

Student Representative Committee (Meeting 5)

Tuesday 9 June 2026 6.00pm to be held online via Teams 6.00pm

Membership

Position	Name
Students' Union Chair	Mara Bortnowschi
Sabbatical Officers	
Students' Union President	Diya Mary Selastin
VP Barts and The London	Maria Rubbani
Vice President HSS	Samarth Lakhanpal
Vice President Liberation, International and Postgraduates	Hassam Naeem
Vice President S&E	Tushar Goyal
Vice President Welfare	Eshwinder Singh
Elected Student Representatives	
Activities & Experience Rep	Chaudhry Ali
BL Rep	Amaan Abbas
Careers & Employability Rep	Jiahong Liu
Commuter Rep	Muhammad Khan
HSS Rep	Apoorva Sharma
International Rep	Anushka Rawat
Liberation Rep	Zaib Ali
Postgrad Rep	Prithvirajsingh Bayas
S&E Rep	Tayebur Rahman
Welfare Rep	Viktoriiia Rubanyk
SU Staff in attendance	
Secretary and Governance Officer (Clerk)	Brad Coales
Head of Student Voice and Insights	Marianne Melsen

Agenda

- 1. Chair's Introduction, Welcome and Apologies**
- 2. Outcomes of Previous Meeting**

The Committee is asked to approve the record of outcomes from the previous SRC meeting held on 3 March 2026

3. Minutes from Sub-Groups

- BLSA Board February 2026 to date - to follow for information.

4. President's Report to QMUL

The SU President has requested that the report that is produced for QMUL Council and Senate meetings should be shared with SRC members. The President's Report contains an update on the work of the President and the Executive Officers, and the work of the Students' Union more generally. The March 2026 and May 2026 Reports are attached.

6. Reports from and Questions to the Executive Officers

The Executive Officers will be invited to give a brief verbal report highlighting any particular matters of interest, or concern. Committee members will then have an opportunity to put questions to the Officers.

7. Reports from and Questions to the Student Representatives

The Student Representatives will be invited to give a brief verbal report highlighting any particular matters of interest, or concern. Committee members will then have an opportunity to put questions to the Representatives. In future, Representatives will be asked to submit a brief written report in advance of each meeting, a template will be drawn up and circulated over the summer along with guidance for its use.

8. All Students Meeting/Annual General Meeting

The AGM/ASM that was scheduled for 2 February 2026 did not take place as it failed to reach quoracy.

The ASM scheduled for Monday 30 March 2026 at 6pm and was again inquorate. The deadline for motions is midday on Monday 9 March 2026. This preceding AGM was quorate and approved the changes the Union's Articles of Association. These have now been submitted for approval by the University before filing with the Charity Commission and Companies House. The Committee may wish to consider how attendance at ASMs might be improved in the future, given that these are a cornerstone of the Students' Union's decision making process, as enacted by the Democracy Review.

9. Bye-Law Changes

A proposed change to the Byelaws to initiate dedicated budgets for Student Representatives has been submitted and will be formatted and circulated prior to the meeting. Any resulting changes will be subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.

11. SRC Sub-Groups

Under the SRC Bye-Law, the SRC has the power to create Sub-Groups ‘to enable effective student voice and student-led campaigning on matters that fall within the Students’ Union’s charitable aims and articles of association.’ An extract of the relevant section of the Bye-Law is attached for information.

A proposal has been submitted to establish an Accessibility Forum as a Sub-Group of the SRC. Its purpose would be ‘to provide a structured forum to identify, discuss, and recommend actions to address accessibility-related issues affecting students across academic provision, Students’ Union activity, and the wider university environment.’

The proposal is attached for consideration by the Committee.

12. Policy Renewal

7.1 Policy passed or renewed more than two years earlier will be presented to the Committee with a recommendation from the Executive Committee to renew or lapse.

7.2 SRC members should make clear to the Chair any individual recommendations they would like to be debated separately, and the Chair will bring these forward for debate before being voted on. The rest of the recommendations shall then be voted on in 1 vote.

7.3 Any Students’ Union member may, at any time, bring policy that is considered to be out of date to the attention of SRC to be debated.

7.4 If a policy has not been reviewed after two years, it must be put forward for review at the next SRC meeting and will remain as an active policy until the review has been completed.

The following policies are now due for review:

Policy	Recommendation
TBA	

13. AOB

Student Representative Committee Meetings for 2026-27

Dates for next years meetings will be set during the summer break.

Student Representative Committee (Meeting 3)

Tuesday 3 February 2026 6.00pm - held in the Matt Spencer Boardroom in the SU Hub at Mile End at 6.00pm

Membership

Position	Name
Students' Union Chair	Mara Bortnowschi
Sabbatical Officers	
Students' Union President	Diya Mary Selastin
VP Barts and The London	Maria Rubbani
Vice President HSS	Samarth Lakhanpal
Vice President Liberation, International and Postgraduates	Hassam Naeem
Vice President S&E	Tushar Goyal
Vice President Welfare	Eshwinder Singh
Elected Student Representatives	
Activities & Experience Rep	Chaudhry Ali
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International Rep	Anushka Rawat
Liberation Rep	Zaib Ali
Postgrad Rep	Prithvirajsingh Bayas
S&E Rep	Tayebur Rahman
Welfare Rep	Viktoriiia Rubanyk
SU Staff in attendance	
Secretary and Governance Officer (Clerk)	Brad Coales
Head of Student Voice and Insights	Marianne Melsen

Minutes

1. Chair's Introduction, Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and confirmed that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of producing minutes. Members present introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous Student Representative Committee meeting held on 2 December 2025 were considered. No points of accuracy were raised. The minutes were approved.

3. Minutes from Sub-Groups

None for this meeting as there are no sub-groups yet in existence, except the BLSA Board (which is technically a sub-committee of the SRC) and should submit its minutes for information). These had now been supplied and would be included for the next meeting..

4. 4. President's Report to QMUL

The SU President has requested that the report that is produced for QMUL Council and Senate meetings should in future be shared with SRC members. The President's Report contains an update on the work of the President and the Executive Officers, and the work of the Students' Union more generally. A copy of the most recent (November 2025) report is attached.

5. Voting at the SRC

Following the last SRC meeting, it had been requested that voting should in future be conducted electronically. It was agreed that at future meetings, any votes would be anonymous at the time of voting, but would be attributable when the results were published. This was to relieve any sense of pressure on members at the time of voting and so allow them to vote freely. Future votes will be conducted via Teams, or MS Forms.

The Committee were reminded that the voting options are **In favour** of the proposal, **Against** the proposal, and **Abstention** from voting. Abstentions do not count towards the outcome, with the result being decided by the majority of votes actually cast and not a majority of those present.

6. Reports from and Questions to the Executive Officers

The Executive Officers were invited to give a brief verbal report highlighting any particular matters of interest, or concern.

National Student Survey (NSS)

An update was provided on NSS activity and engagement.

- Members discussed appropriate and effective promotion of the NSS.
- Emphasis was placed on events-based engagement and school-level promotion by representatives.
- Members were reminded of national NSS guidance, including that:

- Students must not be influenced on how to respond.
- NSS promotion must not be linked to league tables, employability, or academic outcomes.

The Committee noted the importance of collaboration with schools and academics to encourage participation in line with guidance.

Community and Student Experience

Discussion took place on building a stronger sense of student community.

- Particular reference was made to commuter students, distance learners, and students with limited on-campus presence.
- Suggestions included recognition events, cultural activities, improved social spaces, and clearer communication of existing opportunities.

Alumni Engagement

An update was provided on the Students' Union alumni project.

- The project includes associate society membership, alumni communications, events, careers engagement, and mechanisms for alumni donations to the Students' Union.
- Feedback from members was invited to inform further development.

Welfare, Cost of Living, and Student Support

Updates were provided on:

- The Participation Fund supporting engagement in societies and events.
- Food pantry provision across campuses and work to increase awareness and uptake.

Members discussed the importance of visibility and clear signposting of available support.

International Students and Crisis Support

The Committee discussed support for international students affected by global crises.

- Concerns were raised regarding financial pressures, including fee payment challenges and late payment penalties.
- It was noted that these issues had been escalated to senior university staff.
- The importance of visible reassurance and clear communication to affected students was emphasised

7. Reports from and Questions to the Student Representatives

The Student Representatives gave brief verbal reports highlighting any particular matters of interest, or concern.

