

Student Representative Committee (Meeting 2)

Tuesday 2 December 2025 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 Lakhpal
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	Viktoria 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

Mara Bortnowschi had been appointed as the Students' Union Chair for 2025-26. The appointment was made from a field of over 60 applicants, of which 20 were identified for shortlisting, and five selected for interview. The Appointments Committee included Hassam Naeem (VP LIP) and Dominique Gracia (External Trustee) who served as Chair. Under the Union's Bye-Laws, the appointment was then ratified by the SRC.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Postgraduate Representative - Prithvirajsingh Bayas, and Hassam Naeem (who was on leave but joined online).

2. Terms of Reference

The Committee agreed its Terms of Reference.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

This was the first proper meeting of the Committee. There were no minutes of the initial meeting chaired by Diya (as the QMSU President) as this was more by way of an introduction to the members and the roles and responsibilities of the Committee.

However, motions of Commendation were passed in favour of the following Committee members in recognition of their work to date:

- Tushar Goyal
- Samarth Lakhanpal
- Diya Mary Selastin
- Maria Rubbani

It was noted that the commendations needed to be corrected to include Hassam Naeem and Eshwinder Singh.

The Executive Officer's recommendations concerning renewal of policies at the last meeting were also agreed in full.

5. 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). The Secretary and the VP Barts and The London would follow-up on this outside of the meeting.

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.

Topics covered included:

Eshwinder Singh - VP LIP reported on lobbying for additional prayer spaces, work on scholarships with Hassam Naeem, a late-fees benchmarking report (with Finance), accessibility fixes (e.g., Garrod Building lift; follow-up meeting set), visa-process smoothing for international students, streamlining society engagement, and launching the RGSU gender-based violence survey (all genders). Representatives were asked to help promote the survey.

Samarth Lakhpal- VPHSS reported on Career Catalyst events (large attendance), plans to unify career communications (newsletter concept), student elective choice research, and potential pre-enrolment careers support (Aug/Sep) with the university.

Diya Mary Selastin - QMSU President highlighted adoption of a new investment policy by QMUL (no investments in arms/fossil fuels; commitment to publish direct & indirect investments), set-up of a temporary women-only space (the Yurt) for two hours daily in term-time, coordination around 16 Days of Activism (White Ribbon Day), planning for Women's Week and Women's Sport Month (March), pushing active bystander training and addressing charging sockets gaps; asked reps to pinpoint buildings lacking sockets.

Tushar Goyal - VP S&E reported on work progressing on AI assessment policy (use in teaching, feedback), linking societies with their schools, social-belonging initiatives across S&E, promotion of AskQM feedback survey, and graduate attributes focus groups (meeting scheduled to discuss findings).

Maria Rubbani - VP Barts and The London reported on supporting alumni events, clinical timetables, pharmacy curriculum, welfare gaps, non-sport societies accessing sport spaces, local business collaboration, discrimination survey follow-on from GBV work. Issues raised about TV screen boards stuck on earlier campaigns (e.g., Black History Month); action to raise with Comms.

Hassam Naeem - VP Liberation/International/Postgrad reported on UKRI London stipend proposal (media coverage noted), tailored career support for international students, completion of Black History Month and Islamic Heritage Month, current Disability History Month, Palestinian scholarships lobbying with senior leadership (requested additional student-rep pressure as progress remains difficult).

7. Reports from and Questions to the Student Representatives

The Student Representatives were to give a brief verbal report highlighting any particular matters of interest, or concern.

Topics covered included:

Cultural Unity Week/Ball: Planning underway (March, subject to funding);

Surveys to understand commuter students' preferences: (mid-day events highest demand); a bimonthly feedback concept discussed with caution re survey fatigue. Reps

asked to share time-demand data next week; coordination with Careers & Enterprise suggested.

Lecture recording, facilities & space: Mapping rooms lacking reliable recording, asking students to report via IT helpdesk; pushing for library 24/7 hours; need for microwaves; quiet/rest spaces for gaps between classes. The Executive Officers asked for room names/numbers to escalate in monthly IT catch-ups.

