurturing a culture of welcome and inclusion within our institution. The next meeting will be in October where they will discuss key actions and their strategy going forward.

### **Supporting our Student Groups**

Over the summer the Student Engagement team maintained regular communications with our student groups, going over how changes to government, University and Students' Union guidance affected them. We have adapted our events and health and safety processes and have provided training to student group leaders on how they can continue to run their events and activities safely and successfully. We have been really pleased to see how flexible and creative our student leaders have been. They have also shown resilience and a commitment to continuing to build communities among students, helping to shape a positive student experience at a time when it is more important than ever. We are not facilitating room bookings on campus at the moment, except for some specialist groups such as for our radio station, so groups are mostly running virtual activity, mainly via Teams, or small physical activity for their members, signed off by Students' Union staff.

We are concerned about how membership sales for student groups will be impacted by the lack of physical events or activities being offered and the lack of a physical Welcome Fair. Subs is the main income source for many of our student groups so we will be monitoring sales carefully throughout the semester. To mitigate the risk, we are doing new things to promote our student groups to new and returning students. For example, we've re-launched the societies Instagram, student-led groups now feature on our main events calendar, and we have also sent out a student groups feature email to all students.

### **Sustainability**

Over move-in weekend, the Students' Union and University once again collaborated to deliver our Reuse Fair. With extra precautions in place and a reduced amount of donations owing to the abrupt end of semester 2 we were very happy to be able to give 516kg of items a new home to the 126 students who attended the Fair and

to local charities. Feedback showed that 100% of respondents were either satisfied or very satisfied with the event and items collected. 94% of students enjoyed the fair and agreed that the event saved them money, whilst 82% felt it eased their move to University.

For the second year in a row, the Students' Union received Excellent in Green Impact, a United Nations award winning programme designed to support environmentally and socially sustainable practice in organisations.

Following on from NUS Lead and Change, Aphrodite Murray-Liddington (Vice President Science & Engineering) and other members from nationwide Students' Unions formed a group and have had a number of meetings regarding sustainability. We will take part in 'Go Green Week' (8th-14th March 2021) and 'International Compost Awareness Week' (2nd-8th May 2021). Aphrodite plans to engage with the Queen Mary and London community by making short videos about what individuals are already doing and how students and staff can get involved. We planned to do a live Students' Union Sustainability collaboration on social media (Instagram) with pre-planned questions and a live Q&A. Aphrodite had a meeting with Erica McAllister (Senior Curator at the Natural History Museum) to get advice on how to present information on how to protect cryptic species in our local area that she will use in this event.

## Club Sport

- Two online training events for club committees have taken place in July and September with an incredibly high attendance compared to in person events we have run in the past. (The September event usually has a turnout of around 180 students but with the new format around 310 students attended in total).
- Development Plans have been completed by clubs to help them plan their year in terms of development and also financially.
- Welfare Officer training has been adapted to encompass current issues students may be facing with isolation and loneliness and how staff and welfare officers can aid in tackling this within their role.
- Training is starting again from 5<sup>th</sup> October after consultation of National Governing Body, Government and University guidance, and all 70 clubs have some form of training happening this semester.
- Risk assessments have been completed by all clubs and by staff for all facilities to ensure return to play is safe for all those taking part.
- 50 BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport) teams and 34 LUSL (London Universities Sport Leagues) teams have been entered due to start in January.
- Sports Officers have received training and have been involved in all finance and training, return to play conversations to ensure the student voice and interest is represented in the decisions we have made.
- The club sport board have had their handover training and their first meeting of the year to discuss BUCS league decisions, grant funding and the potential of friendlies between Queen Mary and Barts and the London teams.
- Specific information and guidance about how to run safe sessions has been formulated for those returning to training and is being circulated next week.
- Discussions about the This Girl Can campaign have started with the BL Sports Officer to ensure we run events throughout this week to encourage women to get involved in sport.
- Our Personal Professional Development programme is beginning again in mid October with 4 sessions planned for this semester to give students another incentive to join sport clubs and gain transferrable skills whilst less sport is taking place (these include sponsorship, first aid and anti-racism workshops).
- An online welcome event is taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> September with 40 clubs signed up to engage students and potential new members.
- An all student email has been sent out to highlight all of our offers within sport and engage as many students as possible this year.
- 42 clubs have signed up to the Sporting Focus which starts again next week to celebrate the success of our clubs.

## Get Active



- A timetable of sports this semester is due to be released next week with as many indoor sports as we can safely facilitate.
- Pop up events have taken place during welcome fair markets.
- Two student activators continuing on with us from last year will be facilitating sessions and ensuring sessions are as safe as possible and social distancing guidelines are adhered to.
- Wellbeing walks are starting again the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> October.
- The Couch to 5K programme for students and staff is also due to resume this semester.

## **Social Leagues and Campus Games**

It has been a quiet start to the year for Sport, in particular Social Leagues and Campus Games, which in the past have run welcome events. But after a summer of planning by the Sport Development team and a few changes recently by the government we are pleased to say that there will be lots of ways to engage in sport in the upcoming months.