Student representatives raised a number of issues, including:

- Insufficient charging points in lecture theatres.
- Timetabling challenges, including back-to-back classes on different campuses.
- The impact of early morning lectures on commuting students.
- Library opening hours and alternative study space provision.

Members were encouraged to provide specific evidence to support further escalation of these issues.

8. Policy Review

The Committee considered executive recommendations regarding the lapse or retirement of a number of existing policies.

- It was explained that policies are reviewed after a defined period and may be retired where objectives have been met, the policy is no longer relevant, or changes have been embedded through other mechanisms.

Agreed:

It was agreed that the executive recommendations be approved as follows:

Policy	Recommendation
The Union Should Broadly Endorse the Aims of the Green Charter, and Facilitate a Method of Direct Democracy in Working Towards its Full Implementation	tbc
The Union Should Discourage Staff and Students From Flying on Trips Associated With the Student's Union	tbc
The Union should introduce a 'Big Green Box' online 'suggestion box' /concern reporting form	tbc
The Union should introduce a new 'sustainability role' within society committees on a voluntary basis	tbc
The Union should introduce sustainability training for all SU staff	tbc
The Union should lobby the University to implement a long-term scheme to provide and distribute free menstrual products on campus	tbc
The Union should make it easier for students to raise issues and participate in mandates	tbc

The Union should support and commit to pushing the re-evaluation of Queen Mary's ethical investment policy	tbc
Should Disability History Month be added to the calendar of QMSU Liberation Campaigns?	tbc
Should the Students' Union lobby the university to install bidet attachments to at least one male, one female and one male accessible, one female accessible and one gender neutral accessible toilet in all student-facing university buildings where applicable?	tbc
Should the Students' Union lobby QMUL to introduce weekly consultation hours to enable students to book one-to-one consultations with their teachers	tbc

9. Appointments Committee

The Committee received an update on the process for appointing external trustees.

- It was noted that, due to timing, approval of appointments would be conducted via an online vote circulated to SRC members following interview

10. AOB

Meeting Times

Members discussed challenges with attendance due to meeting timing.

- Alternative timings and formats were discussed.
- It was agreed that options would be explored further and brought back for consideration.

Women's Week

Members were reminded of upcoming Women's Week activities and invited to contribute or collaborate.

Student Representative Committee Meetings for 2025-26

- Tuesday 3 March 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 7 April 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 5 May 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 2 June 2026 (18:00)



Minutes

BLSA Board Meeting

Date - 11 / 02 / 26

Time - 17:30 - 19:00

Meeting Room - Recovery Room, The Garrod Building

Meeting called by: Gustavo Loback (GL)

Minutes

Scribe: Gustavo Loback (GL)

Preliminary Items

Apologies

Kulsum Miyanjee (KM), Maria Rubbani (MRubbani),
Ahmed Hegy (AH), Aayush Yadav (AY),

Absent

Irene Thomas (IT), Amir Al Sammak (AA), Dr Tijion Esho
(TE), Christina Carrington (CC)

In Attendance

Josh Soane (JS), Martha Bradley (MB), Martha Grimsell
(MG), Gabe Pucinelli (GP), Piranavi Jeyaruban (PJ), Amaan
Abbas (AA), Phoebe Plugge Porter (PP), Preet Gosal (PG),
Marcus Rossi (MRossi), Joice Muk Ha Lee (JM), Ishan
Sarkar (ISar), Jade Xiuqi Ye (JX), Marina Chan (MC),
Hannah Shamim (HS), Osama Abu-Tair (OA), Divyani
Bhudia (DB), Jessica Veale (JV), Madhura Sivakumar (MS),
Adila Bashir (AB), Ravleena Wasan (RW), Ivan Slavov
(ISla), Momina (M-WIPH), Jasmine (J-BCI), Thulashi
(T-WHRI), Ishmael (I-Sec)

PJ

•

Joice

•

Josh

•

Jess

•

Amaan

Ishmael + Gus

•

Aayush + Ishan

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Minutes

Ivan has banana bread :)

Part 1 : Updates

1. President Update

President (MRubbani)

- Attended SRC (student representative council)
- Supported GP and YA
 - *MB*: alumni gala will be on different date - 2 April clashes with drs day

VP Barts (MC)

- Assoc form
- Will Atkins collab for new Assoc prize
- Attended QMSU services meeting
- Sorting yearbook

VP London (MB)

- BL week
- Blues colours and contribution awards
- Opened assoc dinner nominations

Dental President (HS, YA)

- Helped BL Week where I could
- Met with International Association of Dental Students - up for vote in General Assembly, mid-year meeting
- Different research opportunities
- YA and Hannah met with Mark Caulfield to discuss dental student concerns
- Iftar funding secured
- Dental Dinner - deciding when that will be - May / June

Malta Co-Presidents (AA)



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2. Officer Updates

Welfare Officers (PP, PG)

- Liaising with sexual violence and harassment advisor Kavita - to organise gender violence awareness event

Preclinical Representatives (AH, OA)

- Mostly TBL meetings
- Conflict with QMSU re timetabling - importance of '10 working days'
- Sorting out next JSVC

Clinical Representative (MRos)

- implementation of TBL meetings - particularly 1st and 2nd years - making sure everyone's happy with it
- If you have any suggestions, let me know
- Osce queries re when people will get their allocations - some people have bad mornings many years in a row - trying to push for this with assesment team
- Looking at getting paid-for question banks - last meeting got Quesmed for 5th years
- Trying to lobby for PassMed - believe this is the preferred option
- Helped with workshops for BL week
-
-

IoD Rep (AAS)

Blizard Institute Representative (TE)

BL Faculty Rep (AA)



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- Attended all the SRC meetings so far - trying to act as facilitator between BLSA board and central QMSU

Treasurer (JS)

- See 'Midway Financial Review' presentation

Entertainments Officers (JV, MG)

- Confirmed finalist tables for 18th March
- Communicating problems between students and SU

Secretary (GL)

- Met with I-SEC to discuss the secretary role and how handover will work

Alumni Officer (CC)

Sustainability Officer (PJ)

- First ever sustainability event with Dr Moore
- Spoken with SU about getting sustainability checklist into QMSU website - so it's not buried

Sports Officer (AY), Societies Officer (ISar)

- Looking for more societies storage - cupboard is tiny :(
- Working for more space near the multifairh room - working with Isabel
- Working with how to prioritise fitness suite space - perhaps more storage for societies
- Aayush working with sports hosting charity toruanwmnrs - increasing turnout, using RAG charities where possible

Volunteering Officer (ISla)

- Helping with promotion and social media - supporting Maria with campaigns - eg food in the library
- Organised food drive which happened - boxes went missing - flagged this with Volunteering - will do an investigation
- Helping out with engagement



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RAG Officers (RW, IT)

- BNOG - raised just over £2.5k for charities - minus expenses, should be around £2k
- Helping out anyone reaching out for events

LGBTQ+ Representative (GP)

- IG social media campaign - highlighting LGBT figure every day
- Community social ????
- Organised LGBT Studnet-Staff mixer for QMBL - happening later this month
- National AIDS TRUST fundraiser - happening this Thursday, found drag queen doing this for free, BL dance, music, drama performances, external speaker, food donations, SU food + refreshments
 - Currently struggling to get info from SU about ticket sales
 - Please spread the word about the event :)

Women's Representatives (MS, DB)

BAME Representative (KM)

Disabled & SLD Representative (AB)

International Representatives (XQ, JL)]

- Successfully organised International event - general Trivia event

Part 2 : Agenda Items

1. (MC, MB) Housekeeping, BLSA Board Presentation

- a. Pathways for supporting students in crisis
 - i. JONNY: refer to email about Signposting resources
- b. First aid; support for other affected students
- c. Report and support
- d. Matters arising



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- e. IMGs
- f. Elections coming up - as BLSA board members, cannot endorse any specific candidate, societies cannot endorse candidates
- g. We have to endorse ALL candidates for a role
 - i. JONNY: QMSU election dates coming up soon - NOT BLSA Board - these dates TBC, depending on academic calendar
- h. Board escalation pathways
- i. Board member of the month: Martha - BL Week
- j. S/o to Amir and Yousef

2. (JS) Mid Year Financial Update:

