

Student Council

Tuesday 1 February 2022 6.00pm via Zoom

Agenda and Papers

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Chair's Introduction

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*appended at end*)

Council are asked to approve the minutes of the last meeting of Student Council held on 26 October 2021.

4. Minutes from Sub-Committees

Council are asked to note the minutes of the following Sub-Committees (*links where available - use QMUL or QMSU login as appropriate to view*):

1. Student Council
2. BLSA Board: *11 October 2021* and *6 November 2021* (*appended at end*)
3. Club Sport
4. Communities Board [1 November 2021](#) and [7 December 2021](#)
5. Education Board: [8 December 2021](#)
6. HSS Faculty Board: [16 November 2021](#)
7. Postgraduate Board
8. S&E Faculty Board
9. Scrutiny Panel
10. Societies Board
11. Student Media Board
12. Student Media Finance and Affiliations Panel
13. Sustainability Board [3 November 2021](#)
14. Volunteering Board: [16 September 2021](#) and [21 October 2021](#)
15. Welfare Board: [18 November 2021](#)

5. Report from the Scrutiny Panel and Executive Officer Updates (*appended at end*)

Scrutiny Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met on Monday 24 January 2022. The agenda and reports submitted to the Panel are appended at the end. Apologies were received from Muneer Hussain (VP Welfare). The other Executive Officers attended and each gave a verbal report and took questions from the Panel.

The Panel made two recommendations of Commendation which will be put to Council at the this meeting.

The Panel were disappointed at the number of Council members who had not submitted reports, some of whom had also failed to attend the last Student Council. However, due to the disruption caused by Covid and the recent exam period, the Panel agreed to made no recommendations of Censure or No-confidence at this time. However, the Panel endorsed a statement by the Chair, that Council members

who fail to attend this meeting of Council without submitting apologies, or who fail to submit a report for the next Scrutiny Panel without good reason, may face sanctions at the next Panel meeting. Any Council member who is experiencing difficulties in doing so should contact the Chair, the Secretary, or their staff support member.

6. Bye-Law Changes

None submitted at time of publication.

7. Motions

The following motion has been transferred from the AMM to this agenda as it was not debated when the meeting became inquorate - we are awaiting confirmation from the proposer as to whether this will be formally brought to this meeting of Student Council for debate:

Should QMSU commit to renaming QMUL's buildings with colonial legacies in the following specified ways?

Proposer: Symran Annika Saggar

Seconder: Annette Tshisekedi

What do you want?

For QMSU to work with Decolonise QMUL to:

a. Rename the Drapers Bar and Kitchen, and Drapers Lounge by:

- i. Committing to renaming the bar with the guidance of Decolonise QMUL, subject to their working document and working campaign on this issue.
- ii. Consulting the entire student body on what the new name of the Drapers' bar should be.

b. For QMSU to provide an educational campaign (using Decolonise QMUL's renaming document) about the history of the Drapers company and the need to rename Drapers Bar and Kitchen, and Drapers Lounge through:

- i. Working to install a plaque in or around the Drapers' Bar and Kitchen to mark the date that the building was renamed from "Drapers'", and directing people to where they can find more information on this (QMSU exhibitions in buildings, on the QMSU website, etc).
- ii. Working with Decolonise QMUL to permanently exhibit a detailed explanation of the history of the Drapers' Company and the student move to rename our bar in the one of the main QMSU buildings (the Students' Hub or the Nest), or on campus in a main student area (Library Square, Geography Square, etc).

iii. Exhibiting and detailing this history and Decolonise QMUL's renaming campaign on the QMSU website.

c. For QMSU's sabbatical officers to lobby the University's senior management on behalf of Decolonise QMUL, the students we represent and the rest of the student body to:

i. Rename the Annual Drapers' Lecture (alternative names can be selected from the multiple suggestions outlined by Decolonise QMUL in our working document - attached above).

ii. Change the University's Charter so as to abolish the need for any Drapers' 'appointees' to sit within the QMUL Council.

iii. Rename the Bancroft building.

iv. Actively and productively work to completely terminate its relationship with the Drapers' Company, which is a colonial company, as soon as possible.

Why do you want it?

Decolonise QMUL aims to pass this motion at the first meeting of All Members' Meeting of Student Council this academic year in order to rename the Drapers Bar and Kitchen, and Drapers Lounge which is currently operated by QMSU, as well as to get the Union to commit to providing education about the need to rename, and to commit to working to terminating QMUL's relationship with the Drapers' Company itself. This is on account of the Drapers' Company's colonial history and the legacy that it continues to uphold today.

We are therefore asking that QMSU wholly commit to renaming QMUL's buildings with colonial legacies so as to make our campus a more welcoming and safer place for the students that use it.

A concrete step in the right direction would therefore be to start with renaming the QMSU-owned Drapers' Bar, Kitchen and Lounge, and educating the student body, staff and the community about its history and the renaming campaign. In equal measure to the need to rename the Drapers' Bar, we also call for QMSU (not only this year's sabbatical officers, but future ones too) to lobby senior management to divest from the Drapers' Company on account of the racist legacy this investment continues to uphold within our institution and our spaces. This work should not be included as part of our university's '2030 strategy' due to its initiation from the student body, its urgency and importance as well as the strategy's failure to centre the need to learn about and divest from our institution's colonial past.

What impact will this have?

If QMSU wholly commit to renaming QMUL's buildings with colonial legacies in the above specified ways, and work with Decolonise QMUL to do this, the impact will be twofold:

First, the Drapers' Bar, Kitchen and Lounge will be renamed. This is particularly significant given the history of the Drapers' company, and this will allow students to engage with this history and actively be a part of the renaming process.

Second, and perhaps more significantly, this motion will facilitate Decolonise QMUL's call for a university-wide recognition of this history, alongside thorough education about it across our campuses and all schools. This will strengthen the Union's commitment to an anti-racist agenda, which is particularly crucial work we should be doing. This is because not enough students, staff

and members of our community are aware of the bloody history behind the Drapers' Company and associated individuals who have (and continue to hoard) a great deal of wealth and have power over our university. In the long term, we are calling for the transferal of this power into the hands of the community, the students and the staff. In the short term, this starts with education about the history of QMUL and, following this, a coherent and concise vision for its future. This is directly linked to the motion's proposal to urge the Union to terminate QMUL's relationship with the Drapers' Company too.

7a - QM Name Change Policy

Proposed by: Amelia Jones

Seconded by: Isidora (LGBT Rep QM), Zoe Binse (BL LGBT+ Soc President), Emily Woodroffe (BL Disability and SPLD Rep), Numa Ali (BLSA - VP Barts), Varvara Evgeniou (BLSA - VP London), Sarina Allan (Events Coordinator for BL LGBT+ Soc), Cecil Sheilds (BL LGBT+ Soc Member), Elicia Cherry (BL LGBT+ Soc Member)

What do you want?

Lobby the university to urgently change their name-change policy, to ensure that ALL students can change their names on university systems without providing ID.

Lobby the university to provide up-to-date and comprehensive guidance on this policy on their website, so students understand how to navigate this.

Ensure a similarly fair policy is instituted within QMSU itself (if not already).

What the policy should look like:

1. Students should be able to change their names on all university systems without providing ID. This includes registers, MySIS, MS Teams, email, etc.
2. This should be simple to do, for example by filling out a short form.
3. This should be available to all students, including medical and dental students.
4. The policy should be clearly advertised.
5. The policy should be offered to all students when contacting the relevant student office about this.
6. Training should be provided for staff so that they are aware of the policy and know how the process works.

Why do you want it?

Context:

- The current policy requires a form of proof of name change (e.g. deed poll, passport, drivers licence) to change a student's name on university systems.
- This means that if students unable to acquire, or in the process of acquiring, said documents, they are unable to change their names on university systems.
- The situation is worse for medical and dental students, who must provide a passport in order to change their name, and a simple deed poll will not be accepted. A passport can take months to order when changing your name, excluding external factors which may delay being able to apply for one.
- There is currently a workaround for non-medical and dental students, where a student's name can be changed temporarily without providing ID, however they have made this clear it is a short term stop-gap and has only been provided on the assumption that there is not much demand. Furthermore it does not help medical or dental students.
- See my name-change guidance document for more information on the current policy and workaround:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nhLf1i78veTuXTktrf43teKQV1Da69yA2v8NDWTZ9X0/edit>

Current problem:

- This has an extremely negative impact on trans students, who are currently being dead-named and misgendered at most teaching sessions. This has become even more apparent during COVID, when online learning is a larger part of people's course (and therefore usernames are more visible).
- This is a large scale problem, which affects many students.
- From students I have talked to who are affected by this, they have said the current policy means they feel unsafe in classes and it makes it difficult for them to engage in their education fully. Many have been reluctant to go to classes due to this issue.
- Additionally, the current system sends the message to trans students that the university does not value their safety, dignity, or rights. It is not possible to foster an inclusive environment at QM if the basic needs of its students are not met.

What impact will this have?

This simple change will allow students to go by their actual names during lessons, making the university a safer and kinder environment for these students. Students will be able to go to class without the fear of being dead-named, having to explain why their name is different on the system, worrying about what people are thinking, or that going to class will make them a target for transphobia.

Such a basic change of policy will have such a transformative impact on so many students' experiences at university.

7b - Keeping non-practical assessments online (as amended and accepted by original proposer)

Proposer: Aisha Qadi (SBBS rep)

Seconder: Felipe Medici

What do you want?

The possibility to continue keeping non practical assessments online.

Why do you want it?

- Students will not be able to adapt to the in person assessments so quickly. Since the pandemic, it has been a minimum of 2-3 years for most in which exams have been online. Going back in person can cause a huge mental stress and overwhelm on a student, included increased risks of panic attacks or fainting when sitting in a quiet exam hall surrounded by students. Should it go back to in-person, students must have constant mock trainings to be in that environment again.
- Beneficial to the university as this reduces the costs that would be needed to invest in exam venues. Invigilators would no longer be needed to take time off to invigilate an exam for hours, and there would be no constant timetabling issues for exam clashes.
- Students, especially internationals, will be able to take the exam back home and stay home with the family for holidays and occasions. Many are unable to go back home at times due to the exams being in the winter break or summer break. This means that a lot of students choose not to go home, as with the examinations as well as plenty of travel restrictions, it is not worth the travel due to lack of time. It would also be better for them that they stay with the family during examination times, as students would need the emotional support.

What impact will this have?

Better mental health and well-being for students, benefit to the university, more time for staff to focus on their teaching plans and not invigilating.

Whilst Student Council can debate the following motion and pass a resolution, due to its charitable status, the Students' Union cannot commit its resources to actively campaign on this issue. Further guidance is available on request.

7c - Opposition to Conflict in Ukraine

Proposed by: Samuel Elijah Gilbert

Seconded by: Freddie Mercer

What do you want?

QMSU to formally announce that as a student body we oppose any conflict in Ukraine, and that our government should push for a diplomatic and peaceful solution with Russia.

Why do you want it?

In the past few years the post Cold-War thaw of relations with Russia and the West has rescinded back into tensions. These tensions have flared to boiling point and both NATO, whom our government is part of, and Russia show no sign of backing down. In a world of nuclear weapons, we as a body of students and the voice of the future should make our position clear. No war in Ukraine under any circumstance.

What impact will this have?

With the scope and scale of a potential conflict, its implications would be devastating for everyone. I have spoken with many politically minded fellow students on campus and the consensus is clear, we want our anti-war and pro-peace message to be embodied in the Student Union and our University.