Law events & accommodation survey: Recent law-faculty event successes; ongoing accommodation survey aiming for higher response count.

Ethical & Sustainable Investment Forum: pre-meet requested by Diya; planned student feedback survey on investment priorities and exclusions.

Women's Week & volunteers: Coordinating Women's Week (late Feb/early Mar); proposal to recruit volunteers. Reps were asked to promote and coordinate cohorts (including postgraduates).

International/refugee support: Suggestion for workshops/guidance (banking, accommodation, healthcare registration) for new arrivals and refugees.

Goes Continental campaign displays: TV boards stuck; agreed to escalate to Jack (SU Comms) and university comms; Hassam Naeem asked that Maria/team pick this up during his leave.

Staff signposting & vendor contacts: Reps requested a staff contact/signposting list (e.g., Comms and Marketing for vendor approaches); Brad Coales to share.

Funding clarity & training: Queries around Rep funding pots and liberation fund process and timing. Access to active bystander training for Reps - staff support link to be circulated.

8. All Students Meeting/Annual General Meeting

The first All Student Meeting (ASM) of 2025-26 was held on Monday 17 November 2025 (18:00). The meeting was held online via Teams. The Outcomes paper was attached for reference and would be published on the Students' Union's website.

Dates of the other planned ASMs are as follows:

- Monday 2 February 2026 (18:00)
- Monday 30 March 2026 (18:00)

9. Bye-Law Changes

A proposal to change the titles of the five Vice President roles to that of President had been submitted by Tushar Goyal and was considered as a Bye-Law amendment.

This had not been submitted in the form required for a Bye-Law amendment so, although it was accepted for debate, it was explained how any future amendments needed to be submitted. If passed, it would then require approval (as with all Bye-Law amendments) by the Board of Trustees (at their February 2026 meeting) before it could be enacted.

There was extensive and passionate debate upon the matter, including whether students had been consulted and supported the change, the evidence for this, and the actual benefit of the change to students.

The arguments put forward in favour of the motion included Improved student identification of the right representative to contact, parity with certain SU structures elsewhere (e.g. Oxford), and that that it reflected Executive Officers' decision-making scope in their domains.

The arguments put forward against the motion included the risk of external/internal confusion (the QMSU President has a distinct statutory role - QMUL Council seat, BOT chair, CEO line manager), potential misinterpretation by University of QMSU hierarchy, and the need for better communications with students and not title changes.

The amendment was **Passed** with nine members voting in favour (including online and chat).

The amendment would go to the Board of Trustees February meeting (with grammar/formatting corrections before submission) for consideration.

It was noted that there could also be issues concerning the wording of the University's Charter/Ordinances which attribute particular meanings to the role of 'President' in respect of the Students' Union. Therefore, there could also be QMUL Council and governance implications which would need to be taken into account.

10. QMSU Appointments Committee

The Students' Union currently had three vacancies for External Trustees. The process for recruiting new External Trustees requires an Appointments Committee with one member to be drawn from the SRC. Members were invited to nominate themselves for the role. A copy of the Terms of Reference for the Appointments Committee was included at the end of the meeting papers. The Member would be required to participate in the shortlisting of candidates (electronically) and then attend a full day of interviews. It is anticipated that the recruitment process will take place in January 2026. This would occur during the exam period, and this was something to consider for anyone considering putting themselves forward.

Chaudhry Abdul Moiz Ali was nominated as the SRC representative of the Appointments Committee.

11. Policy Renewal

The following policies were due for review and may be lapsed or renewed, but in the absence of the required recommendations from the Executive Officers it was agreed that they should be held over until the next meeting. These policies would therefore continue to be in force until then.

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

12. AOB

Student Representative Committee Meetings for 2025-26

- Tuesday 13 January 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 3 February 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 3 March 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 7 April 2026 (18:00)

- Tuesday 5 May 2026 (18:00)
- Tuesday 2 June 2026 (18:00)