- a. JONNY: BLSA OPS - pre allocated to areas which his team managed - marketing budget (purchasing lanyards for students);
 - i. MARTHA: surplus of lanyards
 - ii. £290 left for marketing - usually comes from Jonny's team
 - iii. BLSA Board meetings; £350 back for these meetings - Maria planning on looking to get more food for upcoming meetings
 - iv. BL Families budget - only £7 left for BL Families - thanks to BL Families Reunion (special mention to PPP and PG)
 - v. Previously, lots of money used for first event and lots left over
- b. SURPLUSES:
 - i. Last years £900 given to societies
 - ii. Problem; start of the year having to spend money without knowing how much we'll get back -> don't get into debt; dip into reserves
 - iii. Previous years: had substantial unexpected losses, probably due to covid
 - iv. Halfway ball losses and Assoc Dinners - not good, had to subsidise with reserves
- c. PLANS FOR THIS YEAR:
 - i. Avoid losses on events - to have more money to give for societies
 - ii. Treasurer has taken more active role in Halfway Ball planning - between £2.5 - 3k loss
 - iii. Managing other flagship events
 - iv. Clearer track for where budgets are - more clearly documented, tracking between spreadsheets
- d. HOW ARE WE DOING?
 - i. Given just under £4k to different student groups
 - ii. Fixed costs - lanyards, freshers guides
 - iii. New sponsors this year
 - iv. GOAL: halfway ball shouldn't lose money this year -



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- e. **HARDSHIP FUNDING:**
- i. Received £6k donation from Medical Colleges Trust - specifically for hardship
 - ii. Eg halfway ball - 75% discount for some students
 - iii. JS working with Reg Bailey for coming up with new hardship fund formulae - fixing so no one is unfairly disadvantaging
 - iv. Working to advocate hardship funding for dental students as well
- f. **LOOKING AHEAD:**
- i. Not expected to make any losses

3. (HS, YA, AAS) IADS Fees - Proposal

- a. Looking at more long-term routes of funding for international association of dentists
- b. In short term due to requiring money 1 month in advance, requesting £125 for membership

14 YES, 0 abstain, 0 no - motion passed

Part 3 : Any other Business

Isla baked banana bread :)

Jonny: miscellaneous AOB

- Plan to have sign on the microwaves to use one for veggie and one for any food,
- Providing free tea + coffee for students - improved tea point
- Shared accountability of space - do more intensive cleans more once in a while
- Pointless to get team to come and clean freezer -> the freezer needs defrosting ->
- Ivan: cleaners generally don't go to BLSA office -> Amaan: generally cleaners only empty the bin -> Jonny: please document when you see dirt so we can raise with cleaners

YOUSEF MOTION



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Minutes

Part 4 : Action Points

Date of next meeting : Tuesday 17th March 2026 (TBC)

End of Meeting



Minutes

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Minutes

Scribe: Gustavo Loback (GL)

Preliminary Items

Apologies

Gustavo Loback (GL), Joice Muk Ha Lee (JM), Christina Carrington (CC), Amaan Abbas (AA)

Absent

In Attendance

Josh Soane (JS), Martha Bradley (MB), Martha Grimsell (MG), Gabe Pucinelli (GP), Piranavi Jeyaruban (PJ), Phoebe Plugge Porter (PP), Preet Gosal (PG), Marcus Rossi (MRossi), Ishan Sarkar (ISar), Jade Xiuqi Ye (JX), Marina Chan (MC), Hannah Shamim (HS), Osama Abu-Tair (OA), Divyani Bhudia (DB), Jessica Veale (JV), Madhura Sivakumar (MS), Adila Bashir (AB), Ravleena Wasan (RW), Ivan Slavov (ISla), Momina (M-WIPH), Jasmine (J-BCI), Thulashi (T-WHRI), Ishmael (I-Sec), Kulsum Miyanjee (KM), Maria Rubbani (MRubbani), Ahmed Hegy (AH), Aayush Yadav (AY), Irene Thomas (IT), Amir Al Sammak (AA), Dr Tijion Esho (TE)

Part 1 : Updates

1. President Update

BLSA President (MRubb)

- Will provide verbal updates

VP Barts (MC)

- Helped with Halfway Ball
- Met with MB, JS, Stephen and Sabina re Flagship events
- Grad dinner contract to be signed this week
- ROP planning continued
- Assoc:
 - Shortlisting done with SPC
 - Staff invite list in the process
 - Organising event details with RCP
 - IG to be released this week

VP London (MB)

- Will provide verbal updates



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Dental President (HS, YA)

- Will provide verbal updates

Malta BLSA Co-President (AA)

2. Officer Updates

Welfare Officers (PP, PG)

Junior IHSE Representatives (AH, OA)

Senior IHSE Representative (MRos)

- Planning Assessment review with MAC leads and Junior IHSE Ahmed
- MEC meeting went well, discussed attendance issues in second year as pivot point with the staff team and voiced overall student approval for ideas and changes in TBL. Focus here is to make sure the changes don't overcorrect.
- Met with head of student support and head of year 5 to discuss and clarify Quesmed/Passmed rollout and discuss student involvement going forwards.

Institute of Dentistry (IoD) Representative (AAS)

- Further standardisation regarding course reps being able to run events for their own year groups
- Several meetings being scheduled regarding expanding and improving accessibility for dental electives
- OSCE revision to soon be implemented
- Venue for graduation ball is confirmed

Blizard Institute Representative (TE)

BL Faculty Representative (AA)

Treasurer (JS)

- Finalising post-event budget for halfway ball, which profited nearly £200
- Securing sponsorship and donations for our next flagship events, which I am confident will not make a loss



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- Confirming sponsors for Doctors Day on 2nd April
- Preparing for next student group funding round of £3k

Entertainments Officers (JV, MG)

- Organised 2 more events for the religious and cultural engagement project (currently organising another one)
- Collab with BL music for an open mic night in the griff this thursday
- Organising finalist celebrations for friday + finalist tables next week
- Working with MR, MC, MB, AY to improve tables

Alumni Officer (CC)

Sustainability Officer (PJ)

Sports Officer (AY)

Societies Officer (ISar)

- Planning to do a societies end of term showcase so will be sending out a message soon to collate media.
- Will also be helping where possible with AGM deadline issues.

Volunteering Officer (ISla)

RAG Officers (RW, IT)

LGBTQ+ Representative (GP)

Women's Representatives (MS, DB)

- Delivered Women's Week (23 Feb- 7 Mar) across both campuses
- Coordinated 15 events
- Collaboration with multiple societies and external organisations (Women in Healthcare, Women in Surgery/Surgical Soc, BL Netball, Cinema Soc, AHM, Amnesty UK, ResLife)
- Social, educational and creative events including Galentine's Social, Sip & Paint, Design a Memory Box, Movie Night and Women's Only Iftaar to build community and wellbeing



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- Educational panels, discussions and workshops including the Women in Healthcare Panel, Decoding Feminism Lunch & Learn, and Amnesty Feminists UK workshop
- Initiatives including the SHAG sexual health stall and breast self-examination awareness session
- Wellbeing and fundraising activities including a wellbeing walk and the BL Netball Glow Walk for breast cancer awareness
- Engagement activities including a ResLife treasure hunt and book giveaways
- Brought attention to petition to make misogyny a hate crime through stalls in Mile End and Wc
- Submitted ASM proposal for 30 March to formalise Women's Week as an official liberation campaign

BAME Representative (KM)

Disabled & SLD Representative (AB)

- Helped set up the Barts Arts exhibition on Inclusion in Healthcare and exhibited some artwork
- Discussed with Vidya regarding potential teaching opportunities related to chronic pain/ fibromyalgia
- Shared information about London Autism Group Charity peer support sessions
- Exploring a potential partnership with the London Youth Assembly for a Mental Health Innovation Competition
- Collaborating/signposting with Ruth on the QM Spotlight Series for Autism Acceptance Week
- Discussed potential collaboration with the PALS F1 series, including a session on neurodivergence, support, and wellbeing

International Representatives (XQ, JL)

Part 2 : Agenda Items



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1. **(MC, MB) Association Dinner Award Voting**
 - a. Award 1

Part 3 : Any other Business

Part 4 : Action Points

Date of next meeting : Tuesday 14th April

End of Meeting

President's University Council Report

Key Updates

January Welcome Fair

We successfully delivered the January Welcome Fair 2026 on Tuesday 25th January following the winter exam period, welcoming over 1,500 students to campus and providing a key opportunity for new and returning students to engage with student life at Queen Mary.