8. Policy Renewal

Policy Renewal

- 8.1 *Policy passed more than two academic years earlier shall be presented to Student Council with a recommendation from the Executive Committee to renew, embed or lapse.*
- 8.2 *Any policy that is renewed will be debated again after 2 years.*
- 8.3 *Any policy that is embedded will be considered permanent policy until Student Council brings it back for debate to retain or lapse.*
- 8.4 *Recommendations shall require the approval of a simple-majority of Student Council to be passed and should be done in 1 vote for all policies at the same time.*
 - 8.4.1 *Student Councillors should make clear to the Chair any individual recommendations they would like to be debated separately, the Chair shall bring these forward for debate before being voted on. The rest of the recommendations shall then be voted on in 1 vote.*
- 8.5 *A Union member may, at any time, bring policy that is considered to be out of date to the attention of Student Council to be debated.*
- 8.6 *Policies which exceed the 2-year limit for any reason shall be brought forward for debate at the next meeting of Student Council.*

The following policies are now due for review and may be lapsed, renewed or embedded:

Policy	Exec Recommendation
The Students' Union should continue its support for UCU's industrial action	Lapse
Election financial incentives	Embed
Should QMSU condemn the acts of vandalism that took place on the Mile End Campus last night?	Lapse
Should the Union play Quest Radio in all Outlets?	Embed
Should the Union label Vegetarian and Vegan Food in all of its Outlets?	Embed
Should the Union endeavour to take action to ensure that both they, and the university adequately represent and support students on co-taught problems between SBCS and SMD?	Lapse
Should the Students' Union reserve the Blomeley Rooms on Fridays from 12:30pm to 2pm for Friday prayer?	Embed
Should the Union lobby the University to abolish the £50 instalment fee for international students?	Renew
Impartial Pastoral Care	Renew
Changes in Queen Mary Campus - Library Bathrooms	Lapse
Community Campus Notice Boards	Renew
Should the Union prioritise policies?	Renew
Should the university abolish the £50 administration fee for Postgraduate Taught students who want to pay in instalments?	Renew
Further barriers to PG education	Lapse
Should the Union Diversify the Food Choice on Campus?	Embed
Changes in Queen Mary Campus – Computers in the Library	Lapse

Changes in Queen Mary Campus – Library in Mile End Opening Hours	Renew
QMUL to provide expenses to clinical year reps for SSLC	Lapse
Should the Barts and The London Students' Association President be in attendance on College Council in addition to Queen Mary Students' Union President?	Embed
Should the Union Lobby Barts and The London, School of Medicine and Dentistry to Improve its Raising Concerns Process?	Lapse
Sanction an ongoing initiative to improve security for students	Lapse
Should the Union send the agenda to all students?	Embed
Should the Union's Executive Committee Vet Student Group Affiliations and External Bookings?	Embed
Should the Students' Union lobby the University to install Bidets?	Renew

9. AOB

Student Council

Minutes

Tuesday 26 October 2021, 6.00 pm - Held via Zoom and livestreamed

Present

Mouna Ichidou, Chair of Student Council

Executive Committee:

Adi Sawalah	President
Muneer Hussain	VP Welfare
Bilge Kacmaz	Vice President Science and Engineering
Saynab Sharif	Vice President Humanities and Social Sciences
Radhika Thiagarajan	VP Communities
Robert Tucker	Vice President Barts and The London

Student Representatives and Part-time Officers

Amy	Dowse	Disabled and Specific Learning Difference Representative (ME)
Adya	Aggarwal	International Representative (S&E)
Amelia	Jones	LGBT+ Representative (BL)
Katrina	Fuller	LGBT+ Representative (ME) (joint ticket)
Isidora	Zagradanin	
Matthew	Beach	Postgraduate Research Representative (HSS) (joint ticket)
Vikki Barry	Brown	
Hussain	Ali Abid	Postgraduate Research Representative (S&E)
Sofie	Homb	Postgraduate Taught Representative (HSS)
Amit	Kotkar	Postgraduate Taught Representative (S&E)
Aisha	Qadi	School of Biological and Chemical Sciences Representative
Diya	Singh	School of Business and Management Representative
Darcey	Blackman	School of Engineering and Materials Science Representative (joint ticket)
Alina	Liebholz	School of Law Representative (joint ticket)
Hemanth	Paneer Selvam	School of Mathematical Sciences Representative
James	Tavner	School of Medical and Dental Sciences Clinical (Medicine) Representative
Rahma	Hegy	School of Medical and Dental Sciences Pre-Clinical (Medicine) Representative
Louis	Gouget	School of Politics and International Relations Rep
Bhavleen	Kaur	Societies Office (ME)
Karolina	Wieczorek	Societies Officer (BL)
Olivia	Dupere	Sports Officer (BL)
Numa	Ali	VP Barts

Varvara	Evgeniou	VP London
Anjali	Gananathan	Welfare Officer (HSS)

In attendance:

Brad Coales
Jonny Otter

Secretary and Governance Adviser
Education Coordinator

Apologies

Apologies were received from the following members:

- Shivani Ganesh - BAME Representative (BL)
- Beck Hoskins – Womens Representative (BL)
- Panayiotis Stavrinou - International Representative (BL)
- Karolina Wieczorek - BL Societies Officer
- Isidora Zagradanin - LGBT+ Representative (ME)

1.0 Chairs Welcome and Announcements

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the academic year.

2.0 Chair's Introduction

The Chair reminded Members that the meeting was being recorded and live-streamed.

3.0 Election of Deputy Chair

The Chair invited Members to nominate themselves for the position of Deputy Chair. Two Members put themselves forward:

Aisha Qadi - School of Biological and Chemical Sciences Representative
Diya Singh - School of Business and Management Representative

Each candidate was invited to speak for one minute on what they would bring to the role, if elected, and then Council members were asked to vote on their preferred candidate. Aisha Qadi was elected as Deputy Student Council Chair by a clear majority.

The Chair thanked both candidates, and welcomed Aisha to the role.

4.0 Approval of the Terms of Reference of Student Council and its Sub-committees

Members were asked to consider and approve the Student Council's Terms of Reference for the current academic year. The Terms of Reference can be amended by Council during the year as required. These were approved unanimously.

Members were asked to note the Terms of Reference of the Sub-committees of Students Council as follows:

- Club Sport
- Communities Board
- Education Board
- HSS Faculty Board

- Postgraduate Board
- S&E Faculty Board
- Scrutiny Panel
- Societies Board
- Student Media Board
- Student Media Finance and Affiliations Panel
- Volunteering Board
- Welfare Board

If members of the various Sub-Committees had any questions or comments, those could be raised at the relevant Sub-committee and any requested changes be brought back to Student Council to discuss/approve at the next Council meeting.

5.0 Nomination of members of Student Council to the Appointments Committee for the recruitment of additional External Trustees

The Students' Union's Appointments Committee is responsible for appointing new External Trustees. The Committee membership includes two members drawn from Student Council. Council members were invited to nominate themselves for these positions. Amelia Jones - LGBT+ Representative (BL) had already nominated herself, and Matthew Beach - Postgraduate Research Representative (HSS) nominated herself at the meeting. As there were no other candidates, Amelia and Matthew were confirmed as the Student Council members of the Appointments Committee without a vote.

6.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members (those who were present) were asked to approve the minutes of the Additional Meeting of Student Council held on 14 June 2021. The minutes were duly approved.

7.0 Minutes from Sub-Committees

Council were asked to note the minutes of the following Sub-committees:

- Communities Board - 30 September 2021
- Education Board - 5 October 2021
- Societies Board - 14 September 2021
- Sustainability Board - 7 October 2021
- Welfare Board - 21 October 2021

There were no questions and the minutes were duly noted.

8.0 Report from the Scrutiny Panel and Executive Officer Updates

The October meeting of the Scrutiny Panel was cancelled, as it had been agreed to recruit the student members from amongst Course Reps and Principal Officers from student groups to improve participation - the Course Rep elections were only concluded on 14 October, and therefore it was not possible to recruit members in time for the scheduled meeting.

The Scrutiny Panel also requires a pool of volunteers from Student Council, from which four members will be drawn for each meeting of the Panel - volunteers were asked to Contact the Chair or the Secretary after the meeting.

Council Members were instead asked to submit the brief reports which would have gone to the Scrutiny Panel in time for this Council meeting.

Executive Officer reports were replaced with the President's Report that was submitted to QMUL Council for its meeting on 7 October 2021.

The Chair reminded members and Executive Officers that in future they would all need to submit reports to the Scrutiny Panel. Reminders would be sent before each Panel meeting and failure to submit a report, without good reason, could result in a recommendation of censure.

The reports were all taken as read and Council members were invited to put questions to the Part-Time Officers, but no questions were asked.

The Executive Officers were invited to give brief verbal updates on anything they wished to draw to the attention of Student Council, or anything occurring since the report to QMUL Council.

Adi Sawalah - President highlighted the following points:

- Organising Exec attendance at University meetings
- Attended QMUL Council and met with QMUL Senior Executive Team (SET)
- Working on QMUL mental health strategy
- Spaces for students – survey on what students want post Covid
- Welcome Week - a huge success with 80+ events

Muneer Hussain - VP Welfare highlighted the following:

- Working with Welcome Crew
- Seeking funding for a social media tool that would help students to connect with each other
- Empowering society welfare reps, working with the societies team
- Working on issues with room bookings and portering charges for societies
- Promoting availability of private accommodation
- The Study Well campaign that would be starting soon
- Extenuating Circumstances, and the wording and timing of formal emails sent to students by the University

Radhika Thiagarajan - VP Communities highlighted the following:

- Working with London Nightline and QMUL Advice and Counselling to improve access to mental health support for students
- Careers events with alumni and students from different departments - first event fully booked in one hour which demonstrates demand
- Working with the International Reps, NUS and other students' unions on freezing international fees and creating international bursaries
- Seeking a University loan scheme to assist international students with costs associated with flight and visa delays

- Post-study Visas issue for international students caused by January re-sits - looking at the possibility of December re-sits
- Renaming of Drapers Bar and de-colonisation issues
- Black History Month
- Islamophobia Awareness Month business event 'Muslim Women in Law'
- The recent University appointment of a BAME counsellor and lobbying for recruitment of another
- Employability
- Improved security on campus

Robert Tucker - Vice President Barts and The London highlighted the following:

- Oversubscribed courses - working to secure student support for an extra 100 students
- Whitechapel Welcome Week
- Families - peer mentoring
- MBBS progressions
- On-line exams policy
- BATLA - hardship funds from alumni
- Supporting BL Course Reps
- Recruitment of Malta Part-Time Officers (five plus 2 Malta Co-Presidents)
- Connecting Practice - workplace support and problem solving
- Improving BLSA communications
- Student support

Saynab Sharif - Vice President Humanities and Social Sciences highlighted the following:

- Delivering manifesto commitments
- Black History Month discussions and debates
- Working with QM Academy on Inclusive Curriculum
 - Diversifying the Curriculum working group
 - Accessible Curriculum working group
- Assessment and Feedback working group

Bilge Kacmaz - Vice President Science and Engineering highlighted the following:

- Postgraduate Funding - International fees twice home fees, looking at funding options, scholarships, fee waivers etc. and more external scholarships
- More internships for Science and Engineering students
- Library Service improvements - how to use on-line services, including from over seas
- Visa issues

Adi added that the University wanted to speak with more students and was organising a World Café event with six groups (35 spaces available) and anyone interested should reach out to sign up.

Feedback was also being sought on Mixed-mode Education and IT - again contact Adi if interested in helping.

Questions to the Executive Officers

Mathew Beach asked what the Executive Officers planned to do to address the lack of postgraduate research representation within SMD and the Doctoral College, noting that there were no candidates for the position within the current by-election to fill the vacant position. Rob replied that he believed the re-open nominations period was open until the following day. Rob had been trying to attend meetings in the absence of a PGR Rep, and had been using contacts made with staff to try and get them to encourage candidates to come forward. Unfortunately, PGR representation had always been an issue at BL.

Adi added that the Executive Officers had been discussing how to improve postgraduate representation and would welcome any suggestions. Saynab commented that this was a very important issue, but one that was very hard to resolve; there were also difficulties filling a few other positions e.g. the Trans Representative, and wanted ideas how this might be addressed.

Mathew asked whether there was any provision to liaise with the relevant course Reps, and that in the meantime it would be helpful if either Rob or Adi could attend Doctoral College meetings. Adi replied that as he was not a BL student, it might be more appropriate if Rob attended. Adi would look at the possibilities regarding Course Reps and get back to Mathew, but that he believed it had been requested that the PGR Course Rep elections should be moved to January.