- The Sport stalls had good engagement on 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September, and new students took part in corn hole, table tennis and badminton.
- The Students' Union social leagues will be starting on the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> October. Leagues will run in badminton, table tennis, netball, football 7-a-side and 11-a-side.
- After the government's announcement on Friday we will also be looking to see if a basketball league can be facilitated.
- Campus Games will be working closely with the principal's office to run a Virtual 5K for students and staff in November.
- Participants' health and safety will always be the priority, and there will be some new regulations for all sport this year to ensure students and staff can participate safely.

## **Community Foundation**

Our existing sport leadership and workforce development programme has undergone a rebrand in preparation for the upcoming academic year. We have moved our induction process online to make the programme more accessible to students. With the expectation that community outreach in the form of practical sport delivery will be significantly reduced this year, we are having a greater focus on personal development. Throughout Semester 1 we will be offering a range of CPD workshop and webinar opportunities through partners such as Disability Sports Coach, StreetGames and Women in Sport. We will be conducting a skills audit and encouraging our student leaders to use personal development plans as we strive to enhance employability through engagement with the programme.

## **Employability Project**

Aphrodite Murray-Liddington (Vice President Science & Engineering) and Cameron Storey (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences) are working on a two-strand employability project. The employability project is centred on holding a series of events, both workshops and networking sessions, in an effort to raise awareness for the social aspect of employability that isn't a discussion point at university career events, which are generally more presentational style. It will focus less on employability skills and more on understanding the different social aspects to these skills and how they have an influence on a student's employability, to understand how social surroundings can impact employability.

Cameron has been working with the Alumni Engagement Team who will be sourcing different speakers based on the nature of the event. He has also contacted student groups to gather their input and support. The project will also be a platform to highlight certain psychological patterns that people experience in the workplace such as impostor syndrome. In addition, it will look to help students improve their time management and project planning and develop leadership skills. Additionally, there will be several events on education. Presently, Cameron is working with the Students' Union Communications & Marketing team on the branding and design for the event, to be circulated to both the Alumni team and Careers for promotion in mid-

October. The first event 'Race and Sexuality in the Workplace' will be held in late October and will coincide with Black History Month.

Aphrodite is collaborating with degree-apprenticeship staff and Philippa Lloyd (Vice Principal of Strategic Policy & Planning) to plan this project. They aim to provide degree-specific work experience for students in order to improve student satisfaction, employability rates in a specific field and networking opportunities. This project will be utilising the Queen Mary alumni network, business partners and current academics. This also ties in to the dissertation threshold project as Aphrodite has discussed with academics their ability to provide work experience in their own labs on campus. This would also give students an opportunity to try out research prior to choosing their dissertation topic in 3rd year. As this is quite an ambitious and long term project it was advised that Aphrodite email schools in Science & Engineering to find one that would want to take part in a trial run. Data will then be collected from the chosen school to identify underrepresented students within, with the hope to have self-identifying underrepresented students account for at least 40% of the places available to begin with.

### **School of Business and Management (SBM) Step-Ahead Programme**

Helen Green from the School of Business and Management invited Cameron Storey (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences) to attend a pilot Transition programme for incoming students to SBM with BTEC qualifications, the aim of which was to reduce the drop out amongst this group of students due to challenges many face with differences with teaching and learning. He gave an introductory talk about the Students' Union as well as his main priorities for the upcoming academic year. He also hosted two Q&A sessions, with the main questions surrounding timetable and enrolment issues, and information regarding societies and sports clubs.

### **Return to placements**

Mat Robathan (Vice President Barts and The London) has also been working with staff in the medical school to ease the return to hospital placements for students. This has involved passing on vital feedback, attending SSLCs (Student Staff Liaison Committees) and ensuring Course Reps are well equipped to collect feedback and respond to this.

This has also involved working with the new occupational health partner to ensure students who need vaccinations are processed quickly and fairly to enable them to minimise any missed placement time.

### **Connecting Practices**

A programme is being developed by Mat Robathan (Vice President Barts and The London) and staff at the SMD to provide support for students on placements within hospitals. This consists of online "huddles" where students can share experiences and support one another in the presence of a medical lead.

### **ULIPSU**

At the beginning of September, Cameron Storey (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences) met with the student representatives at ULIPSU (University of London Institute in Paris Students' Union) for an introductory meeting and to discuss their main priorities and projects for the upcoming year, with the main concerns surrounding how the current coronavirus crisis will impact the student experience, teaching and learning, and mental health. They will have regular monthly meetings to update both parties on any developments. Cameron has also extended invitations to the students to attend the events that will be held as part of the employability project, and to support their Course Reps with training needs.