The event was our biggest January Welcome Fair to date, featuring over 100 stalls from our societies, sports clubs, student services, and partner organisations. In addition, 15 external organisations attended, including student favourite brands offering access to further opportunities. Library Square hosted a full schedule of performances and demonstrations throughout the day, showcasing a wide range of societies and activities and creating an energetic and welcoming atmosphere on the day for everyone attending.

The Fair was held across multiple campus venues including the Students' Union Hub, The Nest, Drapers and Library Square. Overall, it provided a vibrant introduction to everything we do as a Students' Union and our Clubs and Societies, giving new and returning students a further opportunity to get involved, build community and make the most of their time at Queen Mary.

Student Experience Forum – generative AI usage

The Student Experience Forum is an annual project where the Students' Union collects data from Queen Mary students to help us understand how current trends and developments in the higher education sector are affecting our students. The theme for this year's Student Experience Forum is AI usage among students. The project aims to understand how students use generative AI for academic and non-academic purposes.

We've undertaken an all-student survey, which has received more than 500 responses from students. We've also conducted 15 in-depth interviews. Analysis is now ongoing.

When the analysis has been completed, the findings will be presented at a Student Experience Forum event that brings colleagues from different parts of the university together to discuss the findings and identify actions. If you'd like to join us please contact su-representation@qmul.ac.uk

In addition, we have been working collaborating with colleagues across QMUL to draft a university-wide AI in assessment policy, with a specific focus on ensuring student voice are embedded from the start. Given the growing impact of AI in higher education, it is critical that the policy balances innovation with fairness, academic integrity and clarity for students. Our role has centered on representing student concerns and priorities so that the final framework is practical, transparent and student-informed.

Centre of Volunteering and Outreach

2026 will see the rebrand of volunteering to the Centre of Volunteering and Outreach. For this, the team are preparing to conduct a survey on student knowledge and interest in volunteering, as well as interviewing engaged student volunteers to find out about their experiences. The survey and interview feedback will be used to create a report including recommendations for how to increase engagement. Volunteer Champions have been approached to support the project and gather student insight to ensure that we involve students at all stages.

Further improvements to the website have been completed as well as tidying up our database by removing inactive students to give an accurate picture of engagement. The next stage is to look at the student journey on the website and improve how students can navigate it better.

Societies

Semester two has started with a successful and engaging welcome fair at Mile End which saw 82 groups registered to attend and we held our first Societies Board meeting of 2026, this was also our first board including our new Societies Champions, following last years democracy review. We gave out £13,767.05 in grant funding to 30 societies. The funding went towards a mix of activities and costs such as portering and cleaning for the Debate Society's Debate Comp and materials for the Engineering Society to design FPV drones.

To date, 13,572 memberships have sold across Societies, Volunteering and Student Media and there are currently have over 2,000 committee members across our 293 Societies.

After a small restructure of responsibilities in the Student Engagement team, we have brought back a role that will primarily focus on supporting Academic Societies, as well as facilitate our skills recognition programme (The Skills Award). The intention is to work collaboratively with Faculties to ensure Academic Societies are supported to flourish.

Course Reps

Course Representative Elections took place in January for incoming students and unfilled roles during the first few weeks of term. Typically, these elections focus on a small selection of schools and this academic year 11 positions were available. Going forward, other January intake courses, and those that were not successful in electing representatives are invited to co-opt via our process.

This semester, School Forums and SVCs are taking place, alongside NSS promotion activity to emphasise the impact of Student Voice; both meetings are chaired or co-chaired by appointed 'senior' Course Representatives, all of which were appointed last semester.

Course Representative numbers are excellent, with 574 Course Representatives, and 19 PGR Subject Representatives. Finally, engagement in Course Representative training has risen, through consistent promotion and support from the Student Voice team; engagement has increased by 2.6x since December 2024/25 and has risen from 32% of Course Representative population to 93%.

National Student Survey

We are pro-actively supporting the university's National Student Survey (NSS) campaign, working in partnership to encourage final-year undergraduate students to share their feedback on their academic experience. We are promoting the survey through our student communications, Course Representatives and Executive Officer engagement at events on campus, helping to raise awareness of the importance of the NSS and how student feedback contributes to improving the student experience.

As part of this work, QMSU is collaborating with the university to offer a £5 reward for eligible students who complete the survey. Students can choose to spend the £5 at participating outlets on campus or online or donate the amount to a Club or Society of their choice. QMSU is managing the process for distributing and administering this incentive.

We are also working with Course Representatives to further support the campaign. We have issued regular communications to them and held a lunch and learn event to empower them to encourage participation within their programmes and highlighting through Course Reps how feedback can lead to tangible improvements in teaching, learning resources and student support.

Study Well

Our winter edition of Study Well has completed after a fantastic campaign with events and articles from the university and Students' Union. We recently hosted our petting zoo in the Hub with 140 students attending, a high turnout for an in-person event before term began. We have also hosted other events such as a Hot Chocolate and Wellbeing pack giveaway in the Garrod Building, multiple get active sessions in Library Square, and a drop-in crafting session. Overall, the Winter Study Well campaign was successful, engaging

with a wide variety of students supporting them through different events. We will look to continue this in our summer edition of the campaign.

Spring Elections

The Spring Elections is the main election in the Students' Union, where students elect the 6 full-time Executive Officers, 10 part-time Student Representatives and 4 Student Trustees for the upcoming academic year. All students can put themselves forward for the roles. This year, QMSU completed a full rebrand of the Elections to align with the Democracy Review. This included a full review of all content and messaging, introduction of a new Elections website and the roll-out of an extensive range of new physical, print and digital assets to promote the opportunities available.

Nominations closed on 2nd March. At the close of nominations 189 students had nominated themselves for a role, but following the manifesto and statement deadline 102 students have been approved to continue their participation in the election. Voting will take place from 23rd March until 26th March, and the results will be announced at the Results Party in The Lounge on 26th March.

Student Opportunities

QMSU Volunteering Partnership Award

QMSU Volunteering were recently recognised with the University Partner Award from Solidarity Sports at their Volunteer Appreciation Night. The award recognises the strong and collaborative partnership between the Students' Union and the charity in delivering meaningful volunteering opportunities for Queen Mary students. Over the past year, Queen Mary students contributed more than 250 volunteering hours through the partnerships, supporting programmes designed for children who have experienced complex trauma. Activities delivered include sport, healthy living initiatives, arts activities, educational trips and mentorship programmes aimed at supporting wellbeing and creating positive experiences for young people.

Volunteering:

Our team hosted a Volunteering Fair which over 130 students attended, with stalls from 22 charities and organisations who offer volunteering opportunities to our students. It was a great opportunity for our students and partner organisations to come together, network and find opportunities or volunteers.

In total, Students have logged over 2,000 hours of volunteering through our platform so far, this academic year, and our Volunteer Groups have more than doubled their membership numbers compared to last year, reaching 622 free memberships.

Together with the Volunteer Champions, the team organised five events for Student Volunteering Week, with students decorating plant pots for the garden at St Joseph's Hospice, making cards for a local care home and donating to Bow Foodbank. The team also hosted a well-attended Skills Award session about utilising skills acquired through volunteering, highlighting the employability aspect of volunteering.

Raise and Give (RAG)

We had a hugely successful start of term with students raising over £45,000 for charity so far this academic year! Multiple large RAG events took place in January, raising money for the nominated charities. BL Dance successfully ran their annual Strictly Come Dancing shows across 3 nights, and the RAG Officers organised I'm a BNOC (Big Name on Campus) get me out of here, raising almost £5,000 in total for charity.

Participation Fund

We have re-launched our Participation Fund to support students and enable them to join our student groups and events if they are under financial pressure and might otherwise not be able to participate. Since the re-launch in mid-January, we have exceeded requests compared to the whole of last year and

have allocated over £200 to students already. Requests ranged from covering membership costs, printing for a presentation at society conferences or ticket costs covered for some of our cultural balls.

Individual Society Updates

The Dental Society hosted their trade fair; a busy and exciting event where the society invited representatives from dental companies across the UK to meet with students who could learn more about different career opportunities. Members could discover new materials and gadgets with the chance to win memberships and equipment. The fair was successful, with the society securing sponsorships from 18 different organisations and providing an excellent experience with a busy atmosphere for BL Dental students.