Motions and Amendments

8. Byelaw Changes

a). Amendment to Bye-Law 5: Barts and The London Students Association

Proposed by: Robert Tucker (VP Barts and The London)

Seconded by: Varvara Evgeniou (Vice-President London)

Rob spoke in favour of the amendment, explaining that, if passed, it would create a representative structure for students at the Malta Medical School and a BLSA (Malta) Board. The Malta Rep positions would sit only on the BLSA (Malta) Board and not Student Council or BLSA Board - except the two Co- President (Malta) positions (formerly the Gozo Representative and Gozo Society President Positions).

The Chair asked for questions to Rob, or speakers against the motion, but there none.

Aisha Qadi added her support to the amendment, and the Chair then put the amendment to a vote. As there were no votes against, the amendment was passed by a clear majority.

b). Amendments to Bye-Law 8: the Part-time Officers

Proposed by: Robert Tucker (VP Barts and The London)

Seconded by: Varvara Evgeniou (Vice-President London)

Rob spoke in favour of the amendment, explaining that, if passed, the amendment would change the title of the Gozo Representative to BLSA Malta Co-President (Education) the Gozo Society President to BLSA Malta Co-President (Activities).

Adi added that it would also and make the Co-President (Activities) a member of Student Council.

The Chair asked for questions to Rob, or speakers against the motion, but there none.

The Chair then put the amendment to a vote. As there were no votes against, the amendment was passed by a clear majority.

c). Amendment to Bye-Law 8: Part-Time Officers

Proposed by: Bilge Kacmaz (VP Science and Engineering)

Seconded by: Adi Sawalha (QMSU President)

Adi, as seconder, spoke in favour of the amendment, explaining that the amendment was a formality, recognising the name changes of Schools within the Faculty of Science and Engineering, and therefore changing the name of the related School Representatives to reflect these.

The Chair asked for questions to Adi, or and speakers against the motion, but there were none.

Aisha Qadi, as a student from one of the affected schools, Biological and Chemical Sciences, commented that the changes made within the Faculty made sense, as they reflected that subjects such as psychology were also taught within the School, and so she supported the amendment.

The Chair then put the amendment to a vote. As there were no votes against, the amendment was passed by a clear majority.

9. Motions

No motions were received by deadline for this meeting.

Members were reminded that the deadline for submission of motions is 10 working days before the date of the Student Council meeting at which they are to be considered. The Chair has the discretion to accept motions after the deadline (only) if they could not have been submitted earlier.

10. Policy Renewal

- 8.1 *Policy passed more than two academic years earlier shall be presented to Student Council with a recommendation from the Executive Committee to renew, embed or lapse.*
- 8.2 *Any policy that is renewed will be debated again after 2 years.*
- 8.3 *Any policy that is embedded will be considered permanent policy until Student Council brings it back for debate to retain or lapse.*
- 8.4 *Recommendations shall require the approval of a simple-majority of Student*

Council to be passed and should be done in 1 vote for all policies at the same time.

- 8.4.1 *Student Councillors should make clear to the Chair any individual recommendations they would like to be debated separately, the Chair shall bring these forward for debate before being voted on. The rest of the recommendations shall then be voted on in 1 vote.*
- 8.5 *A Union member may, at any time, bring policy that is considered to be out of date to the attention of Student Council to be debated.*
- 8.6 *Policies which exceed the 2-year limit for any reason shall be brought forward for debate at the next meeting of Student Council.*

The following policies were now due for review and could be lapsed, renewed or embedded:

These had been discussed by the Executive Officers, who had made recommendations for each as follows:

Policy	Recommendation
QMSU should support UCU during the Strikes	Lapse, superseded by a policy passed in February 2020
QMSU should lobby the University to implement a Housing Guarantor Scheme	Lapse, has now been achieved
QMSU should change references of BME to BAME	Embed
Technology of Q-Review requires updating	Renew, work still ongoing
QMSU should publicly acknowledge its own issues of institutional racism alongside lobbying for the University to do the same	Renew, work still ongoing
QMSU should lobby the university to mandate compulsory Consent and Bystander intervention workshops for first years	Renew, work still ongoing
QMSU should lobby the university to provide subtitling on Qreview videos	Renew, work still ongoing
QMSU should declare a climate emergency, and lobby the University to do the same	Renew, work still ongoing
Toilets should have specialist/new bins	Lapse, policy was paused by Board of Trustees for financial reasons
QMSU should pay student staff for compulsory training	Embed
QMSU should impose a ban on songs that stigmatise, glamorise or minimise mental illnesses	Embed

Amendment 1: Disabilities & SLD: Setting a Higher Standard	Lapse (this is an amendment, and the full amended policy has been embedded)
QMSU should lobby university management to protect grade results during the strike	Lapse
QMSU should amend Policy 7.6: The Union should provide the same perks and training for student council members for Non-Representative positions on the BLSA Board	Lapse (this is an amendment that has been made)
The Smaller Female Toilets in Drapers Be Converted Into Gender Neutral Facilities	Lapse, this has now been achieved
Should QMSU Lobby QMUL to install sanitary bins in all male toilets around campus for the Transgender Community?	Renew, work still ongoing
All Toilets in QMSU Buildings to have provisions for both purchasing individual sanitary products and disposal of sanitary products	Renew, work still ongoing
QMSU should lobby the university to improve the accessibility of affordable student housing	Renew, work still ongoing
QMSU should lobby the University to ensure no teaching from 1-2pm on Fridays	Lapse, this is a duplicate policy (we already have a similar policy in place)
QMSU should lobby the University to establish an Advanced Manufacturing Training Course for the Science and Engineering Students	Renew, work still ongoing
Oppose Prevent and support groups that campaign against it	Renew, work still ongoing
Provide training and perks to BL non-reps	Embed
Rites of Passage Should be Held in St Pauls Cathedral Again this year	Embed
QMSU should provide the perks student council members receive and specific trustee training for QMSU student trustees	Paused until the policy has been reviewed by BoT

The Chair asked whether there were any questions, or comments concerning any of the recommendations. Mathew Beach asked why the recommendation was to renew, rather than embed the policy on climate change. Radhika explained that it was thought that renewing the policy was a more active commitment to an active policy than embedding it. Adi clarified the options of lapse, renew, and embed, and that if the University declared a climate emergency, the policy would have been delivered. Mathew responded that there was possibly more to the policy than that.

The Chair decided that a vote should be taken as to whether the policy in question should be renewed, or embedded and a clear majority were in favour of renewal.

The remaining recommendations were then put to a vote as to whether to accept the Executive Officer's recommendations and this was agreed by a clear majority.

11. AOB

The date for the Annual Members Meeting had now been pushed back to Tuesday 23 November (the date originally reserved for Student Council which would be cancelled as any Council business could be dealt with at the AMM). This move was to allow for discussion of any UCU industrial action, as the previously set date was before the results of the UCU Ballots would be known.

Mathew Beach asked why it had been decided to hold the AMM in November, when it had been held in January the previous year. Adi explained that the Union had policy, passed during the Union's recent Democracy Review, that the AMM should ideally be held in the first semester. It had been pushed back to January because of the Covid situation.

Adi went on to explain that there was provision within the Union's Bye-Laws for a further AMM to be called, should the need arise.

Mathew asked when the deadline for motions would be announced, and Adi replied that an announcement would be made shortly.

There was no other business and so the Chair thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting



Agenda

BLSA Board Meeting

Date - 11/10/2021

Time – 18:00-20:00

Meeting Room - Study Room & Zoom

Meeting called by: Thaarabi Tharmapathy (TT)

Scribe: TT

1. Preliminary Items

Apologies

Olivia Dupere (OD)

Absent

Jad Suresh (JS), Simran Sanghera (SS), Yousef Salem (YS), Mahnoor Ahsan (MA)

In Attendance

Rob Tucker (RT), Numa Ali (NA), Varvara Evgeniou (VE), Lucy Edgar (LE), Polen Bareke (PB), Carl Evans (CE), James Tavner (JT), Rahma Hegy (RH), Karolina Wiczorek (KW), Annie Mae Wright (AMW), Becky Hoskyns (BH), Shivani Ganesh (SG), Amelia Jones (AJ), Panayiotis Stavrinou (PS), Ibrahim Dinah (ID), Liam Nicholson (LN), Simi Lakhani (SL), Kiriana Lagden (KL)

Part One

ACTION POINTS FROM THIS MEETING (TL;DR):

From Agenda Point number:

- 2) **KW & VE** – to chase room booking issues with Paul – come to the next meeting with an update.
- 3) **NA, JT, RH** – to work on further amendments to UKFPO document (to be submitted to National Medical Society) created in 2020-21 [anyone else who would like to be involved, please contact NA]
- 4) renaming of Pre-Clinical and Clinical names? Any suggestions let **JT & RH** know.
- 5) **RT** to chat to VJ Davidson regarding Allied Course students signing up as Student Ambassadors under SMD.
- 6) **RH** to ask Marianne Melsen – RH and MM to start going through feedback collected regarding linear progression.
- 6) **LE** – to send over the impact of Linear Progression on Disabled & SLD students to RH & JT
- 6) **RT** to contact Alison Pettigrew discuss with Prof Warrens & Dr H Bintley 1) linear progression & 2) QM online examinations policy

1. Purposes of meeting

- How do we want to continue BLSA Board Meetings? – Adaptable throughout the year
 - Shorten updates – want to make sure people actually read them.

2. Support needed for Rep. Officers:

- Make sure to message members of SPC you fall under before messaging Rob – he may not be able to reply.
 - Education team, engagement and external affairs – message VE and NA for triaging;
 - LE - Welfare;
 - NA - VP Barts for ENTs & RAG;
 - VE - VP London for Sports, Volunteering and Societies
 - LN & SL - ENTs – planning an event need to engage ENTs team – do talk to ENTs about running events, able to provide subsidiary support

- Events – cultural issues with QMSU staff members with organising events – have had to deal with them already due to freshers, but NA plans on submitting a complain/motion to address to Student Council regarding these issues.
 - Staff talking to reps in an inappropriate manner – any evidence please submit to NA.
 - Speak to LE if you would like to have an informal conversation about any issues.
- Issues with room booking – if you have any issues contact NA/ VE then RT; can also contact head of room bookings – Paul Kent and David Boyle.
 - **KW & VE – to chase this up – come to next meeting with an update.**

3. RT - UKFPO SJT for Y5

- Issues of SJT in 2020-21 have continued into 2021-22 cohort
- Didn't announce when SJT slots were to be released – people up from 6am – 10pm; weren't enough slots to sit the SJT and having to sit exam in Nottingham and Brighton.
- Not enough accessibility issues taken into account i.e. issues of extra time
- Vote of No Confidence in December 2020 is still being worked on.
- Dr N. Patel and team – have been highly supportive of students with these issues.
- Do we want to use what Mat (BLSA President 2020-2020+1) document from last year? **NA, JT, RH and anyone else who would like to be involved, please contact NA to further review and add new amendments;** submit to National Medical Society and see through any further developments.

4. RT - BLSA structure at Malta Medical School (MMS) and London

- Try and push Malta engagement – have co-president; every position on Board has had someone put themselves forward for.
- Suggestions for taking forward any changes of BLSA Board here too e.g. VP London taking on RAG instead of VP Barts
- QMSU staff have more responsibilities than they perhaps need to take – has it been limiting to BLSA Representatives
- **Renaming of Pre-Clinical and Clinical names? Any suggestions let JT & RH know.**

5. JT + PB - Allied Courses as Student Ambassador

- SMD Ambassadors – allied courses don't know anything about it, haven't received any emails about it; PB only found out about it from JT.
- Seems unfair that Allied Courses are unable to apply to SMD; from previous years they've been told to apply to QM and at QM have said that they should apply to SMD.
- Given that we have BLSA representative for Allied Courses – should be able to full under BLSA
- Neuroscience and Pharmacology have overlap in locations but are mainly based on BL campuses – should be able to represent BL.
- Only time we'll need SMD Ambassadors specifically have been for Medicine & Dentistry interviews and showing students around campus.
- Allied Courses are as much BL as medicine and dentistry and therefore should be able to represent the school as Student Ambassadors – Board consensus
- **RT to chat to VJ Davidson**

6. RH – Linear Progression Examinations:

- Online Exams – students reported cheating; staff members reporting cameras off and phones on desks
- Dr Patel – suggested to make all exams linear progression [no returning to questions]
- Complaints raised by students:
 - Some students complained about 2 minute toilet breaks – and therefore it has been made unlimited timing for toilet breaks.
 - Invigilating checks – can take upto 1 hours in order to conduct all the checks – which can make a 3 hour exam close to 4hrs
 - Really affects the way you answer questions by not being able to go back – but also it doesn't change students cheating.