### **BLSA Facilities**

Mat Robathan (Vice President Barts and The London) has worked with the Students' Union staff to ensure facilities can open safely again for students in Whitechapel and Charterhouse Square. This has included working with students to ask what facilities they need and ensuring any facilities we do open are following



government guidance. The current plan is to safely reopen the Fitness Suite very soon, in time for the return to training for sports clubs on 5th October.

In Charterhouse Square, the shield is open again for coffee and study space. Unfortunately the “Fitness to Practice” gym is currently unable to open due to COVID-19 restrictions but how this and the shield space can be better utilised are currently being considered.

The spaces BLSA provide are vital for students, especially considering the significantly reduced study spaces within the library and other university facilities due to social distancing. These spaces are also usable without any prior booking which is a huge advantage for SMD students whose timetables are less predictable than more traditional courses. However, BLSA spaces are currently not available during the weekend and therefore Mat has been working with the SMD and university to ensure more university spaces, which are open on weekends, are available to students at Whitechapel and Charterhouse Square and that these are better advertised to students. Work is also ongoing to try and reduce the notice period needed to book such spaces, especially as many students within the SMD have such unpredictable timetables so struggle with booking 12 hours in advance.

**Shamima Akter**  
**Students' Union President**  
**October 2020**

Position	Name	
<b>BAME Representative (BL)</b>	<b>Shyam</b>	<b>Gadhvi</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the Anti-Racism steering group committee it was my role to try and get a representative (from their BL respective committees) for each of the cultural societies as well as Christian Union and Islamic society. This was so that they could be a voice for their group of people on the committee and in response to the recent anti-racism survey that was put out. I was my role to ensure they knew their role and also to attend the meetings that take place every week.</li> <li>For BHM I have liaised with BL ACS and various other societies to ensure they have all the information and support to run a successful BHM event. I had kept the bridge between the societies and the board strong to ensure full effectiveness during BHM and also met the wishes of the societies.</li> <li>I am currently in the process of organising my own event with BAME doctors about a recent podcast they did and converting this into a Q and A type event with this leading into a forum where Medics can ask questions about issues and also future issues they will face which involve racial issues in the NHS. These issues can be spoken about by senior medical professionals and also senior medical students.</li> </ul> <p>Future Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As mentioned before a forum where people can openly speak about racial issues that people face in the NHS and advice as well as issues at university.</li> <li>Events for Islamophobia awareness month as well as all the other cultural months that are upcoming</li> <li>BAME ball (if possible) in March/April</li> </ul>		
<b>BAME Representative (Mile End)</b>	<b>Khushi</b>	<b>Misra</b>
<b>Commercial Services Officer</b>	<b>Charlotte</b>	<b>Edgar</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aided managers with the process of student staff returning to the work place</li> <li>Met with the Deputy Managing Director of QMSU to discuss my action plan for the year ahead</li> <li>Met with the Chief Executive Officer of QMSU to discuss my plans for the year ahead</li> <li>Held the first Commercial Services Committee meeting of the year</li> <li>Planned a Student Feedback session, which will occur on the last Friday of each month, which offers students the opportunity to voice their suggestions/issues with our current commercial services across all campuses. This will be held in the form of a Teams meeting</li> <li>Working on feedback from student staff regarding availability and limited work hours</li> <li>Currently creating an online, anonymous suggestion box that will be accessible for both students and student staff. These suggestions/concerns will then be taken to the respected Commercial Services meetings</li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently in talks with VP Welfare about a new employee work incentive which shall be accessible for all student staff</li> <li>Within the next month I plan to arrange a meeting with sustainability coordinator and sustainability officer regarding single-use plastics used in the outlets</li> </ul>		
Dental Society President	Milton	Justinsuthakaran
Disabled and Specific Learning Difference Representative (BL)	Lucy	Edgar
Disabled and Specific Learning Difference Representative (Mile End)	Beatrix	Andrews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I have spoken to my opposite rep at BL (Lucy) and discussed plans we had for the year.</li> <li>- I have met with Esther for an introduction and frequently email her to discuss upcoming events and support where needed.</li> <li>- I am running two events for Black History Month.</li> <li>- I have contacted DDS to see if they can alert students to my role, so that they know they are represented within the SU.</li> <li>- I am taking part in the World Mental Health Day campaign.</li> <li>- I have created an Instagram to spread awareness for my liberation role and promote events and campaigns</li> </ul>		
Gozo Representative	Yassar	Malik
International Representative (BL)	Francis	Elechi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emailed the dean of the Medical school to inquire about financial support, if any, for international students due to the impact of the pandemic – no support available, referred to QM's tuition fees policy.</li> <li>Organising an event with Stephanie (International rep S &amp; E), for international students to network and raise any issues that they may have – Event is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm.</li> <li>Scheduled a meeting with the VP International Strategy at QM, Prof Colin Grant, for Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October.</li> </ul>		
International Representative (HSS)	Emujin	Davaadorj
International Representative (S&E)	Hok Yin Stephanie	Tang
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the past month, I have been planning the event <b>"when are international students going to get listened to?"</b> A talk about the realities of being an international student" with the BL International Representative, Francis. We have been organising and marketing the event over the month, where I completed the graphic design and emailed S&amp;E students.</li> <li>I have sent an email to all S&amp;E students introducing myself and signposting them to university services such as welfare services.</li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have also met with my staff support to plan out my projects. We have contacted ARCS and careers to address my manifesto of allowing international students to receive exam dates earlier and to change resit dates to better accommodate international students.</li> <li>All the international representatives along with VP communities will be having a meeting with the Vice-Principal (International) this month.</li> </ul>		
<b>LGBT+ Representative (BL)</b>	<b>Robert</b>	<b>Tucker</b>
<p>I've pencilled in Pride week for this academic year as first week of February (LGBT+ history month), with making sure this is planned early and avoided overlap with any other big event weeks.</p> <p>I've planned some of the events for this, currently just looking at some online bits to be cautious – so I've started doing a project sharing coming out stories through the uni magazine that will be released at the start of LGBT+ history month.</p> <p>The other in person events for this month, I haven't started planning yet but in previous years the LGBT+ Griff Inn quizzes, informal LGBTea + coffee sessions &amp; ending in the 'drag extravaganza' (always an important event that earns lots for RAG, is underway planning with our BL LGBT society).</p> <p>Started getting interest for the first informal LGBT forums of the year with a google forum for details, TBC when the first online forum will happen.</p> <p>Working with the QM LGBT+ rep for some conjoined events such as working out a plan for pride parade celebrations in June, either as having the uni be able to walk London pride, or at least creating a social combined presence for the uni at this event (still TBC dates or if London pride is able to happen in '21).</p> <p>Charity wise I had planned to have each sports society help contribute to a team for running Red run for world aids day in November, this has recently been cancelled until following Nov, so I'll work on finding similar charity events for early 2021.</p> <p>I'll start reaching out to some members of staff at BL who have worked on LGBT+ issues such as Dr Helen Bintley to get some linked talks done through zoom/teams if these are within the next few months or in person if restrictions allow.</p> <p>Other than that, in BLSA I've worked helping with the Fresher's move-in at Dawson hall, worked with other welfare reps ideas &amp; helping promote the other welfare ideas using the (relatively) new BL welfare Instagram I help run.</p> <p>Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.</p>		
<b>LGBT+ Representative (Mile End)</b>	<b>Taylor</b>	<b>Golden</b>
<b>Postgraduate Research Representative (BL)</b>	<b>Nazia</b>	<b>Uddin</b>
<b>Posgraduate Research Representative (HSS)</b>		<b>VACANT</b>
<b>Postgraduate Research Representative (S&amp;E)</b>	<b>Muhammad</b>	<b>Siddiqui</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with DCMG group discussing updates and response of institution</li> </ul>		