After a challenging first term, the Arab society worked extremely hard to host their annual Arab ball, inviting societies from across London to join them in a decadent and joyous night of celebration. The committee started with some challenges to overcome, including financial constraints, but they overcame this to ensure the Arab Ball could happen. They re-thought the event, found great new deals and worked closely with our team and succeeded in making the event financially possible whilst also managing to give students an even better experience than prior years. The event had excellent attendance with over 300 tickets sold. The group's determination and positive attitude made it possible and resulted in an excellent event!

Student Media

We now have five Student Media Outlets, and we have allocated £3,980.58 grant funding to support them. This is being used for a variety of activities, such as running collaborative events, raise awareness or print publications.

Employability

Our five student-led sessions have now taken place with some great feedback from attending students such as: "Great talk by the speaker, friendly and communicated teachings well" and "Was a great session!"

Generally, across all our session so far, we have received feedback from 144 students and out of these 144, 99% gave it the highest or second highest rating when answering if they felt the session helped develop their skills and 99% gave it the highest or second highest rating when answering if they felt that this session helped them with presenting their skills to an employer.

Try Something New Events

Our events programme has continued into Semester 2 with a broader and more diverse range of activities designed to trial new formats and ensure our offer resonates with the wide variety of students within our community in line with our 2030 Strategy.

Highlights included a live screening and event for the Super Bowl at Drapers, which welcomed over 200 students for the game. Alongside this, several new event formats were introduced, including the Drapers Rodeo, a country-themed line dancing night, and Lunar New Year Paper Fortune Cookie Making. We have also expanded our cultural and social activities with museum trips to the Museum of the Home and the Wellcome Collection, as well as creative and relaxed social events such as Pick Paint Plant, Tabletop Games Nights, Charm Making, and Meet Your Matcha.

In addition, a programme of Welcome Events for January start students was delivered to help new students connect with the community. These included the Associate Students Mixer, Great Scavenger Hunt, and Just Desserts Night, providing opportunities for students to meet others and engage with Students' Union spaces early in the semester.

Graduate Recruiter Collaborations

We have continued to deliver a series of graduate recruitment and careers engagement events on campus in partnership with the Queen Mary Careers Service. These events aim to support students' career development by increasing awareness of graduate opportunities and connecting students directly with leading employers. So far in Semester 2, we have hosted organisations including Teach First, HSF Kramer, and Enterprise Mobility. Teach First delivered a Pizza Pop-Up event, engaging students in informal conversations about careers in teaching and leadership. Queen Mary continues to be one of Teach First's largest sources of graduate recruits.

These events build on a successful programme delivered in Semester 1, which welcomed organisations including Deloitte, PwC, Lloyds Banking Group, EY, A&O Shearman, and Mazars LLP. Through these activations, students have been able to explore career pathways, meet recruiters and gain insights into graduate recruitment processes across a range of sectors.

Queen Mary Football Clubs Charity Match

The Men's and Women's Football Club recently organised a charity football match against Kings College London held at the Olympic Park, raising over £8,700 for UNHCR UK, the UK charity partner of the UN Refugee Agency. The student-led event brought together players and supporters from both universities and attracted over 1,000 spectators, demonstrating strong engagement from our wider student community. The event was part of a broader fundraising effort led by the football clubs, which included initiatives such as ticket sales and additional fundraising activities organised by students. It is also an example of how our student-led sport and society community initiatives can bring students together whilst raising funds for important global causes

Graduate Attributes

Tushar Goyal, Vice President Science & Engineering, has been working with the QM Academy to refine the language used around graduate attributes. The intention is to ensure the framing is clearer, more accessible and reflective of the skills of students. This is also to help with ongoing implementation of the university-wide employability framework. The work will also help to ensure consistency across the university and for helping students better understand, articulate and evidence their development.

Student Voice

LGBTQ+ History Month

February marked LGBTQ+ History Month with a programme of events celebrating LGBTQ+ communities, promoting allyship, and encouraging reflection on the history and contributions of LGBTQ+ people. This year's national theme, "Science and Innovation," highlighted LGBTQ+ trailblazers who have shaped discoveries, technologies and ideas that continue to influence the world today. The theme also created opportunities to open conversations around inclusion, empathy and the importance of representation in academic and professional spaces.

Students' Union representatives, student groups and partners delivered a series of student-led events and activities across the month. These included queer bar nights, craft sessions, talks and the National AIDS Trust Fundraising Gala, providing welcoming spaces for LGBTQ+ students and allies to come together, build community and raise awareness of issues affecting the community. Alongside in-person events, the Students' Union also delivered a digital awareness campaign, sharing "28 Icons in 28 Days" on Instagram, highlighting influential LGBTQ+ figures whose work has shaped science, culture and society. Through this programme of events and campaigns, QMSU aimed to celebrate LGBTQ+ identities, recognise the impact of LGBTQ+ innovators, and continue building an inclusive community at Queen Mary.

Jewish Heritage Fortnight

Nadia Valman, Professor of Urban Literature at Queen Mary, with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets hosted a guided walk as a part of the Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations and we offered a space for those to come and turn on a candle in an act of remembrance and part of the wider Light the Darkness national remembrance organised by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust. We also ran events surrounding Jewish food, which was inspired by a successful event last year, where students came to learn about Jewish snacks. We are also currently researching an article on the Novo Cemetery to also share knowledge of the history of the Jewish Community on campus.

Engagement with Tower Hamlets Women's Commission

We have been actively engaging with the Tower Hamlets Women's Commission to ensure student voices are represented in local discussions on women's safety and equality. In December we attended the Commission's public review on safety in public spaces, representing university students and highlighting the experiences of women navigating campus, accommodation and the wider borough. The discussion brought together local organisations, policymakers and public services to explore ways to improve safety and opportunities for women in Tower Hamlets. Following this, in February the Women's Representatives hosted an online engagement session with the Women's Commission, providing a space for women students to share lived experiences and contribute to discussions around safety, health, employment and community leadership. The session enabled participants to raise issues affecting women and students locally while helping inform the Commission's ongoing work.

This engagement forms part of our wider work to ensure that student perspectives are included in local policy conversations, particularly on issues such as women's safety, gender equality and community wellbeing across Tower Hamlets.

Women's Week and This Girl Can

Women's Week 2026 from late February to early March featured a programme of activities celebrating women's achievements, promoting gender equality and creating opportunities for discussion, empowerment and community building across the student body. The campaign has brought together students, societies, staff and external partners through a diverse schedule of events including career, wellbeing, cultural and educational activities. Highlights included a career and leadership session with Joanne Rose, workshops exploring gender justice and activism, society-led events, film screenings and community activities designed to encourage participation and discussion around women's experiences and achievements.

The programme also incorporated our This Girl Can week sessions, aimed at encouraging women to engage in a variety of physical activity sessions such as climbing, strength training, spin classes and reformer Pilates in supportive and inclusive environments. Overall, the campaign has provided students with opportunities to celebrate women's contributions, connect with peers and engage in meaningful conversations about equality, representation and empowerment within the Queen Mary community.

Alumni Engagement Project

Hassam Naeem, Vice President Liberation, International & Postgraduates, has continued work on the Alumni Engagement Project. A new webpage has been launched, promotional material prepared for graduation in April and Summer and associate memberships have been made more accessible and streamlined for alumni. Alumni can now more easily join societies, volunteer, support fundraising, access selected QMSU events and engage with the Get Active programme. www.qmsu.org/alumni

Goes Continental Campaign & Cultural Unity Week

Hassam and Maria Rubani, Vice President Barts and the London, along with our BLSA BAME Representative have launched this year long initiative celebrating all seven continents across our globally diverse student body of 170+ nationalities.

Each month highlights one continent through educational content on our channels and supported in our outlets through initiatives such as culturally relevant drinks, promoting continental awareness and cultural celebration on campus. The project will culminate in Cultural Unity Week at the end of the academic year, bringing students together in a campus-wide celebration of unity and shared identity.

<https://www.qmsu.org/goescontinental/>

#WeAreInternational Awards 2025

Queen Mary student, Gowri Promy, has been recognised nationally after winning the Community Impact Award at the #WeAreInternational Awards 2025, organised by the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA). The awards celebrate outstanding contributions that international students make to their universities and communities across the UK.

Gowri received the award in recognition of her leadership and community engagement through the Lawyers Without Borders society at Queen Mary. As President, she played a key role in expanding the society's activity beyond academic discussion, creating opportunities for students to engage directly with human rights issues and community initiatives. Through events, awareness campaigns and partnerships with external organisations, Gowri helped connect students with opportunities to support human rights advocacy, community engagement and social justice initiatives. Her work also raised awareness of global and local human rights issues while encouraging students to apply their academic interests to real-world challenges.