- Impact study technique and revision by changing exam format
- Damages mental health – what if you know you’ve gotten the question wrong and you only realise after submitting
- Based on feedback RH has collected with Dr Robson – students are extremely distressed about it
- Dr Patel – said he didn’t think the data was accurate or reliable, but RH emphasised that students were given all the reasonings behind the decisions and therefore the data is reliable.
- 3rd, 4th and 5th years are having them in person, why can’t 2nd year have them?
- Many students had to resit because of technical issues
- Downloading software – could prevent students who do not have enough technology or enough support
- General consensus is that students are fearful of these changes
- 1st years – some applied knowing the assessment strategies
- QM Policy – if questions are not to be released to students, cannot do it online – which is why 3rd 4th and 5th years are in person.
- Students are asking for face-to-face exams.
- **RH to ask Marianne – RH and Marianne M have started going through the feedback forms**
- **LE – to send over the impact of Linear Progression on Disabled & SLD students to RH & JT**
- Staff that have agreed with decision: Dr Patel and Dr Robson
- Negotiations should be prioritised for finals – progress tests are formative so if they are linear progression. Should be as close to how it will be for clinical year exams. If these strategies are not there for finals, why should these strategies be applied to younger years?
- **QM are forcing online examinations – RT aiming to push for this to change**
- **RT to contact Alison Pettigrew & to discuss with Prof Warrens & Dr Helen Bintley**
- JT & RH & LE – Thursday 9.30 – presenting students’ concerns to Medical Assessment Committee (MAC)

Part Three – Any Other Business

1. RT - UH form reminder
2. Tables:
 - Issues with capacity for students – particularly high capacity and issues with clubs being moved around
 - NA – being dealt with
3. Create office hours for your roles that students can come along and talk to you – please sent to TT

End of Meeting

Part Four - Officer Updates

1. President Updates

RT - BLSA President

- Set up one-to-ones with the new BLSA board, supporting them with questions they have, project planning & support they need from me.
- Oversubscribed MBBS & BDS – worked with Stephanie Marshall (VP education), Professor Warrens & a team of SMD staff on the issues that are coming now and in the future on how many students we are oversubscribed with (around 100 extra in MBBS yr 1). Working on spaces around campus to facilitate, how we work around these numbers with face to face teaching, and ensuring student support in SMD grows enough to accommodate all students.

- Worked on integrating the new year 1 MBBS cohort with a Q&A in August – working with several reps to give them the information we wished we knew at this point and answering questions. As well as promoting our BLSA pre-clinical rep's about medical school event and the university's stepping stones programme.
- Freshers Fortnight – worked closely with Lucy (BL welfare officer) on BL Families – which was very successful and worked to assign around 300 students from all undergraduate SMD courses into families, with successful alcoholic & non-alcohol events.
- Worked putting together Help Squad. Anticipating the needs for students moving into Floyer, Dawson & Lindop house. Lots of good feedback from staff, parents and students about how helpful help squad were throughout the three days.
- Whitechapel welcome fair – Successful fair, utilising spaces in Whitechapel fayre like Blizzard muse we have not used before. Helped build good numbers for sign ups and engagement in sports clubs, societies and volunteering groups.
- Induction talks to undergraduate and postgraduate courses focusing on BLSA & QMSU's unique purposes for students.
- Working with the fast-changing staff within SMD, including regular meetings with the interim VP Health Professor Irene Leigh – putting input into the new governance staff structures in the faculty, and how curriculum changes conversations post-pandemic are going to occur.
- Malta BLSA Board – re-adapted the two Malta positions into co-presidents with an education & activities focus, and in the Autumn elections these are now supported by a board of 5 reps.
- Connecting Practice sessions to SMD students – three sessions every month (one for year 1, year 5 & all years) adding specific focuses to each session working with GPs and clinical psychologists.

YS - Gozo Representative - No update sent in time

JS - Dental President - No update sent in time

PB – Allied Courses Representative - No update sent in time

2. Officer Updates

NA - VP Barts & VE - VP London - Joint Update

Help Squad

- Met with Rob and BLSA President in regards to the purpose of the BLSA Help Squad this year
- Promoted Help Squad sign-up forms on social media and weekly student group emails with ~ 50 sign ups!
- Allocated all of the volunteers into the 9 shifts available at the 3 SMD halls - Floyer, Dawson and Lindop - as well as shifts for walking Freshers home after big events (BL Families, Freshers Fayre (see below) Freshers' Tables and Final Whistle)
- Prepared a "Help Squad" pack for them with general information the volunteers
- Organised BLSA stands at the 3 halls with flyers and freebies for Freshers with at least one BLSA representative at all times
- Went really well! We received a lot of positive feedback from the freshers and their parents who found our team very welcoming and helpful.
- Raised a concern about a student ambassador who was being unprofessional.

- Issues: many last minute volunteer cancellations, lack of availability on some days meant some volunteers had to do multiple shifts → release sign-up forms earlier and promote it more on @officialblsa and all other social media

Freshers Fortnight

- Went really really well!!
- Lots of events with really high numbers of attending students
- More freshers than ever but the team managed to cope with it really well
- Attended most of them as President (Rob) and VPs to help out if there were any issues, as well as to promote the “face” of BLSA and make new students feel a part of it
- Particular highlights include: non-drinking BL families event (more info later), Boat Ball, Barts Drag Bingo, Freshers Brunch and more
- Some learning points for next time, but VPs and Pres aim to do a debrief in a couple of weeks

BL Families (former Mummies & Daddies)

- Booked rooms for the welcome talks - first ever time booked 3 separate rooms due to the huge cohort of Freshers (Perrin for medics, Milton for dental and Laird for allied courses)
- Organised the talks which were about what BLSA is and what it does, as well as used it as an opportunity to promote Freshers’ Fortnight events
- Supported BL Welfare Officer (Lucy) with promotion of the event for Fresher (kids) and senior (parents) sign ups
- Encouraged Freshers and seniors who had not signed up to still attend and after the welcome talks we allocated them to families on the spot
- Drinking and non-drinking options available - VPs helped out at the non-drinking event organised by Welfare Zone (Welfare Officer, BAME rep and Women’s rep). Games’ night held at Laird with mocktail and snack bar.
- Overall, went really well, students were very happy and enjoyed their night whether that was at the drinking or non-drinking event
- Issues: over 500 fresher sign ups with around 150 parent sign ups, many parents did not show up on the day, risk assessment forms and advertising to include welcome talks.

Freshers Fayre

- Promoted sign-up forms for Freshers Fayre
- Attended meetings with the organising team to ensure fair allocation of stalls around campus
- Helped introduce Blizzard Mews as part of the fair for the first time along with the live demos for sports
- Allocated volunteers to help out with set up of the fair (am shift) and to guide students between the BLSA Building, Garrod Building and Blizzard Mews (pm shift)
- Attended the briefing early in the morning of the fayre and then briefed the Help Squad volunteers
- Set up a BLSA stall in the foyer of the BLSA Building which really helped in guiding students between venues
- Great organisation by the SU team and our Help Squad - Fayre was set up way ahead of time which allowed student groups to have plenty of time to set up
- Issues: main entrance of Garrod was still closed so had to have volunteers guide students from the back, overcrowding in the old library and recovery room (expected with the huge intake of freshers this year)

Halfway Ball

- Jumped in to help last year’s team for last year’s year 3 cohort

- Supported organisers when there was an issue with the venue by finding alternatives
- Clarified what finance available from last year's association fund pot
- Here to support the team with any last bits and bobs
- Plans: start getting this year's team together for the current year 3's halfway ball

NA - VP Barts Specific Updates

- Discussed individual issues with ENTs officers as they came up r.e. Fresher's
- Supporting ENTs r.e. Xmas Dinner AP
- Discussed individual issues with RAG officer as they came up r.e. Jack the Sipper
- Present at Fresher's Fayre in order to promote student groups, fresher's events, and the BLSA in general
- Currently creating plans on how to extend BL champions initiative
- Currently creating plans on how to create events checklist and bookings guide
- Discussing plans on how to improve the website with Engagement, VP London, and Pres
- Discussing concerns with finalists r.e. UKFPO and trying to see how we can help students with this
- Making myself available for board members if they need anything or questions need answering and no one else is available

VE - VP London Specific Updates

- Had a meeting with student group officers (Sports, Societies and Volunteering) where we discussed their plans for the year, ways of integrating the 3 types of student groups but also integrating other courses more such as dentistry and allied courses
- Met 1:1 with Mahnoor (volunteering) to discuss her plans for the year and ideas for a volunteering fair
- Met 1:1 with Karolina (societies) as part of her handover from me but also to chat about her ideas for the year ahead, gave her access to most societies social media too
- Set up a student activities stall at freshers fayre (ended up merging with the BLSA one)
- Created flyers for student groups (Societies, Sports, Volunteering and RAG) which the officers edited. I printed them out which we used during the move-in weekend, Freshers' fayre and have currently put some of them at BLSA reception
- Helped out at Annie's Jack the Sipper RAG event as one of the tour guides
- Had a handover concerning the anti-racism steering committee with last year's VP London (Thaarabi) and current BL Bame Rep (Shivani). Attended the first official meeting of the year where we created an action plan for the year ahead. Committed to being in charge of ARSC promotion on @officialblsa instagram page and facebook.
- Plans for student council: no teaching on Wednesday afternoons for dentists and allied courses to encourage them to join sports, ARSC motion on one SPC member and BAME rep carrying it on

LE – Welfare Officer

- BL Families, still some people didn't get families, thinking about re-pairing in January
- Consent week coming up, getting consent training (compulsory for first years) and encouraging sports teams to get involved with a social events/videos.
- Welfare team are working on all their individual events and working on filling the disabled officer role

JT – Clinical Rep

- Held the first Senior SSLC of the year
- Been attending year 3 and 4 working groups for year specific issues
- Meeting with head of year 3 about the sudden U-turn in in-person teaching

- Voicing the many issues that have been arising from online teaching
- Discussion with Allied Course Rep about issues becoming student ambassadors

RH – Pre-Clinical Rep

Mid-August to September:

- PTO meeting to set goals and projects of the year
- I set up a private meeting with Dr Robson to discuss PBL sessions, tutor training and in-person PBL. She agreed to try and push for the 2nd year students to start their PBL sessions in person from MET2. She wasn't sure about the first year status due to their large cohort, but they eventually started in person PBL from the first day
- Set up private meeting with Ms Hayfron-Benjamin to discuss in person MedSoc, standardisation of the medsoc experience and the clinical placement layout for the phase 1 years
- Had a meeting with Dr Hayes because I wanted to plan an introductory session (Q&A) to help the first years in their transition to medical school and she was involved in an induction program for the first years.
- I sent out sign up sheets for participants and volunteers for the event that I then called "About Medical School"
- I then started advertising it through social media
- Attended MEC

September to October:

- Organised and led the "About Medical School" event for the first years, and received very positive feedback
- Attended MAC: Dr Patel suggested to use linear progression as the exam format for paper B/C
 - as student body we opposed this and presented our point of view
- Prepared Feedback forms to assess the students opinion of the linear progression format to ensure the university takes this into consideration
 - I have gathered 500 feedbacks circa
 - will present findings in either/both the MAC and JSSLC
- Have set the meeting dates for the JSSLC for the whole year, helped by Dr vickerton
- Have attended several meeting:
 - MEC
 - MAC
 - Medical Curriculum Committee
 - Monthly SSC
 - IHSE NSS

For the remaining of the month aims to:

- Organise results of linear progression feedback forms
- Set up meeting with new course reps
- Chair JSSLC

SS – Dental Faculty Rep - [No update sent in time]

KW – Societies Officer

- We had one society board training with the officers from QM and BL, met the staff support,
- First round of funding applications we went through during our meeting,
- This week we had to follow-up with 10 really big and complex applications so have been having discussions and meetings with specific staff support and relevant societies,
- Helped around during the Fresher's fair with my staff support, have been busy answering lots of emails and inquiries about society-related things.