on funded/unfunded extension of PhD thesis submission.

- Introduction to EECS representatives about the role and how it acts as a bridge between QMSU and Doctoral College.
- Meeting with Representation and Democracy Coordinator discussing about action plan for this year and discuss issues of PhD extension. Also discussed to take the idea of a PG-written newsletter to PG Board.
- Meeting with representatives of Pandemic PhDs campaign and involvement of QMSU.

**Postgraduate Taught Representative (BL)**

**VACANT**

**Postgraduate Taught Representative (HSS)**

**Egemen**

**Koken**

**Postgraduate Taught Representative (S&E)**

**VACANT**

**School of Biological & Chemical Sciences Representative**

**Ramesh**

**Wilson**

- Re-evaluation of manifesto points, as many of them are not appropriate in a COVID-restrictive teaching format
  - o E.g. increased project funding, integrative experiments within modular teaching
- School-wide survey sent out (04/08/2020) to compile student opinion on how COVID was handled within the SBCS, as well as glaring issues they would like to see addressed, of which will be integrated into prospective projects throughout this year
  - o E.g. feedback, communication etc.
  - o The survey findings were subsequently compiled into a small report, and communicated to the SBCS Director of Education
- Directly liaised with the SBCS Director of Student Experience, to produce a school-wide weekly newsletter, that compiles several points that are not often communicated to students
  - o E.g. welfare, careers outlets, weekly seminars
- Facilitated with outreach of SBCS-relevant societies, particularly during Fresher's, by including their future events and discussions within the weekly newsletter

**School of Business & Management Representative**

**Naveena**

**Dhera**

**School of Economics & Finance Representative**

**Daniaal**

**Amin**

**School of Electronic Engineering & Computer Sciences Representative**

**Saba**

**Sadiya Sadek**

During the month of September, I have been engaging with the students from my school for gather some feedback and for encouraging them to run for the autumn elections.

- Feedback: I have sent out a survey asking students to provide any feedback about EECS and asking them if they would like to have reading week. I also asked them how they feel about not having any holidays after exams and to start the semester B immediately after finishing the exams. Over 140 students replied and most of them were asking for holidays after exams and had generic complains about the organisation of the school.
- Elections: I emailed everyone as soon as the positions for running were open, I was pleased to be contacted by few of them regarding the role, how it would benefit them and how to write a manifesto. I was also delighted to see most of the courses having at least one person running.