The #WeAreInternational Awards 2025 received more than 420 nominations from over 120 institutions across the UK, highlighting the scale of competition and significance of this recognition. Interestingly Queen Mary was the most nominated university at the event, reflecting the strong engagement of its international student community.

Barts and The London and Whitechapel

The BLSA Board is a sub-group of the Students' Union made up of students holding a variety of positions across activities, education, liberation and welfare roles. All roles have been filled ensuring comprehensive student representation across the faculty. A focus has continued embedding structured student voice and expanding institutional positioning. Rather than responding to isolated issues, we have worked to formalise representation pathways including embedding academic representatives within research institutes to create consistent, senior-level feedback mechanisms.

Meanwhile, we have progressed with EMSA and IADS membership which will strengthen our international connections and expand professional opportunities for our students. The aim is to position SMD students not only as course participants, but as contributors within wider national and international networks.

In welfare we have recently focussed on practical accessibility and financial equity. This has included supporting essential accessibility improvements, such as lift repairs, alongside continued advocacy regarding estate maintenance. Work is also underway to expand hardship and conference funding streams to ensure financial barriers do not restrict academic or professional progression. A key challenge remains balancing immediate student needs with longer-term funding constraints, and work continues to formalise clearer, more transparent funding pathways.

Community development this term has focused on strengthening belonging whilst improving operational infrastructure. Cultural initiatives, including interfaith and events as part of Goes Continental have aimed to foster cross-community dialogue in a diverse student body. Alongside this, we have also continued to develop our sponsorship and grant funding to reduce reliance on ad-hoc funding and improving long-term planning capacity for student groups and engagement.

Rest of the SU

New Communications Framework

We have developed and implemented a new Communications Framework to guide how the organisation responds to reputational issues, public statements and press enquiries. The framework sets out a clear process for identifying, escalating and managing communications risks while ensuring responses remain student-led, transparent and aligned with the Students' Union's values. In addition, the framework introduces a tiered risk system to ensure communications responses are proportionate to the level of reputational risk. This system clarifies decision-making, escalation routes, Executive Officer involvement and sign-off requirements, enabling the Students' Union to respond quickly, consistently and with appropriate governance

oversight. It also formalises collaboration with the University's Communications Directorate and Press Team when issues overlap with the wider institution, and sets out monitoring, review and learning processes following communications responses. Overall, the framework strengthens the Students' Union's ability to manage reputational risk, coordinate communications during sensitive situations and protect the organisation's credibility with students and stakeholders.

Qmotion

Qmotion and Advice and Counselling have partnered up to support the wellbeing and development of parts of the student community. The Black female therapy group encourages young black women with mental health challenges to improve health and wellbeing through physical exercise and talking therapies. This has been done through the WHEN Group (Women Higher Education Network), through classes and one to one sessions that develop confidence and fitness ability.

Qmotion are also supporting the Phoenix college by placing an intern for work experience during semester 2. The team are about to launch a new service for it's members with the launch of 3 new gym courses aimed at educating and coaching members of all levels. These will be the Gym foundation, learn to lift and group strength.

QMSU Perks App

The QMSU Perks App has launched, a new digital platform designed to enhance the student experience across Students' Union venues and services. The app enables students to access rewards and exclusive offers, earn loyalty stamps and order ahead of time in our venues. The app will also be used to reward student engagement in activities within QMSU. Since its launch in December, over 1,000 users have registered on the app with over 2,700 loyalty transactions processed.

Diya Mary Selastin
QMSU President
4th March 2026

President's University Council Report

Key Updates

Awards

Our Awards season began towards the end of Semester 2, where we celebrated and recognised student leaders and groups that volunteer their time to positively impact the student experience.

The Societies and Student Media Awards took place on March 27th in the Old Library, attended by 140 student group leaders, the event featured performances from Mile End Music Society, Salsa Society, and QMBL Kpop Society. We received 377 Student Group Award nominations, the largest amount in recent years.

A few days before this, we hosted a successful Volunteering Awards, with over 40 attendees. The 10 awards categories recognised the efforts of individual volunteers, student volunteering groups and our community partners. The winners were shortlisted by Volunteering Champions, selecting the shortlist and winners from 82 nominations.

The awards ceremony included inspirational speeches from our partners Solidarity Sports and London Nightline, as well as from two of our student Volunteering Champions. Feedback from attendees was highly positive, with attendees saying, *'It was a really nice evening, well-paced to keep us engaged'*, *'The cards and small details were so lovely!'* and *'Great food and location, amazing presenters, can't wait for next year!'*

Our Sports Awards took place on the 1st of April, a sold-out evening with over 160 attendees celebrating the achievements of clubs and individuals across the year. The event generated positive feedback, particularly around the atmosphere and energy on the night, and served as an important moment of recognition for the student volunteers and athletes who make club sport possible.

On 17th April, we hosted the Education Awards at Drapers' Hall. The event recognised Student Representatives who made a demonstrable impact as Course Reps or PGR Subject Reps, including through championing student priorities and raising issues affecting their cohorts. It also celebrated academics who have provided strong leadership, support, and high-quality teaching.

The awards received over 250 nominations: 100 for Course Rep Awards and 157 for Teaching Awards. Our Executive Officers and student staff completed shortlisting and selection, identifying winners across academic departments and professional services.

Guests attended afternoon tea, followed by the awards presentation in the Livery Hall. Speeches were delivered by Samarth Lakhanpal, Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences, Tushar Goyal, Vice President Science & Engineering and Deborah Rafalin, QMUL Deputy VP Education. Award recipients also provided inspiring quotes and tributes during the presentation.

See all winners here: [Students' Union Awards](#)

Spring Elections

The Students' Union Elections took place in February and March. Students could nominate themselves for 6 full-time Executive Officer positions, 10 part-time Student Representative positions and 4 Student Trustee positions. Almost 200 students expressed an interest in running for the role by submitting a nominations form, and 89 students completed the full nominations process to become candidates in the elections.

Voting took place from 23rd March until 26th March, and 7,526 students cast more than 54,000 votes. This is the highest number of voters that we have ever had, and analysis of the voter demographics shows that voters represent a broad cross-section of the student population. During the voting period, we ran a full communications campaign to raise awareness, which included posters, leaflets, banners and extensive digital

promotion. We also held two promotional events; Vote Fest, which took place in Library Square at Mile End, and a promotional stall at the Garrod Building at Whitechapel.

Results were announced at the Results Party in the Lounge on 26th March at 7.30pm. The event was well-attended, and candidates brought groups of friends and supporters to cheer for the winners and support the unsuccessful candidates.

Unfortunately, we were unable to announce the results of one of the part-time positions and five of the full-time positions due to unresolved complaints. The complaints have now been resolved, and the result for the remaining part-time position has been announced, with the results for the five remaining full-time positions to be announced once the appeal window for the seven sanctioned candidates has ended.

Following last year's election, we have implemented a set of measures to improve candidate behaviour and streamline the complaints process. The streamlined complaints process has enabled us to resolve complaints quicker and save time on record keeping and information gathering, however it has required significant staff time to investigate all complaints. We are undertaking an evaluation of the elections rules and processes to identify ways for us to minimise problematic candidate behaviour, reduce unnecessary complaints and ensure that we can continue to run the elections in a free and fair way.

Volunteering

Feedback collection about student awareness and experiences of volunteering is ending, with over 250 survey responses received so far and over 20 engaged student volunteers interviewed to give more detailed feedback. We will soon begin analysing the findings and producing a report including recommendations for improvement. We are also beginning to contact our external community partners to arrange meetings to collect their feedback which will also inform the report and recommendations for the future of QMSU Volunteering.

Over 50 students were recruited to form QMSU's volunteer team at the London Marathon on April 26th, having been selected from an incredible 126 applicants! In addition to this, our QMSU marathon runner, Crespina Houkayem, raised £700 for the British Heart Foundation.

We have recently onboarded two new partner organisations, offering environmental and technology related opportunities which will enhance students' skills. We have also been promoting the volunteering service by hosting stalls on campus, as well as having some of our community partners on campus to promote their opportunities.

Our Volunteering team are working closely with our Sport team to offer enriching sport related volunteering opportunities to students, and to integrate the Sports Employability Academy's opportunities with the main volunteering offer more effectively. We aim to streamline processes for students to make it easier for them to access opportunities and log their hours, as well as ensuring our sport partner organisations provide high quality opportunities.