OD – Sports Officer

My first priority for this year was sorting out getting the fitness room back and running. It is now opening with a reduced capacity so have been sorting a booking system for this to be trialled in the next couple of weeks. We also had the first round of the CSDF which awarded over £5000 to various club's projects!

MA – Volunteering Officer - [No update sent in time]

AMW – RAG Officer

My first task has been to form a RAG Committee for this year. There are currently 8 people on the committee – some have specific roles (eg. treasurer) whereas some are General Committee Members. I am keeping applications for the General Committee Members open so that freshers have a chance to get involved. We are in the process of organising a RAG Curry so freshers can come and meet the committee and get involved with RAG!

We received just under 30 applications to be our RAG Charity Partners this year – these have been narrowed down to three by the BL RAG Committee. They are Dragonfly Cancer Trust, Age UK Lambeth and Spread a Smile. Our Promotional Officer is in the process of creating some social media posts to show everyone what these charities do and why they need our help.

Our first RAG event of the year was part of Fresher's Fortnight, and it was Jack the Sipper. I think it went really well: we sold 60 tickets and everyone seemed to have a really good time. Hopefully it is something that can be carried on into the future! I am now starting to organise the RAG Halloween Maze which will hopefully be part of Halloween Tables this year.

AJ – LGBT+ Officer

- Planning a drag show for black history month
- Welfare tea and talk at the griff
- Trying to get the university to change their name change policy (no success yet!)
- Supporting a trans student with their name change process

BH – Women's Officer

Since the start of the year I have been getting involved in the Fresher's events - helping out with BLSA help squad moving fresher's into their accommodation, being on the BLSA stall for fresher's fair. I helped run the non-drinking games night with Shivani which was very successful.

As Women's Rep, I have my first forum next week where I will be talking about safety. I am part of the sexual harassment and misconduct working group so will be able to feedback to the women of Barts in this forum about topics we discussed in the meeting for the working group. I have also been in meetings for Athena Swan.

I am collaborating with the Women in Healthcare society where we have released a statement regarding the EU ruling around the right to ban religious dress, we are now looking to escalate this. We are also working on setting up a self-defence workshop and are hopefully collaborating with Muay Thai.

SG – BAME Officer

- Helped with freshers non drinking event along with Welfare Rep, Women's Rep, VP Barts & London
- BHM Organising Committee: helped with liberation fund applications and I am collating BL BHM events, will be promoting throughout the month
- Setting up anti racism steering committee social media pages and working with the committee to put on events throughout the year (26th October)
- Drop in organised on 14th October
- Collab with international rep and cultural societies for a cultural event in Term 2 (TBC)
- Starting plans for Islamophobia Awareness Month 2021 by contacting relevant societies

PS – International Officer

- Secured an email list of all the international students from our student union and am working on a newsletter to be sent once each semester containing all the projects of the international Reps and other events, news or advice and counselling services targeted at them.
- Worked towards the establishment of a board of representatives from cultural societies here at BL and the BAME Representative in an attempt to increase engagement with international students and through these societies hear their opinions and worries as well as providing a bidirectional easy route of communication with the representatives. This board will be meeting once every 2 months.
- Aim to plan a multicultural event here in BL with the help of the cultural representatives and the BAME rep.
- In association with the other two international Reps we are working on three more projects each one being led by one international Rep.
- Creating a handbook to be given to next year's international freshers with useful information introducing the international Reps and our role, as well as different cultural societies and opportunities for international students. The core will be the same for all 3 faculties however it will be tailored accordingly to suit the specific faculty's interests.
- Work together with the VPcommunities to put a cap on international fees and offer bursaries and scholarship opportunities to international students regardless of ethnicity, aiming to ensure that all international students can have the opportunity to at least apply for a scholarship.
- Created an international Rep instagram page introducing the international reps to the students and discussed with the QMSU to arrange further promotion of this page and possible takeovers.

CE – Engagement Officers

- Content for freshers engagement now over, all went well despite logistical challenges.
- Looking forward to the big focus of Black History Month this month. I've been in discussions with Shivani about what we can do. Few plans are in the works for this, we're just getting some input from the antiracism committee. Likely to include thoughts from some inspirational black alumni as well as current students who we hope will go on the Instagram posts to discuss what being black at barts means to them (or something along these lines).
- As sports (and the year in general) starts to kick off, there's going to be a lot of focus on creating content to celebrate our community. With Thy Might also kicking off to celebrate the achievements of barts' students past and present over the Instagram. More on this to come
- Finally- Website is due a big update, this will be done over the next few weeks by me

LN & SL – ENTs Officers

- Liam and Simi organised freshers week and are continuing to organise tables weekly
- In the process of organising Christmas Dinner

ID – External Affairs Officer

I have been contacting different companies/organisations regarding potential sponsorships. I managed to get a sponsorship deal with FluCamp (a clinical research trial recruitment organisation) who were at our Freshers fayre. My plans for this year are to continue to search for more partners for BLSA - there has been a recent enquiry from Spottermed.

KL – Alumni Officer

I will be attending the upcoming BATLAA AGM and meeting with the BATLAA Alumni engagement officer.

VACANT - Disability and SLD Officer

VACANT – Postgraduate Research Officer

VACANT - Postgraduate Taught Officer

VACANT - 1st Year Representative



Agenda

BLSA Board Meeting

Date - 16/11/2021

Time – 18:00-20:00

Meeting Room - Games Room, BLSA Building & Zoom

Meeting called by: Thaarabi Tharmapathy (TT)

Scribe: TT

1. Preliminary Items

Apologies

Annie Mae Wright (AMW), Simi Lakhani (SL), Liam Nicholson (LN), Ibrahim Dinah (ID)

Absent

Polen Bareke (PB), Simran Sanghera (SS), Yousef Salem (YS), Mahnoor Ahsan (MA),

In Attendance

Rob Tucker (RT), Numa Ali (NA), Varvara Evgeniou (VE), Lucy Edgar (LE), Jad Suresh (JS), Carl Evans (CE), James Tavner (JT), Rahma Hegy (RH), Karolina Wiczorek (KW), Olivia Dupere (OD), Becky Hoskyns (BH), Shivani Ganesh (SG), Emily Woodroffe (EW), Amelia Jones (AJ), Panayiotis Stavrinou (PS), Kiriana Lagden (KL)

2. Action Points from This Meeting

- 1) RT - To follow up and update us what is happening with the Life Sciences buildings
- 2) LE - to investigate further issues with extenuating circumstances
- 3) SG - to organise/ take offline discussions regarding elections & encouraging more racially minoritised students to take part.

Part One - Points of Discussion

1. Life Sciences Building (RT)

- Have been planning this for 10 years – QM own this land now.
- Current location of BLSA - has been here for the past 26 years as BLSA; prior to this has been as The London SU building
- Want to ask students about what they want from the space – need to improve facilities and improve student experience; better accessibility; a gym rather than fitness room
- Issues with branding? BLSA will still exist, but in what capacity – Foyer as an option? [nothing's going to be a great solution; even staying in this building is not going to be great]
- How can we make sure we maintain BLSA identity:
 - We help to decorate any new spaces offered to us
 - Maintain level of events output to ensure that we maintain engagement
 - LE - Making sure societies are super involved: BL Societies e.g. Arts, Drama, Sports, Volunteering need to be enthused
 - VE – it's all about what we do, what societies, volunteering, sports contribute to enrich our lives – always good to be optimistic
 - RT – BL Community is not coming together as much as we would like – that's how we keep our identity, not necessarily through a logo.
 - NA – need to get students to care about it, and students to keep it alive – we all feel passionately about it, but it might not be the case for the younger years – elders of our community aren't doing enough to engage younger students.
 - The fewer events we hold, the fewer people come, the less likely we will get funding to keep these events going and maintain a BL community.

- Tables for societies monthly – chance for committees to meet up and hopefully eventually get members to come
- JT – university don't care about – NSS student satisfaction dropped a lot due to branding but they still didn't listen.

Part Two – Any Other Business

1. Extenuating Circumstances (LE) – anyone with an existing medical condition is not accepted as an excuse for extenuating circumstances.
 - Mini investigation – anyone having issues pls contact Lucy.
2. Intercalation & PA Reps (JT) – to be taken offline
3. BL Week Event (SG)
 - R. Choudhury – came along to ARSC – wanted to support racially minoritized students into running for sabbatical officers – Rakin, Ahmed and Mary.
 - To be taken offline

End of Meeting

Part Three - Updates

1. President Update

RT - BLSA President

- Meeting with United Hospitals (5 medical schools in London) presidents – focusing on a project against spiking in the bars/clubs we support student events in and communications to students post-pandemic.
- Working with the university on the life science new building plans for Whitechapel campus. Feeding in staff's ideas on how this can be a solution to the estates issues we have in Whitechapel – improving study spaces, larger lecture facilities and better small group teaching spaces (including MME). Including a visit to university of Manchester - looking at their new MECD building for how research & education can blend in future estates projects & using every possible area of space to give back to students.
- Coordinating with university staff, SU reps & students about the BLSA building plans where we will likely be asked to move from our current building within the next two years. Carefully coordinating communications to students about this, and working with staff about interim/permanent options that provide even better facilities for students.
- Supported pre-clinical & clinical reps producing a paper using student feedback against changes to MBBS exams with online linear progression being used in yr1, yr2 & GEP (graduate entry programme) exams – taking this further as a wider discussion with university staff about the QM exam policy.
- Meeting closely with BATLAA (alumni association) for rites of passage funding, hardship fund & branding conversations.
- Attending junior + senior medicine & PA SSLCs (may look into what other are useful to attend).
- Reaching out more to course reps now to identify key issues early on in the academic year – finding common issues to bring back to staff.
- Attended a fitness to practice hearing as the student from an external organisation and a hearing of the professional capability committee hearing as student representative.
- Attended SMD education strategy away day - networking with staff, planning for large aspirational targets and inputting students opinion into what we see as the current issues.
- Working with Quality Assurance (QA) lead - focusing over the next few weeks on each hospital placement in meetings with staff & students to find issues.
- Hosting MBBS External Examiner Symposium on assessments, focusing on online remote exams (+ linear progression), formative vs summative in-course assessments and clinical competence logbooks – three key assessments issues decided on by students to discuss with those from other institutions about how they have tackled similar pressures.

- Co-ordinating staff to provide advice & counselling in Whitechapel for the first time (has been a project ongoing for many years and is a great win to get last week).

What I want to focus more on:

- **BLSA communications** – improving BLSA’s social media presence, and continuing to work on the personability of our comms to students to maintain the community here.
- **BLSA restructure** – worked with the past BLSA president on plans for a BLSA structure review, and continuing this with more of a focus on the issues the current board see throughout the year to improve for next year.
- **MBBS student support project** – working with the next head of student support, and the new medical education professors who are coming in for the MBBS curriculum changes – improving MedPro for MBBS and student support for all of SMD.
- **Heritage fund** – a pot of money for BLSA that needs to be used this year.
- **Whitechapel open days** – as the Mile End ones return, for our prospective students it is important to bring them to Whitechapel.
- **BLSA events** – this term the events done by BLSA have been centred around sports, and not utilising The Griff Inn as much as we could – need to work closer with ENTs & events staff team to bring back events like Griff Quizzes (could be with societies putting together teams and good prizes to ensure engagement).
- **Association fund bids** – need to start the first association fund bids for sports clubs, societies & volunteering groups to use – ideally the first round before Christmas.