**School of Engineering & Material Sciences Representative****Mughees****Asif****Jivya****Rajesh****School of English & Drama Representative****Jessica****Galloway**

I have been working to adapt my position so I am accessible to students whilst they are not on campus. To achieve this, I have begun weekly meetings where students can reach me through Zoom, or Microsoft Teams, to discuss issues they want addressed. This will then lead to the creation of an online platform where I can post commonly asked questions, anonymously, for students to access. I am already in the final stages and finalising this website to be published. Recently, after the tragic passing of the Head of School, Catherine Silverstone, I have been arranging a response to send to students. This is a devastating time for students and staff and appropriate support must be given. I am currently in the process of reaching out to students on this matter.

**School of Geography Representative****Nevroz****Fehimli****School of History Representative****Anisa****Taznim**

My actions over the last two months:

- Working with all history reps in the SSLC to address any concerns/worries that students are having re: online learning via WhatsApp Group chat
- Working with the library to discuss and then create library guides so that students find it easier to navigate the library during the pandemic
- Working with the Careers Service to help engage students and market various types of opportunities to students much earlier on in their degree program
- Set up bi-monthly meetings with Dan T. Head of the School of History and have also been invited to sit on Staff Committees (have so far attended the Education Committee)

**School of Languages, Linguistics & Film Representative****Olivia****Walton**

- To set up SLLF Facebook page for students to join and connect with one another (increasingly important in this current period of social distancing!) in order to make the SLLF more interconnected.
- Get into contact with disability rep to find out how to best support students struggling with online classes due to disabilities.

- To be a voice for the huge amount of students doing joint honours degrees- particularly in terms of timetabling issues and clashes.

**School of Law Representative****Matthew****Ferguson**

Unfortunately, due to minor feelings of illness and technical difficulties with the email account, drafting my action plan for the year was delayed. That said, as of yesterday, I have a comprehensive action plan ready to implement that includes a trio of projects that lay the fundamental groundwork for how I believe I can make impactful changes and improvements to the well-being of students within my school. The three projects are as follows: increasing accessibility, diversification of opportunity, and improving welfare. In the coming weeks, I hope to liaise with relevant stakeholders and parties and prioritise the objectives that are most important and that I wish to achieve the most. I will arrange meetings with individuals and figures within the School of Law to discuss my plans and the ways I plan to develop tangible solutions to the issues inherent in the way the school functions. Finally, I wish to develop a forum for students to provide feedback and report issues, as well as one that I can derive relevant anecdotal data and information from regarding the experience of students in my school.

**School of Mathematical Sciences Representative****Muhammad****Abdulmuntaqim****School of Medical and Dental Sciences (Dental) Representative****Gurleen****Muker****School of Medical and Dental Sciences Clinical (Medicine) Representative****Charalambos****Hadjicharalambous**

- Meet and greet with all the course reps.
  - Met the course reps online and we had a small chat.
  - Course reps now have their own group chats and access to the course rep emails.
- Organised the dates of the SSLCs.
  - Found a co-chair to help me with minute taking
  - First SSLC took place in September and issues were dealt appropriately.
  - Some issues with the facilities (Library, Garrod) which have been resolved
  - Issues with self-isolation were discussed
  - Year 5 issues were addressed and discussed in other meetings as-well.
- Being involved in “preparation for clinical skills” module for 3rd years.
  - Discussed the possibility of medical students being involved in COVID-19 vaccine trial
  - Also getting students that had volunteered during the COVID period to talk to 3rd years
  - Many other ideas that we need to chase over the next days
- Talked with Dr. Groet (head of intercalation) about intercalating representatives elections and intercalating fair
  - Individual courses need to elect their representatives soon
  - Suggestions about intercalating fair were discussed and will be

**Future work:**

- Create course rep posters and place them around campus and hospitals
- Continue working on the preparation for clinical skills module for 3rd years.
- Create events for students where they can give feedback about their placements