We are also working with the University sustainability team to support preparations for the Reuse Fair in September, by informing students of the collection points and recruiting volunteers to assist with delivery.

Cultural Events

Our Events team has delivered a programme of over 10 student and staff-led cultural events, including Iftar gatherings during Ramadan and society-led celebrations such as Novruz and Iranian New Year. These events created spaces where students could connect with their own cultures and communities and share them with others across campus. Attendance has been consistently strong, with repeat bookings, indicating growing demand for culturally focused activity.

To enhance delivery, the team expanded the food and beverage offer to include tailored, culturally relevant menus, alongside adaptable venue styling. This has improved the feel of events and received positive

feedback from both organisers and attendees. A monthly free Language Exchange has also been introduced, creating a regular, accessible opportunity for students to practise languages and build international connections. Early sessions have started to attract a core group of repeat attendees.

Student Opportunities

Societies

We launched the 2026/27 society committee elections with over 850 roles up for nominations. By the close, we had 695 positions with at least one nomination and 1,262 nominations in total. This led to a huge total of 10,502 votes by 1,751 people in total. It is great to see so much engagement and interest for our student group committees.

The final board meeting of the year had a great level of engagement from our Societies Champions in attendance; they provided key feedback on society election dates, funding guidelines and initiatives to help new societies get started. This was the final opportunity for societies to get funding this year, we had over £13,000 allocated to 27 societies. In total this year we have allocated £60,490 in development grants and startup funding to societies.

In March students bought 453 society memberships, with QM Machine Learning being the most popular with 60 memberships sold, so far this year students have bought 14,927 Society memberships in total.

Some amazing events took place in March - Economics Society hosted their Economics Ball at the Octagon and BL Drama put on their production of Little Shop of Horrors over three nights in Laird Hall. Economics Society gave the following feedback *"The ball went absolutely amazing ... We filled the room and everything went smoothly; we had tons of dancing and networking."* *"This event would not be possible without you, and this event is something the econ society has thrown for the first time, and we have ever done for the first time, so your support was very meaningful, thank you so much."*

Sport

The competitive sport season has now ended, with students participating across two leagues - the national British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) competition and the London University Sport League (LUSL). In total, 100 teams competed across both leagues, with five teams finishing as league champions in BUCS - a strong result that reflects the quality and commitment of our student athletes this year.

A highlight of the spring term was the Merger Cup, our annual week-long inter-club competition where sports clubs go head-to-head in a festival atmosphere. This year over 30 clubs took part, with the event doubling as a charity fundraiser for CoppaFeel!, a breast cancer awareness charity. Students raised £689 across the week, and feedback pointed to the event's broader value beyond sport - with students describing it as something that *"brings the whole university together,"* even for those not involved in club sport day-to-day.

Committee elections are well underway across clubs, with over 88% already in the process of transitioning leadership to next year's committees.

Our teams that support sport and other student groups have been working collaboratively to develop a new Classification Framework, which introduces a clearer structure for student group affiliation as to ensure groups are supported in the most effective way based on the majority of their activities. Classification factors include recognition by Sport England and the level of competitive activity the group does.

Alongside this, we are redesigning the Club Sport Development Plan - the annual planning process that helps clubs set goals across areas like participation, coaching, finance, and equality and inclusion. The updated

approach will require both outgoing and incoming committees to complete the plan together, ensuring knowledge is properly passed on and new committees start the year with a clear direction.

Finally, we are restructuring how we support students gaining sports-related qualifications and volunteering recognition. The current programme is being transitioned into a funding and validation model integrated with the university's central volunteering platform, making it easier for students to access support and for their contributions to be formally recognised.

EECS & Academic Societies

Following the opening of the new ITL Building, Tushar has been working with the School of EECS to build stronger links between the school and our societies, helping students make the most of the new space. The next step is to formalise these connections and expand this collaboration across other schools within the faculty. It's been positive to see how many academic groups have received support from their departments this year. The overall goal is to create a more joined-up experience where academic life and student communities support each other, giving Science and Engineering students a stronger sense of belonging. This work also directly reflects the university's Strategy 2030, which places student experience and cross-institutional collaboration at its core.

Sustainability

Climate Action Week 2026 was a success and engaged more than 450 students and staff across our campus. We had some incredible support and participation from our student groups, who showcased the importance of climate action and demonstrating the power of student leadership in creating a change that is both meaningful and truly sustainable. The week was packed with a wide range of mindful events, from discussions bridging the gap between Net Zero policy and science to Innovating Ecocide and creative workshops.

Here is what our student groups contributed:

- The Biological Sciences Society hosted a fantastic hands-on workshop where participants crafted their very own coral reefs from cardboard and recycled waste whilst learning about marine conservation.
- The London Transport Society hosted their annual Parkland Walk trip, sparking interesting debates on the use of sustainable transport and debating the existence of the Parkland Walk.
- Pro Bono Society ran two outstanding events, one of which included a powerful panel on ecocide, inviting esteemed speakers to explore the relevance of legal frameworks in driving global climate justice, and a restorative yoga session to relieve climate-related stress.
- The Chemical Engineering Society also hosted an interesting panel connecting science and net zero policy through discussions on renewable energy and the UK's commitment to achieving net zero.
- Sylheti Society hosted an insightful event focusing on raising awareness about waste management issues in Sylhet, using discarded cardboard and plastic materials to showcase how waste can be repurposed in a more responsible manner.

The "[Celebrating our Student Groups during Climate Action Week 2026](#)" article on our website was also picked up and shared by Wonkhe!

Student Media

Over March, The Print delivered coverage of the main student union elections, where they invited all candidates for executive and representative roles to be interviewed to help students understand their priorities and proposals. They scheduled and shared 18 articles in total over the 4-day voting period, giving students a deeper dive into the items on candidate manifestos as well as a better understanding of what their approach would be, if elected into each respective role. The speed at which the group reached out

to candidates, planned interviews and organised to have them shared was extremely impressive and added some great coverage to the elections.

RAG

Over £70,000 has been raised for charity this academic year across 130 RAG activities. Recent highlights include Sudanese Society raising an impressive £12,984 for Islamic Relief during their charity hike, and CoppaFeel! being selected as the chosen charity for the Merger Cup, after a proposal put forward by our volunteering group Uni Boob Team. The group ran multiple fundraiser events during Merger Cup fixtures, including a bake sale and face painting with Men's Football Club also selling sports kit during the campaign.

Employability

This March, the employability team hosted five skills sessions, covering a range of different topics from communication and teamwork skills to insights into sustainable careers and Cultural Confidence. Students left feeling empowered and more confident in themselves and their future employability journey. Students found the reflection sessions particularly useful to university students and fed back, *"Amazing, really engaging, informative, relevant to job market and our age and the current climate of the job market"*

So far this year 93 students have engaged with the skills award by attending at least one session, and 43 students have already achieved a gold, silver, or bronze award.

Annual General Meetings

Following the elections period, demand for AGM bookings has increased as student groups formalise committee transitions and conclude annual activity. Our Events team supported eight societies, hosting over 350 attendees across these events.

In response, structured AGM packages were introduced, bringing room hire, catering, tech support and staffing into one offer. This has reduced admin time for students and made the booking process more straightforward, enabling them to focus on delivering and participating in the event itself. Early uptake shows that these packages meet a clear need, with several groups choosing to enhance their events through add-ons such as beverage tokens and photo wall setups, increasing both engagement and overall event value.

Qmotion

To support Study Well we are offering free access to all our off-peak classes for the first time - first come first serve. We are also collaborating with the team in the SU Hub to run Yoga and Pilates classes in the Blomeley Room, aiming to help students destress around exam time. We also have some exciting offers and discounts at Qmotion for the Study well period this year, to help get students in the gym.

We have renewed our support for the Women in Higher Education Network, helping organise some Yoga sessions for their members to come along to in our facility.

We are excited to launch our semester three group exercise timetable, with some new additions to our programme: Q45, which is a high paced circuits class designed to work your whole body and really push students for a good workout, and our new and improved Core & Lower Build, designed to work the lower body and core to give a strong base to help achieve workout goals. Our new courses have also launched and have been an early success, and we will also be re-launching the "Gym Foundations" as a group exercise class, now completely free of charge to help members start their gym journey or simply build more knowledge in the gym.