YS - Gozo Representative

JS - Dental President

PB – Allied Courses Representative

2. Officer Updates

NA – VP Barts & VE – VP London

Halloween Maze

- Supported Annie (RAG Officer) with this event
- We had some issues working with some of the staff at QMSU, but we are currently working with the relevant staff members to prevent them occurring again in the future
- Event was very successful and RAG made lots of money! **(CONGRATS TO ANNIE AND THE RAG COMMITTEE!!!)**

Griff Inn & Drapers Boycott

- Following some of the national campaigns bringing awareness to the issues around spiking in event venues, there were lots of discussions amongst sports teams and staff with regards to this issue

VPs Staff Support

- The VPs don’t currently have access to staff support
- However, Rob is working with QMSU staff to see if there is any way that Deputy CEO Alvin Ramsamy is able to be our staff support
- The aim is that we will be able to more effectively do our job if we are in a position where we can get increased support from staff members at QMSU

Life Sciences Building

- Please refer to Rob’s email if you’re not sure what this is about

- We are currently trying to support Rob with this new endeavour and working on ways that we can make sure student input is at the forefront of future decisions made surrounding the BLSA Building
- There will be open forums for students and The BLSA Board to be involved and get their opinions voiced in the near future

Future Plans

- We currently have a large number of responsibilities coming up for *TERM 2*. WE won't go into all the specifics but this lets you all know that we have these upcoming events/items on our minds and are undergoing the planning stages.
- If anyone is interested in supporting us with any of these upcoming things please let us know.
 - Working with Clinical Rep James Tavner to figure out if BLSA can offer "My Name Is" badges
 - Halfway Ball for year 3 cohort 2020+1/2022
 - Assoc Dinner
 - Blues & Colours Awards
 - Rites of Passage
 - Graduation Dinner
 - Yearbook
 - Finalist BBQ
 - VPs & Pres host Griff Xmas Quiz
 - BLSA Board Secret Santa

VP Barts (NA) Specific Updates

- Supporting RAG Officer with upcoming RAG events (including I'm a BNOC and a bake sale)
- BL events guide updates have been started

LE – Welfare Officer

- Consent week was good but lots of queries and worries on spiking
- Exam linear progression meeting coming up
- Something is going on with the ECs board, will investigate

JT – Clinical Rep

- Supported year 3 students in their start to clinical placements
- Started collecting feedback on year structure as the block timetable is started to be designed
- Work with the BLSA president, pre-clinical and welfare rep about the issues with the university adopting a linear progression format for exams

RH – Pre-Clinical Rep

SS – Dental Faculty Rep

KW – Societies Officer

- set-up drop in sessions weekly on Zoom in the evenings,
- had meeting with a few students about getting advice on new society applications,
- 15/10/21 meeting with Robert and working on the societies calendar,
- 2/11 held a meeting with all presidents from Barts societies where I made a presentation about applying to the Grant Funding and using the calendar on google,
- Have been in touch with multiple societies about their projects and problems accessing their calendars,
- Went through a second round of applications for the Societies Board which was successful, have been responding and considering post-meeting applications via e-mail since,
- have been keeping an eye on our social media and sharing some useful events.

OD – Sports Officer

MA – Volunteering Officer

AMW – RAG Officer

Halloween Maze was not an easy task, very difficult to organise with the events team and then tables was cancelled. We went ahead with the maze and actually had a very good turnout. We are still waiting to receive the donations for tables tickets, we don't know how much this is as we don't know how many tickets were refunded.

Next week we are going to do a RAG bake sale on Tuesday outside Garrod and on Wednesday in library square. We are also in the process of organising 'I'm a BNOC get me out of here' for the 8th Dec.

AJ – LGBT+ Officer

- Running a project to provide consent training in local secondary schools, run by recruited volunteers from barts
- Contacting staff re name changes, and ensuring the policy is changed soon
- Organising participation in the red run, and setting up fundraising pages
- Projects yet to start:
- Organising STI testing and a talk for SHAG week
- Organising a deed poll drop in session (collaborating with UCL trans rep)
- Planning a welfare forum
- Ordering more pride lanyards
- liaising the university re a curriculum change

BH – Women's Officer

- been in contact with the university and SU about increase in drinks spiking and how we can negate this
- helped with fresher's events - fresher's fair and moving people into accommodation as well as helping run the non-drinking events with Shivani, BAME officer
- had my first forum and created a safe space for women
- Part of sexual harassment and misconduct groups as well as Athena Swan committee
- Hoping to set up workshop of self-defence classes with women in healthcare and muay Thai

SG – BME Officer

- Organised and ran the first ARSC event 'Racism in Medicine' and chair meetings fortnightly
- Planning a panel with past Executive Officers from minoritised backgrounds to provide support to students who might want to stand in elections
- Planning an event with Global Health PhD student about PREVENT and its detrimental impact on Muslim people's access to healthcare
- Working to improve my reach with BAME students via a SoMe group or mailing list

EW - Disability and SLD Officer

PS – International Officer

- During the past month we have arranged the first cultural representative meeting with presidents of cultural societies of the BL together with the BAME rep and we have discussed international students concerns and are looking into creating an event all together in collaboration.
- I am also working on a newsletter for the International students day on the 17th November.

CE – Engagement Officers

LN & SL – ENTs Officers

- have continued to organise tables
- have planned Christmas dinner afterparty for the 4th December
- continuing to help other BLSA board and society members to organise events when needed.

ID – External Affairs Officer

No Significant Update

KL – Alumni Officer

- attended the BATLAA AGM

VACANT – Postgraduate Research Officer

VACANT - Postgraduate Taught Officer

VACANT - 1st Year Representative

Queen Mary Students' Union Scrutiny Panel Meeting

Monday 24 January 2022 at 6.00pm

to be held via Zoom - join at 5.30pm for a new members' briefing

Agenda

No.	Item	Lead
1.	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>The Panel today is as follows:</p> <p>Student Council Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mouna Ichidou, Student Council Chair • Sakshi Kumawat - Commercial Services Officer • Rosie Matthews - School of History Representative • Aisha Qadi, School of Biological & Chemical Sciences Representative <p>Student Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daria Vasilica, Course Representative LLB Law Year 1 • Naureen Jamshed, Course Representative MSc Global Public Health (tbc) • Ananya Mukherjee, Course Representative Law Year 1 • Hashim Khan, Course Representative (tbc) <p>Apologies:</p> <p>No apologies have been received for this meeting.</p>	Chair
2.	<p>Executive Officers' Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Panel members are asked to have read these reports circulated before the meeting</i> 	Chair

2a.	Executive Committee Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>These can be viewed on the Students' Union Website at: https://www.gmsu.org/yourvoice/rebs/exec/</i> 	-
2b.	Executive Officers' Action Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>These are being re-formatted and so are not available for this meeting</i> 	-
2c.	Progress on Policy Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>These is being re-formatted and so is not available for this meeting</i> 	
Executive Officer Presentations and Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Each to give a short (max 5-minute presentation) followed by 10 minutes (max) for questions from the Panel members</i> 		
Executive Officers		Time to join meeting
Bilge Kacmaz - VP Science and Engineering		6.10
Radhika Thiagarajan - VP Communities		6.25
Muneer Hussain - VP Welfare		6.40
Saynab Sharif - VP HSS		6.55
Robert Tucker - VP Barts and The London		7.10
Adi Sawalha - President		7.25
3.	Part Time Officers' Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Panel members are asked to have read these reports circulated before the meeting</i> 	Chair
4.	Recommendations to Student Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members will be able to make recommendations to the 1 February 2021 Student Council meeting for Censure, Satisfaction, or Commendation 	Chair
5.	Consideration of Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Feed back and suggestions on the meeting</i> 	Chair
7.	Chair's Closing Remarks	Chair

Bilge Kacmaz – Vice President Science & Engineering (VP S&E)

PG Funding Website Setup

Bilge is continuing work on the Postgraduate Funding project alongside the VP HSS. The planned launch of the project webpage will take place early in semester 2. The website will feature signposting and links to existing resources from the QMUL website and detail current funding and scholarship opportunities available. Alongside this, the page will also signpost to hardship funding and support those students may need access. Guidance on how to find and apply for a bursary, whether internal or external, will also be included on the webpage, to support students with the application process. The VP S&E and VP HSS are collaborating on the setup of the webpage and plan to meet with colleagues in relevant professional services to ensure all resources have been included and promotion can begin. Finally, the VP S&E and VP HSS are considering an approach to research the needs of students and barriers they face when applying for Postgraduate Funding, which would be hosted via this webpage.

Chairing the Education Board

The most recent Education Board was chaired by Bilge on the 8th of December with attendance from School Representatives and Postgraduate Representatives. During the prior Education Board attendees raised issues experienced with IT and teaching tools, as a result, IT forums have taken place to discuss the issues raised, and attendees received an update at the recent meeting. Bilge also provided the Education Board with an update on her projects, including the Postgraduate Funding Project and Science & Engineering Internship Project. All representatives were able to give their own updates which included some School Reps launching newsletters and other communication tools within their schools; others are working with student services such as the Library and Disability & Dyslexia Service to improve student access and engagement, and finally some representatives have been hosting events and school forums for their relevant cohorts. The feedback from the Education Board will be taken forward and incorporated into Bilge's projects and meetings with stakeholders and professional services.

Online Exam Project Workstream

Bilge is currently supporting the work of the Online Examinations Project Team; in particular supporting discussions about the activities of particular sub-groups, updates on milestones and identifying new issues or risks relating to the workstream. Key topics of discussion at recent meetings include the integration of anti-plagiarism tools and Turnitin with online examinations; as well as recent discussions around the functionality of the examination software and whether the use of a 'Back' button should be disabled for exams requiring a defined sequence or progression.

Task and Finish Group

Bilge is regularly attending Task and Finish Group. During these meetings, student engagement with QM Plus is taken place. Bilge advised the group to let the students know more about QM Plus features since not knowing all the features might be the reason for less engagement.

Residences Feedback Week

In December, Bilge took part in Residences Feedback Week and had a chance to talk to many students who live in different accommodations of Queen Mary. The gathered information about students' life at campus and general feedback on their studies. Students' problems with accommodation were reported back to Residences Feedback Team. Also, the general

feedback was noted and brought up during many workstreams and groups. Students were quite happy to meet execs in person and they are reminded that whenever they need, they can either email us or visit us on SU Hub.

Meetings with PhD Students

Bilge started meeting with PhD Students and visiting PhD Hub and gathered information about their issues. Some students have difficulties accessing the journals and articles related to their research area. This situation has been discussed, and James Soderman send an email to students and took action to guide and help them. Also, in the PhD hub, heating was not enough, and this had a negative impact on students' studies and 24 hours access for Science and Engineering Building requested since they would like to use the Hub and conduct their studies after 5 pm. These issues were discussed with Stephanie Marshall and Robert Cashman. The school Manager is informed, and action will be taken soon.

Radhika Thiagarajan - Scrutiny Panel Report – January 2022

Employability:

Radhika Thiagarajan (Vice President Communities) organised Alumni Café events open to UGT, PGT and PGR students in Law and Economics and Finance in term 1. These were in-person networking events that took place in October and November, in Blomeley Room 2 at the Students' Union with alumni participants from Allen & Overy, Irwin Mitchell and McDermott, Will & Emery, Santander, ICBC Standard Bank, UK Government etc. These events were well received, as it became fully booked the day the ticketing for the events opened up. Moreover, majority that booked onto the event attended the event. The alumni were very enthusiastic to network and share their journey, details about application process, work culture etc. The success of the event was also reflected from students' eagerness to attend more such events. Accordingly, Radhika is currently working with the Global Alumni Engagement team to organise another set of Alumni Café events for Students in Computer Science for the month of January/early February, dates to be confirmed.

Moreover, Radhika is also leading on the Student Engagement sub-group of the Graduate Attributes work-stream team at Queen Mary. In the week commencing 24th January 2022, Radhika is going to organise informal chats with students at ground cafe to understand how students want courses to be designed so that the academic curriculum matches the skills expected from employers.

Welfare:

Mental Health and Well-being:

Radhika Thiagarajan is continuing work on the in-house Nightline project, to promote peer-to-peer counselling service on campus, which has now picked up momentum. Recently, Radhika had a meeting with the set up team to discuss the necessity for an in-house nightline on the campus of Queen Mary. They have agreed to accelerate the process in order to help the setting up of an in-house nightline at Queen Mary. Radhika has been told that a meeting will be organised to discuss the logistics and the process of setting up a nightline within the next 2 weeks. If Radhika has not heard back by then, she will chase up with the set up team. In the meantime, Radhika is also liaising with the head of nightline at Gloucestershire University who has given Radhika all the governance documents needed to set up the nightline. Radhika has

spoken with the Mental Health team at QM who support this and also has to review the documents in the coming weeks.