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise career fair</li> </ul>		
<b>School of Medical and Dental Sciences Pre-Clinical (Medicine) Representative</b>	<b>James</b>	<b>Tavner</b>
<p>During my time in office, I have so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- held multiple JSSLCs which begun in September using the old reps to discuss the beginning of term</li> <li>- discussed with elected 2nd year reps why they ran and what they want to achieve</li> <li>- promoted the course rep elections to get year 1 and GEP reps to join and represent</li> <li>- attempting to push to allow year 2 students to have clinical SSCs</li> <li>- had a meeting to discuss the involvement of medical students in COVID vaccine trials and deciding the responsibility of each years</li> </ul>		
<b>School of Physics &amp; Astronomy Representative</b>	<b>Zuzanna</b>	<b>Kocjan</b>
<p>So far, I've been working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gathering feedback from students from all years about their experience with the new online teaching and how they feel the situation has been handled by our School, either through questionnaires or just direct contact on any social media.</li> <li>- Resolving a few issues students have already reported to me by raising their concerns with my School's Student Support Officer or signposting concerned students to Advice and Counselling or one of the other support services.</li> <li>- Contacting the Head of School about more serious concerns that students have come to me with and providing them with what the Head of School has decided. Another meeting with the HoS has just been scheduled in which I will present the gathered feedback and highlight in which areas of the student experience at SPA I see the potential for improvement this year.</li> <li>- Using my network to actively promote the QMSU elections and encourage students in my School to nominate themselves and vote for their peers (but this is rather every Rep's responsibility than my own initiative :))</li> </ul>		
<b>School of Politics and IR Representative (co-reps)</b>	<b>Sara</b>	<b>Kaso</b>
	<b>Krista</b>	<b>Tingbrand</b>
<b>Societies Officer (BL)</b>	<b>Varvara</b>	<b>Evgeniou</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Freshers:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Helped organise BL Freshers' fayre and gave an introduction talk at the event</li> <li>Ran a Societies' stall over 2 days where Freshers could come and ask questions about Societies at BL</li> </ul> </li> <li>Engagement:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Created an Instagram and Facebook BLSA societies page which has been very helpful in improving engagement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Created a google form for societies to complete every week with their main events, in order to be advertised on @blsa_societies</li> <li>• Societies board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chaired the first Societies' Board Meeting where society issues were discussed, new society applications were reviewed and development funding was distributed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Diversity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working on an anti-racism in student groups survey – currently on hold</li> <li>○ Worked with BL Women's Rep to improve diversity at BL events, by advertising a website for finding Women Speakers in Healthcare to societies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Gozo: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently in discussions with Gozo Rep, SU staff and other representatives from the Malta campus to improve the SU support provided for them and allow them to run their own student groups</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Welfare: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Working with VP Welfare and VP Communities to create a Welfare Network for Welfare officers to give us feedback and pass on concerns</li> <li>○ Encouraged societies to introduce a welfare officer – most of them have one now!</li> <li>○ Looking into the possibility of making Welfare Officer a compulsory role of all Society Committees</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>Societies Officer (Mile End)</b>	<b>Ian</b>	<b>Aizikovich</b>
<p>My work to date includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging with societies team, particularly Clara Lee, in guiding new society applicants in creating a successful application;</li> <li>• Taking part in the Societies Board meeting, approving applications and allocating grant funding;</li> <li>• Creating effective communication environment for all Mile End society presidents in order for them to engage with each other (WhatsApp groups, Facebook chats and groups).</li> <li>• Guiding society presidents and taking part in creating the Off-Campus Welcome Event.</li> <li>• Promoting Societies' stall during the campus fresher's fair.</li> <li>• Currently working on opportunities for societies to collaborate with each other: receiving feedback about the Off-Campus event, selecting willing participants and coming up with ideas for virtual events.</li> <li>• Replying to presidents' inquiries about byelaws and other questions.</li> </ul>		
<b>Sports Officer (BL)</b>	<b>Liam</b>	<b>Nicholson</b>
<p>Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked to approve the block grant and ensure that clubs were fairly allocated money</li> <li>• Altered the Club Sport Development Fund criteria so that it was fit for purpose</li> </ul> <p>CSB:</p>		

- First meeting discussed Merger Cup, Alumni Cup, BUCs Return to Play

## Freshers:

- Organised, with other members of BLSA Board, the first ever online freshers fayre
- Organised a Freshers Curry, that complied with COVID restrictions for sports clubs to meet new members

## Welfare Campaigns:

- Encouraged involvement in Black History Month with several clubs actively engaging
- Begun, in collaboration with Emily Brandon, This Girl Can week
- Ensured that Welfare Reps at BL have the correct resources for them to carry out their roles

**Sports Officer (Mile End)****Szymon****Butryn**

Having completed my training as a sports officer I have started to work in my role mid-September. I have not yet presented my plan to the Club Sport Committee as it remains to be formulated and adjusted accordingly to the ongoing, extraordinary circumstances. I have attended a Grant funding meeting with the Sports Administrator, Performance Sport Assistant Manager and Sports Marketing Coordinator; I have remained in contact with both Amelia and Adam to be aware of all developments caused by the pandemic as well as to prepare myself for the task of being a Sports Officer. As of now I am awaiting the Clubs Sport Board Meeting on Thursday, October 15th during which the Board will vote on particular bids regarding organisation of sporting events, budget regulations etc. I have yet to set up a date for a meeting with Club Sports Presidents on which I will present my ideas and plans for this year. Nevertheless, taking the ever-changing nature of this academic year into account, I will discuss such plans with Barts Sports Officer as well as with the Board and subsequently make appropriate adjustments, if necessary, before setting up the meeting with the Presidents. Over the summer, we have discussed potential dates for the Alumni Cup and Merger Cup (along with different ideas on how to include now alumni students that were unable to participate in the event last year due to COVID) and come to the conclusion that the new pandemic regulations might force us to schedule both events for 2021. Considering the uncertainty we are all facing this year due to Coronavirus many tasks that would be normally completed at this time of the year had to be either postponed or reconsidered.