Student Voice

BLSA Board, Malta and MBBS/BDS Course Rep Elections

BLSA elections are underway across April and May. Nominations opened on 21st April and remain open until 5th May. Voting will run from 11th to 14th May. This year's timetable was adjusted to align with the range of academic calendars across FMD and to conclude ahead of examinations commencing on 18th May.

Alongside elections for BLSA leadership roles (including VP Barts and VP London) and other BLSA Board positions, students on the Malta campus are also electing their local leaders and representatives. Nominations are additionally open for Course Representatives for MBBS (London and Malta), BDS, and BSc Oral Health, in preparation for the next academic year

Cultural Unity Week

One of Hassam Naeem, Vice President Liberation, International & Postgraduate priority projects, Cultural Unity Week saw participation from over 50 nationalities, compared to 40+ last year, reflecting growing and increasingly diverse student engagement and marking a meaningful and celebratory end to this year's Liberation calendar. The campaign included three key events: an Unconscious Bias Training session focused on cultural awareness, a Cultural Night, and a Murder Mystery Game Night.

The Cultural Night, which opened the week, was held at Drapers and saw exceptionally high demand, with hundreds of students attending. The event maintained a highly inclusive and interactive environment. A large world map installation allowed attendees to mark where they were from, visually showcasing the diversity in the room. There were also activity stations including bracelet-making, badge-making, and calligraphy, alongside a fashion show celebrating cultural attire and a range of culturally inclusive food from different cuisines across the world.

Asian Heritage Month

This took place across our campuses and included movie nights in collaboration with other campaigns such as Women's Week. As AHM coincided with Ramdan this year, we hosted Inter-Society's Iftar and a Women's Only Eid event. These were large scale, student led events. Our community organiser produced articles on topics such as mental health and the cultural significance of tea. Furthermore, students helped organise a cricket series to conclude the month's events.

Association Events and Conferences

Maria Rubbani, Vice President Barts and The London, continues to progress a programme of flagship activity for the BLSA community of staff and students. Working with the VP London, VP Barts and the wider BLSA Board, planning is underway for key milestone events including the Association Dinner and Awards, Doctors Day, and the forthcoming Rites of Passage celebration.

In parallel, and in coordination with the BLSA Board Treasurer, our Finance team and relevant academic departments, attendance has been secured for the European Medical Student Association (EMSA) conference and the International Association of Dental Students (IADS) conference. Student leaders attending will be able to contribute to discussions on the future of clinical education and strengthen networks with peer student bodies across Europe and globally.

Study Well

Our Study Well campaign is back for the Summer. New articles will be released on Sleep and AI, and we have been running events and activities, such as stalls giving out wellbeing packs and cold drinks, crafting

events and a free chance to try yoga or pilates. Our events team have been hosting Postgrad Quiet Clubs which is a fantastic new initiative to connect to our Postgrad Students, getting them involved in Study Well.

We have had great input from the University, with teams such as Student Life doing free meal giveaways, the Advice and Counselling Service running Pomodoro sessions and Residential Life running Paint and Sips in collaboration with our team.

RGSU Conference

Hassam joined this year's RGSU Summer Residential in Newcastle which discussed the UK government's recent visa ban affecting students from Afghanistan, Cameroon, Myanmar, and Sudan, which has now been extended to include Nicaragua and St Lucia. The officers discussed how to mitigate its harmful impact on our international student community, and collective action and advocacy through RGSU to challenge the implications of the visa ban on students from these six countries.

Anti-Apartheid Week

For the second year running, we hosted Anti-Apartheid week, which is the final policy mandated liberation campaign on our calendar. Talks were organised by Hassam and our Community Organiser, and refreshments sourced from areas experiencing apartheid. Societies hosted cooking workshops and movie screenings. Eshwinder, Samarth and Diya, alongside Friends of Palestine society organised a dabke (traditional Palestinian folkdance) workshop with DabkeRoots to culminate the week.

Diya Mary Selastin
QMSU President
6th May 2026

9. Sub-groups of the Student Representative Committee

9.1 The Student Representative Committee has the authority to establish and disestablish sub-groups of the Student Representative Committee.

9.2 Sub-groups of the Student Representative Committee exist to enable effective student voice and student-led campaigning on matters that fall within the Students' Union's charitable aims and articles of association.

9.2 Any member of the Students' Union can propose a new sub-group to be established. Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the process and deadlines outlined on the Students' Union website.

9.3 Applications for new sub-groups may only be approved if all of the following criteria are met:

- i) There is alignment between the proposed sub-group and the Students' Union's charitable aims and articles of association, and does not pose any legal, financial or reputational risk for the Students' Union
- ii) The proposed sub-group has clearly defined aims and objectives relating to student voice and student-led campaigning (groups that fall outside of these categories may be referred to the application process for Student Groups, as defined in bye-law 10)
- iii) The proposed sub-group has a suitable Chair, who must be a member of the Students' Union
- iv) The proposed sub-group does not have significant overlap with existing sub-groups
- v) A member of the Student Representative Committee is willing and has capacity to act as a link between the Student Representative Committee and the proposed sub-group for the purpose of oversight and coordination
- vi) The proposed sub-group does not contradict any existing Students' Union policies set by the ASM

9.4 When new sub-groups are established, it must be specified how the members will be selected. Membership may be by appointment or election, or open for all members to join. If members join a group through appointment or election, the Students' Union will oversee the process to ensure it is free, fair and transparent.

9.5 Sub-groups must act in accordance with their stated purpose and objectives at all times.

9.6 Sub-groups must report back to the Student Representative Committee at least once per academic term. Reports may be verbal updates from the Student Representative Committee member that is acting as the link between the Student Representative Committee and the sub-group, but other reporting formats may be used as relevant.

9.7 If a sub-group requires funding to achieve their stated purpose and objectives, the Chair of the group may submit a funding application to the Student Representative Committee. Applications must be submitted in accordance with the process and deadlines outlined on the Students' Union website.

9.8 The Student Representative Committee will disestablish a sub-group if one or more of the following criteria is met:

- i) the sub-group has achieved it's stated purpose and objectives

- ii) the sub-group is unable to identify a suitable Chair
- iii) the sub-group has been inactive for one full academic term or has failed to provide a termly update on their work to the Student Representative Committee
- iv) the sub-group has broken the Students' Union's rules or the processes for sub-groups
- v) the sub-group's purpose and objectives are in contradiction with policy set by the ASM
- vi) the sub-group has requested to be disestablished

Establishing the Accessibility Subgroup

QMSU Student Representative Committee

Purpose:

This proposal recommends the establishment of an Accessibility Forum to serve as a subgroup within the QMSU Student Representative Committee. The subgroup will provide a structured forum to identify, discuss, and recommend actions to address accessibility-related issues affecting students across academic provision, Students' Union activity, and the wider university environment.

Aims and Objectives:

- Engage with relevant stakeholder groups, including:
 1. Relevant Students' Union societies
 2. DSpLD representatives (e.g. BLSA DSpLD Rep.)
 - Course representatives who have received feedback on or lived experience of accessibility issues.
 - Wider student stakeholders who are affected by accessibility issues.
 - By invitation: Professional services and academic departments (e.g. Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS), Academic Skills, TELT)
- Gather and identify barriers to accessibility and student experiences relating to:
 3. DDS support,
 4. Accessibility of course-level provision including teaching materials and academic resources,
 5. Students' Union services, events, and activities,
 6. Campus-wide facilities and provision.
- Develop and recommend actions to relevant Student Representatives, departments, and Students' Union teams to improve accessibility outcomes.

Chairing, Membership and Selection of members:

Chairing;

Gia Arora, proposer of the subgroup would chair the subgroup for its first year; an Executive Officer or SRC member must serve as sponsor or the purpose of accountability, and action setting.

Membership;

Alongside members of those listed in the 'Aims and Objectives' section, it was suggested that the Welfare Rep, would be appropriate to attend.

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Other membership would include Executive Officers with projects relating to accessibility.

Selection of members;

Membership should be open to all students with a relevant interest, however it was recommended that all interested students should be asked to submit a short statement, to be reviewed by the Chair, with support from QMSU staff if needed. The aim would be to help manage engagement and ensure that the meetings can be run effectively.

Those listed under the 'Aims and Objectives' should actively be encouraged to send at least one member.

Any student interested can attend to raise issues; however, the development and recommendation of actions may need to be restricted to members from time to time.

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