International Students:

Radhika is continuing work on improving loans and bursaries offered to International students in UGT, PGT and PGR. Radhika recently met with Larissa Kennedy's at NUS who have supported this project and have suggested talking to other representatives on their network to gather support. Radhika has also spoke the President at Sheffield Hallam Students' Union who is currently working on the same project. Radhika has also spoken to the Head at UKICSA who is interested in the project. Radhika will organise a meeting in the next few weeks with these reps to explore collaborations.

Furthermore, there were issues with international students who have had a dissertation/summer term exams and have failed their assessments. Their resits did not happen until January and by the time results for the resits would have been released, they would have lost their student permission, which would have then meant that they will not be eligible to apply for the 2-year Post Study Work permit. For many students, they have committed to financing their education in London, only because of the availability of the 2-year Post Study Work permit. Accordingly, Radhika raised the issue with Colin Grant in the Global engagement meeting and also raised the issue with the international advice team to help make arrangements so that these students do not lose their 2-year Post Study Work opportunity. This problem has now been solved, in that the University has extended the international students' current visa, which meant that these students can stay on and do their resit and still apply for the 2-year Post Study Work Visa.

Campus Security:

In light of the homophobic incident on Mile End cemetery and the drink spiking incidents, Radhika is currently working with Sheila Gupta and the university Crime Prevention team and Security team, to promote Ask for Angela in campus. Radhika is set to meet with the team in the coming week to explore further actions and student community's priorities.

Recruitment:

Radhika has recently recruited EDI managers and is currently pushing the university to recruit more BAME counsellors in order to support our diverse study demographics.

Liberation:

Jewish Heritage Fortnight:

Radhika is currently liaising with reps and helping them organise their events. Radhika has also planned to organise an exhibition to showcase Jewish Heritage on campus.

LGBTQ+ History Month:

Radhika is currently liaising with reps and helping them organise their events.

Saynab Sharif (Vice President Humanities and Social Sciences)

January Report

[This report covers the period 15th November to 21st January – excluding 21st December – 7th January]

PG Funding

VPHSS and VPSE are collaborating on the Postgraduate Funding Project. The officers are looking to create and publicise resources for students considering postgraduate options and postgraduate students, so that funding options, scholarships and bursaries are made clear and easily understood. The officers are hoping that by extending bursaries to postgraduate taught students, this will help to reduce barriers to Higher Education and increase accessibility for students who need assistance and funding to continue their path through education. The researching and scoping of external scholarships is currently underway, with the aim of identifying a wider range of scholarships and bursaries, available to students who may not find ones that currently apply to them.

QM Academy

Working with QM Academy on two different work streams: Inclusive Curriculum and Assessment and Feedback. Within the Inclusive Curriculum work stream, work has already started on the principles of the inclusive curriculum framework and expanding the headings within, to include examples and case studies of how the curriculum can be become more inclusive. Saynab will be supporting the development of a workshop that will support faculties to incorporate the inclusive curriculum work into their faculty. With the Assessment and Feedback workstream specifically on Student Voice and Experience which includes co-creation in assessments, closing the feedback loop by collaboration and dialogue, setting and meeting students expectations, for example, transparency of communication and escalation routes

PG Academic Support

A project focusing on increasing the awareness and appeal of postgraduate study and progression for students. The project is aiming to support and increase the appeal for postgraduate degrees and helping students to understand their options for further study. There will be resources and events demystifying the application process a Masters and PhD and engagement with PGT and PGR students and alumni to share their experience with current students. This project will involve support and engagement with the Doctoral College, Careers & Enterprise and other stakeholders to discuss ideas, create resources and workshops going forward. Also, working with Sheila Gupta Vice Principal People, Culture and Inclusion on identifying the barriers to postgraduate study for BAME students and incorporating some support through this project.

School Representatives

Supporting School Representatives within HSS to disseminate and share surveys with students, in particularly working with the SLLF and History Representatives to create and share surveys regarding inclusivity and accessibility within their schools. The aim of these surveys is to understand students' views on inclusivity and identify areas where support is needed for students with a disability or specific learning differences. Also, working with School Representatives that have asked for clarification of online exam policies and for marking and feedback for exams to be made clearer to all students.

Paris Strategy Group

Attended and supported the work of the Paris Strategy Group, to ensure that Queen Mary Students studying at the University of London Institute in Paris (ULIP) are represented in discussions about the continued offering of teaching provision. In order to represent students in these meetings effectively, Saynab has frequently met with student representatives from ULIP. These meetings have helped to identify the main priorities of the ULIP student representatives, discuss their projects for the upcoming year and establish a positive relationship through the offering of Queen Mary Students' Union Course Rep training and collaborating of activities with ULIP Students' Union.

HSS E-Resources – Services and Support Student Forum

Working closely with Agnieszka Jankowska to host an IT Students' Forum and invited student representatives to attend and discuss issues they have encountered with teaching and learning tools. The forum helped to establish collaboration between the representatives, IT Services, Library Services and the E-Learning Unit and lay out actions to improve student's experiences with the service based on the representative's feedback. The forum has been positive and the student voice has been critical in identifying and addressing the gaps in service delivery such as access to Wi-Fi, computers, contacting IT services.

SU/University Meetings

- Hosted HSS Board for PTOs – updates on projects, and concerns in different schools identified, and raising them in the relevant meetings and to university staff critical to addressing the issues.
 - Attended the Annual Member's Meeting
 - Attended Board of Trustees and other connected meetings.
 - Involved in the planning of the Festival of Education 2022 – alongside Vice Principal Education, I will be co-chairing a student panel 'Social Responsibility and Community Engagement', continue to work to outline the content for this panel and engaging students to participate.
 - Library Opening Hours Working Group – discussions on what the appropriate opening hours for students will be for Mile End, Whitechapel, West Smithfield.
 - Attended the Graduations for 2020 and 2021 cohorts in HSS and gave a congratulatory speech to graduates.
-

Robert Tucker – VP Barts and The London

December-January:

- Continuing with hospital site visits with the university – developing a plan/paper to present for placement shortage problems re over-recruitment.
- Begun Faculty Identity meetings with the SMD staff – a framework has started for how the staff are able to work on this project headed by Prof Caulfield & I.
- Started a student committee made of engaged students & sports club presidents to properly kickstart WeAreBL.
- Working with BATLAA on branding arguments & plans.

- Meeting a few times with the Medical College of St Barts Hospital Trust – finishing up the BL Sports Fund money. Networking re-branding keeping them up to date with concerns. Planning on the next funding project we ask for – likely in another 3-year plan but need to assess what students need from this.
 - Doing a review of Whitechapel Library – including open times & safety of the area at night.
 - Started finalists plans – blues+colours nominations, assoc dinner & Rites of Passage Planning.
 - Supporting NSS plans – using our RAG charities for all of the money - £1 per NSS form filled out across the entire uni is split equally between our BL RAG charities.
 - Celebrated graduations last week with the delayed 2020 + 21 cohorts across BLSMD.
 - Planning to start institute forms – using examples of school forms in HSS & SE, plus example of our Institute of Dentistry that already does these – addressing the clear lack of outlet for student problems.
 - Planning to start Barts & The London all student forms – similarly addressing a clear lack of outlet & lack of communication from the university on many problems.
 - Supporting the new interim Student Support head Dr Dominic Hurst (from Dentistry institute) taking over for a few months over Prof Goulding's retirement – to support him bringing over some of the better support that dentistry have started in recent years to all courses. And how to fix likely shortages in student support staffing. When new head of student support is announced, will work with them about adding student feedback into what they see as problems, and work on improving students' understanding of SAPS (student academic & pastoral support).
-

Scrutiny Panel Report – President (Adi Sawalha)

January 2022

www.qmsu.org



Graduations

The delayed graduations for all our graduates for the classes of 2020 and 2021 have taken place in the first 2 weeks of semester B, and I and the other executive officers have been taking part in these graduation ceremonies. It has been an amazing experience to take part in, and we hope all the graduates the absolute best wherever their journey takes them.

Union Development

Strategy Development

The Students' Union has begun the process to develop our next Strategic Plan. I and Saynab (your VP HSS), have been involved in the first steps of forming our plan to develop the strategy, which is still in it's early stages. We are also planning the data gathering tools to ensure student input is critical to our Strategic Plan.

Union Meetings

As President of the Students' Union, I chair the QMSU Board of Trustees, whilst also sitting on the QMSU Services Ltd Board, as well as attending many internal meetings relating to various parts of our Union.

Student Wellbeing

Mental Health Strategy

From the start of my term I have been keen to push the university to create and adopt a mental health strategy, which was a key point on my manifesto. Fortunately the university had started discussions on the creation of this strategy before I started my role, and I have been proactively taking part in these discussions.

Student Leaders Event with SET

I was involved in organising an event designed to allow Student Councillors and Student group leaders to discuss their ideas, thoughts and concerns with the University's Senior Executive Team (SET). The event was a success, with many open and interesting conversations taking place. We are also looking into organising more events like this moving forward, with discussions to take place on how to improve and build on this event.

Student Spaces

Spaces Project

As per my update in my last report, the survey on student spaces went live in mid-December, and closed 21st January. We will be moving into the phase of analysing the data and feeding it back into key areas of the university to help shape student spaces on campus.

Queens' Building

I have continued to take a proactive role in the discussions regarding the Queens' Building's transformation into a Student Hub. The plans have now led to the creation of various groups to focus on different aspects of the building, and I am in the process of partaking in many of these groups or delegating to other executive officers.

Miscellaneous

Donmar Training

I have been working closely with the University Sheila Gupta, the VP PCI (Vice Principal for People, Culture and Inclusion) and Janet De Wilde (Director of QM Academy) on developing a training programme for students and academics in collaboration with the Donmar Warehouse. This plan was put on hold due to the pandemic, and we have picked it up and are planning to run a pilot within the next few months.

University Meetings

I continue to attend many vital University meetings to represent the Student Voice, and these include (but are not limited to): University Council, University Senate, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group, Wellbeing and Mental Health Steering Group, Estates Strategy Board, Residential Strategy Board; amongst many others.

Position	Name	Name
Allied Courses Representative	Polen	Bareke
BAME Representative (ME) (joint ticket)	Devanshu	Goyal
	Muhammad	Hamza
BAME Representative (BL)	Shivani	Ganesh
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising a diversity in research event with BL AntiRacism Steering Committee • Recruiting members for AntiRacism Steering Committee • Organising a flagship event with International rep • Planning a drop in this term at the Griff 		
Commercial Services Officer	Sakshi	Kumawat
Dental Society President	Jathursha	Suresh
Disabled and Specific Learning Difference Representative (ME)	Amy	Dowse
Please see paper attached		
Disabled and Specific Learning Difference Representative (BL)	Emily	Woodrofe
Gozo Representative	Salem	Yousef
International Representative (BL)	Panayiotis	Stavrinou
International Representative (HSS)	Martin	Paszi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I approached heads of schools via email enquiring about the potential to expand financial funding opportunities. I received responses promising to get back to me with more details on the matter. Unfortunately some have not responded. • I held meeting with VP Communities and other international representatives. Together, we agreed to change the course of the project and focus on creating our own scholarship/bursary scheme, which will be proposed to the relevant members of the leadership. • I partook in the other international representatives' project to popularise the international representatives' instagram page. • I am currently working arranging a meeting with the other international representatives to commence working on the scholarship scheme and its presentation. 		
International Representative (S&E)	Adya	Aggarwal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Careers and Enterprise team to increase the reach and engagement of International Careers Week. • Planning International Week/Fortnight for social media(Instagram) along with other International Representatives. 		
LGBT+ Representative (BL)	Amelia	Jones