**Student Council Chair****Joe****Vinson****Sustainability Officer****Grace****McMeekin**

I've been planning various events and campaigns:

## Events:

- - A screening of the film 2040 followed by a Q&A with Rob Hopkins and Kate Metcalf to be held on the 14th October
- - A climate justice event with a speaker and a campaign workshop in collaboration with a number of other societies and reps to be held at the start of November

## Campaigns:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the climate curriculum campaign. This is a long term campaign attempting to get issues of the climate crisis on all courses at the university. This year we are focusing on trying to find out what is already being taught and where there are gaps.</li> <li>- I've been on a walk around campus with Dimi the university gardener to discuss plans for improving green spaces on campus and very soon we will be starting with volunteering projects such as building big hotels.</li> </ul>		
<b>Trans Representative</b>		<b>VACANT</b>
<b>Volunteering Officer (BL)</b>	<b>Annie</b>	<b>Wright</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last few weeks have mainly involved promoting volunteering opportunities to the 2020 Freshers, especially the BL Volunteering groups that they have the option to join</li> <li>BL Virtual Welcome Fair – I spoke at the start to give an idea of the different volunteering groups that are available, 6 different groups joined the Welcome Fair and presented their society to Freshers as well as getting sign ups via google forms</li> <li>Volunteering Pop Up Stalls – stalls held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Sept, Wednesday stall was very successful with lots of people coming to find out information, handed out leaflets, had QR codes for each volunteering group sign up form</li> <li>Big BL Volunteering Event on Zoom - event went really well, 8 volunteering groups presented their societies and answered questions from Freshers, 49 people in the call at one point (obviously some of these were the volunteering group presidents), everyone seemed to really enjoy the online volunteering as well</li> <li>Next: Sports Volunteering Award</li> </ul>		
<b>Volunteering Officer (Mile End)</b>	<b>Aleksandra</b>	<b>Olszewska</b>
<p>As a Mile End Volunteering Officer, I have been involved in a couple of projects since I took office on August 1<sup>st</sup>. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Off-campus event</b> – helping Daniel, the President of the UNA society to reach out to committees of various groups to make them aware of the event. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Along with Ian, the societies officer we <b>recorded welcome messages</b> for the event.</li> <li>I and Tasmiah, the Charity Partners representative on the Volunteering Board we <b>created and recorded a presentation giving an overview of volunteering at Queen Mary</b> highlighting different opportunities and how students can get involved.</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Started working on my first individual project</b> which will involve an online booklet on volunteering and employability and 2-3 video case studies. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started thinking about the questions for the case studies and reaching out to people who would be interested in recording themselves answering the questions.</li> <li>Came up with the format for the booklet which will be mostly online and easily shared with a couple of printed copies to be distributed around the SU buildings.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Future work:</b></p>		

- The online booklet and case studies will be finalised by mid-December and will be distributed at the beginning of semester 2 to help volunteering groups recruit people once their physical activities hopefully resume.
- Creating a WhatsApp group chat for ME volunteering groups to help them share their resources and concerns, also to facilitate the communication between me and the groups.
- My other 2 projects are depended on the state of the pandemic towards the beginning of the next semester, so I will share more details once there's more information on how the university will run in 2021.

<b>VP Barts</b>	<b>Andreas</b>	<b>Hadjidemetriou</b>
<b>VP London</b>	<b>Thaarabi</b>	<b>Tharmapathy</b>

VP BARTS

- Supported BL ENTs Officers freshers' fortnight and general events
- Supporting BL RAG Officer in organising RAG Week 1
- In the process of organising a Movember Committee, and had a meeting with VP Welfare and RAG Officer on how we can push fundraising, events and raising awareness during November

VP LONDON

- Supported BL Societies, Sports and Volunteering Officers with freshers
- Anti-Racism Steering Committee:
  - Analysed, collated and wrote report of MBBS Anti-Racism Survey data findings with MBBS Subcommittee Team
  - 07/10/2020 - Presented to the Medical Curriculum Committee

BOTH VP BARTS & VP LONDON

- **07/09/2020** - Attended ECAP Appeals Meeting
- **w/b 07/09/2020** - Organised and attended BLSA help desks during move-in week
- **w/b 21/09/2020** - Organised BLSA Student Group Information pop-up stalls and put in a bid for flyers (sports, societies, volunteering)
- Ordered and got BLSA T-shirts for our BLSA members
- Ensured and helped organise the online Freshers' Fair (16/09/2020)
- Sent out a google form for assembling a Halfway Ball Committee - closing deadline 16/10/2020)
- **01/10/2020** - Meeting with students from the Physician's Associate course to draft a letter on how to better their course and student engagement - ONGOING
- **05/10/2020** - Had a meeting with Allied Courses Rep about reinstating the Global Health course
- **05/10/2020** - Meeting on how we can include the BMA rep in discussions with BL-related matters
- **07/10/2020** - Meeting with Megan, (ex-officio BL President) and Grace, (ex-officio VP Barts) to make sure that there is coordination with class of 2020 and class of 2021 Graduation Events in particular Rites of Passage and Halfway Ball
- **09/10/2020** - Met up with organisers of the 900<sup>th</sup> Barts Anniversary campaign for 2021-2023 to provide BLSA input.
- Have started enquiring about The Great Hall for Association Dinner (March 2021)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the process of making an online google form to collect feedback/ constructive criticism for our respective officers and ourselves, as we cannot hold drop-in sessions safely due to Covid</li> </ul>		
<b>Welfare Officer (BL)</b>	<b>Ellora</b>	<b>Kamineni</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organised Mummies and Daddies scheme open to all BL first year and transfer students</li> <li>Started Speaker Equality project (early stages)</li> <li>Presented welfare resources at "How to Ace First Year" ISoc event</li> <li>Met with Advice and Counselling to learn about resources and to start a Resource Visibility project</li> <li>Met with Med and Dent student support for Resource Visibility project</li> <li>Currently organising Consent Week</li> </ul>		
<b>Welfare Officer (HSS)</b>	<b>Ghena</b>	<b>Ghazal Aswad</b>
<b>Welfare Officer (S&amp;E)</b>	<b>Fares</b>	<b>Azhari</b>
<p>-Shot and sent a video for Mental health awareness day for the SU Instagram account.</p> <p>-Working with Ellora on organising a few events for a cross-campus Consent week.</p> <p>-Planning sexual assault awareness month for April 2021.</p> <p>-Writing a report on the Report and Support system implemented by the university last year.</p> <p>-Planning on doing a Science and Engineering faculty wide hackathon to raise awareness on mental health</p>		
<b>Womens Representative (BL)</b>	<b>Emily</b>	<b>Brandon</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women Speakers in Healthcare - discussed with Varvara (BL Societies Officer) and we have now contacted the academic societies via email, Facebook and WhatsApp about using the database</li> <li>Attended the SU trainings</li> <li>Athena Swan - met with Laura Simpson (Athena Swan Coordinator) (16/09)</li> <li>Women's Forum             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's forum Facebook group                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in 77 members since Sept (total 337 as of 09/10)</li> <li>Advertising: Posted in BL Bulletin; asked Sports Welfare Reps to send link to teams; Women in Healthcare Society posted on social media and at welcome event;</li> <li>Plan to advertise to more student groups with Volunteering and Societies officers</li> </ul> </li> <li>Women's forum form: created and posted in FB group to increase participation &amp; accessibility</li> <li>01/10 - I ran the first women's forum via Zoom - 15 people attended total + 1 form response</li> <li>Will continue to work on increasing engagement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

- This Girl Can
  - Had a meeting with Liam (BL Sports Officer) and Ellora (BL Welfare Rep) about TGC; Had a meeting with Liam and Amelia (QMSU Sports Administrator) about TGC.
  - In women's forum - discussed how to increase participation in TGC events; I have sent this feedback to Liam and Amelia
- 01/10 - Met with Esther about action plan for the year
- Women in Healthcare Society
  - 06/10 met with VP and Secretary to discuss working together & events and issues we could collaborate on; we have a plan in place & a Whatsapp group between myself and their President, VP and Secretary.
  - Attended their zoom welcome event 07/10 & also promoted Women's Forum there.
- Free menstrual products in bathrooms - have discussed this with Ellora and Esther. Esther is looking into how they have been funded in the bathrooms on the QM campus.
- Currently in contact with Harlow outfirm accommodation regarding absence of sanitary bins in the accommodation; I am looking into whether this is an issue at other outfirm sites too.
- Good Lad Initiative
  - Have discussed with Welfare Rep and Sports Officer
  - Have been in contact with Richie Benson (Lead Facilitator for Universities)
  - Plan to re-discuss with Welfare Rep about potential funding routes

**Womens Representative (Mile End)****Azainah****Siddiqui**

1. Researched into government schemes to see if QM is eligible to apply for free sanitary products. At the moment the government is only providing free sanitary products for up to 6<sup>th</sup> Form students therefore working towards getting funding from the SU to provide free sanitary products on campus.
2. Started planning activities for International Women's day on the 8<sup>th</sup> March. Looking to see if I can find an influential woman of our generation to give a talk at University depending on COVID situation may have to be a zoom call that people can sign up to.
3. Have started looking into contacting STEM women alumni to see if they would be willing to join a database that I am creating where female students can contact them for application/career advice.
4. Hopefully if COVID situation improves would like to run a consent week workshop where students can come to learn about consent and how to report sexual harassment/assault to the University.



5. Contacting the university to make a clearer and more transparent process to reporting sexual harassment/assault. Ensuring the University will enforce a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual assault.