- Organised events for SHAG week (sexual health week at Barts), including HIV testing sessions (which were well-attended, booked out on the second day!), and a workshop on the impact of HIV on the LGBT community. I also produced a quiz about sexual health to be used on both mine and sexual health society's instagrams.
- In the process of finalising dates and training materials for consent training in schools
- Planned events for LGBT+ history month, including:
 - panel event
 - yonder queer climb
 - griff quiz
 - sex ed
- Holding joint lgbt welfare forum with QM lgbt reps on 18th Jan
- Produced a guidance document for students on name change processes, which has been checked and approved by Alex Prestage (head of EDI) - <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1nhLf1i78veTuXTktrf43teKQV1Da69yA2v8NDWTZ9X0/edit> - working on getting this added to the QM website.
- Communicating with SMD EDI lead re introducing the workaround re name changes for medical/dentistry students
- Writing a motion for student council re name changes
- Joining a working group re student inclusion in EDI
- Am meeting with a staff member re a curriculum change on the 18th Jan
- Have ordered more Barts pride lanyards

LGBT+ Representative (ME) (joint ticket)	Katrina	Fuller
	Isidora	Zagradanin

- LGBT+ History Month events, including various educational and social events
- Working on the name change policy alongside the Barts LGBT+ rep
- Still working on redesigning pronoun badges and making the use of pronouns the norm at QM

Postgraduate Research Representative (BL)	VACANT	
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Postgraduate Research Representative (HSS) (joint ticket)	Matthew	Beach
	Vikki Barry	Brown

- We worked with the Doctoral College to create SYMPA Listserv's for getting in touch with all Faculty-specific PGRs
 - This has been finalised and we are now able to send newsletters and other information to all HSS PGRs directly
 - There is some kind of issue around spam filters, which continues the laundry list of concerns around PGR communication generally; and is something we're actively pursuing with the Doctoral College (albeit with slow progress)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have worked with Radhika, Louis, and the other postgraduate officers to edit QMSU web content for postgraduates and how they can get involved with the Students' Union We're continuing to pursue a project around the process for applying for Ethical Approval, and have asked the QM Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences for support proposing a larger cross-Faculty project We've created an anonymous Google Doc that will be sent in our newsletters and in our email signature for those students who wish to flag/bring anything to us in our Rep role without their name/department attached 		
Postgraduate Research Representative (S&E)	Hussain	Ali Abid
Postgraduate Taught Representative (BL)	VACANT	
Postgraduate Taught Representative (HSS)	Sofie	Homb
Postgraduate Taught Representative (S&E)	Amit	Kotkar
School of Biological and Chemical Sciences Representative	Aisha	Qadi
<p>Ongoing/current/completed projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the library services with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Marketing strategies to increase promotion with services that the library provides such as revise well programme, exams & wellbeing, study skills, podcasts and more -Collaborating with library services to help out in new and ongoing services, such as starting a podcast/guide to help students with tips on going back to face to in person assessments (assuming the following academic year assessments are fully in person) and taking care of mental health & wellbeing -Working to starting a new project that involves the collaboration of DDS and Library services to provide more custom tailored resources of academic help (like study skills, revision tips, writing essays etc) for DDS students based on how they prefer to learn and what is easier for them Newsletter: SBBS newsletter has been delayed to publish in semester 2. Final draft has finally been completed and will now be published in the first week of semester 2. Planning to get permission for newsletter to get sent to QMSU as well as there is engagement for staff too. 		
School of Business and Management Representative	Diya	Singh
School of Economics & Finance Representative	Azmain	Iftekhar
<p>1) Working on student engagement project with the school of economics and finance and HSS. Furthermore, working on 1 on 1 feedback and alleviating issues faced by general students at SEF</p> <p>2) Worked with the SSLC board with exam timetable feedback and duration of exam in SEF</p> <p>3) Working on all my previous projects of international students, student podcast etc.</p>		

4) Working with the careers team at SEF and the administration to work on the promotion of SU events and representing SEF at upcoming open days dated on February 12th. And upcoming dates in March and April.

School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Sciences Representative (joint ticket)

Antonita

Nimalan

Samira

Rahman

School of Engineering and Materials Science Representative (joint ticket)

Yugesh

Shanmugha Sundharam

Darcey

Blackman

Darcey:

- Spoke with foundation staff members about introduction of foundation year representative in the student elections
- Scheduled the presentation for foundation students before they make their course selection
- Given my personal feedback on the foundation programme
- Become part of the Learning Environment Operations Group within SEMS to help with their work

School of English & Drama Representative

Katie

Butler

School of Geography Representative

VACANT

School of History Representative (joint ticket)

Rosanna

Matthews

Madison

Miller

Rosie:

- Posting on the rep Instagram I made. I plan to post more as the next semester starts.
- Currently in the process of making some videos and posters to help with how to do assignments and working efficiently.
- Frequently discussing ways to improve accessibility with Liesbeth Corens who is in charge of the EDI sub-committee for accessibility in the School of History about ways of further improving the lives of students with disabilities.
- Continuation of the previous point, I have distributed Google Forms to gauge student opinions on accessibility issues and student life in the School. I will be advertising these for another couple of weeks before collecting the data to present to the School with action for improvement and potentially meeting with Colin Bailey to advocate improvement for those with disabilities university-wide.

School of Languages, Linguistics & Film Representative

George

Boulton

School of Law Representative (joint ticket)

Gunjit Dinesh

Madra

Alina

Liebholz

- The second part of semester 1 Gunjet and I held the School of Law Forum. Here we were able to meet everyone and we discussed issues concerning the law school. We were able to resolve some question immediately and I followed up on

<p>enquiries the days after. Furthermore, I held a meeting with the undergraduate law course reps (as I am primarily focusing on the undergraduate law students) and we discussed issues raised in my Undergraduate Law Students survey, which was completed in the second part of semester 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Career Services: I had various inquiries about vacation schemes and other law related career queries. I referred most students to the career services and have been collecting the feedback and issues in order to hold an event with the career services around the frequently asked questions. - Gunjet will only be a student at QM until January therefore I will soon also take over the postgraduate role. Currently, I am preparing for that and Gunjet and I will soon meet so he can update me on the postgraduate school. 		
School of Mathematical Sciences Representative	Hemanth	Paneer Selvam
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I've helped students of MSc Data Analytics(January 2021 intake) by solving plagiarism issue faced by them. • I'm trying to host the School Forum meeting by resolving certain problems by taking help from the Education & Course Representative Intern of QMSU. • I'm trying to come up with a Careers Fair for SMS students by teaming up with the careers team. I'm waiting for responses from them at the moment. 		
School of Medical and Dental Sciences (Dental) Representative	Simran	Sanghera
School of Medical and Dental Sciences Clinical (Medicine) Representative	James	Tavner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussions about how to make SSLC more effective due to poor attendance from staff and overlapping discussions with working groups - Continuing discussions about increasing representation of PA and intercalating students - Assisting pre clinical rep with student feedback on linear progression - Meeting with Head of Intercalated Degrees about improving fair for future years - Discussions and voting on a new way that students will be interviewed to externally intercalate - Discussions about students feeling disadvantaged by a lack of placement contact hours - Discussions about plans for future placements due to the increased number of students - Emails about issues regarding placement reporting instructions and outfirm accommodation 		
School of Medical and Dental Sciences Pre-Clinical (Medicine) Representative	Rahma	Hegy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I sent survey to the early year medical students regarding their 1st progress test, to evaluate their opinion on linear progression again - I have gathered and analysed the findings of the survey (420 responses) and I presented them at the JSSLC (Junior Student Staff Liaison Committee). - I have sent around a survey regarding the in person teaching/hybrid teaching the 2nd year medics have been experiencing - I attended different committee meetings (Medical Assessment Committee/SSC monthly meetings) and have chaired different JSSLCs 		

School of Physics & Astronomy Representative	Sharafina	Binti Razin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SPCS School Forum was held on the 1st of December, 2021, at 3.00pm – 4.00pm, with 8 course representatives in attendance, and 4 apologies. The meeting was chaired by myself and went smoothly with feedback and discussion from the course reps. The meeting was recorded, and the minutes of the forum were written and sent to the staff support, Jonathan Otter, after the meeting. The SSLC then took place on the 15th of December, 2021, in which I attended and supported the course representatives while they shared their feedback to the school staff. I also attended a one-on-one meeting with the Head of the SPCS, Peter Hobson, on the 16th of December, 2021. In the meeting, we discussed more generalised and summarised feedback from the students and any improvements requested by the students. The Mercury 13 Documentary Screening was held on the 8th of December, 2021, in Blomeley Room 2, at 4.00pm. A poster was created for the event and invites were sent through the SPCS mailing list, including a Google form for registration. The event had 20 signups, but the total turnout for the event was 11 people. Popcorn and drinks were prepared for the attendees, and the event went on without a hitch. An SPCS reps WhatsApp group chat was created to ensure quick and smooth interactions between all the reps and also to make my support easily accessible for the course representatives. The SPCS Instagram account was officially launched on the 2nd of December, 2021, with the first few posts introducing the course representatives. The account was also used to promote the “Mercury 13 Documentary Screening”, pictures from the aforementioned event, as well as for more social reasons: such as wishing everyone Merry Christmas, good luck for their exams and a reminder to take breaks in the middle of exams. A writeup for the study well rep profile was submitted to Jonathan Otter on the 17th of January, 2022, which included some study tips, and mentioned some of the projects I’m focusing on as school representative. Currently planning to organise a meeting with Jonathan Otter and Harvey Abraham-Green to discuss more details on the ArtScience competition idea. This was pushed back as I contracted Covid-19 mid-end of December. 		
School of Politics and International Relations Rep	Louis	Gouget
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with all the course reps within the school. Creation of a LinkedIn account in process. Forms 		
Societies Office (ME)	Bhavleen	Kaur
Societies Officer (BL)	Karolina	Wieczorek
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended the Christmas quiz for societies, meeting with Malta societies' officers to discuss their role, meeting about monthly societies nights, catch up with VP to update on my projects, planning the Societies awards with the Societies Board - both the ceremony and prizes, preparation for the next round of societies awards, working on BL article with the editor, 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> helping out with a few new society applications, 		
Sports Officer (BL)	Olivia	Dupere
Sports Officer (ME)	Zain	Khan
Student Council Chair	Mouna	Ichidou
Sustainability Officer (BL)	Minahil	Khan
Sustainability Officer (ME)	Tala	Sammur
Trans Representative	VACANT	
Volunteering Officer (BL)	Mahnoor	Ahsan
<p>- To increase engagement and collaboration between students at Barts/QM. I collaborated with ISOC (ROCK branch) on an ongoing project 'Whitechapel street kitchen' (WSK) which is set up once a month outside Aldgate Tesco and provides food/essentials to families in need and homeless people. The opportunity is open to all students, gives back to the community and motivates students to volunteer by rewarding volunteering hours</p> <p>- Students previously found logging their volunteering hours so I created an informative PDF with a link to a YouTube Video, on how to log your volunteering hours. This was sent out to be circulated to all QMSU students</p> <p>- Despite the difficulties in finding volunteering opportunities since the lockdown. We are slowly but surely moving towards finding some potential opportunities and are at the moment liaising with numerous organizations including Toynbee hall and E1 community gardeners in order to create more opportunities. We are doing our best.</p>		
Volunteering Officer (Mile End)	Tasmiah	Shamsad
VP Barts	Numa	Ali
VP London	Varvara	Evgeniou
VP Barts and VP London Joint Report		
<p>Handbook - sent to all finalists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rites of Passage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with Nicolas at St Paul's Fri 21st Quote received from Gary Schwartz for photography Met with Alex for Gowning (black and white hoods?) Association Dinner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awards form to be sent soon(ish) 6th April Blues & Colours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms sent to student groups and posted on social media Deadline 6th Feb and aim for results announcement mid Feb BLSA awards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forms sent to all finalists 		

Had a merry Christmas x		
Welfare Officer (BL)	Lucy	Edgar
Welfare Officer (HSS)	Anjali	Gananathan
<p>As Welfare Representative for the Humanities and Social Sciences, my work recently has been focused on organizing wellbeing events for the annual study-well campaign. I have now run one event in first semester – it was an arts event held in the blomley room, where students could paint on the canvases and coasters provided. I was also working on running an animal therapy event with an organiser in semester one, but they were unable to make the event last minute due to travel circumstances. From that point, I began organizing with another organisation – Ark Farm. I am currently working out the logistics and when to run the event – this might also take place during April exam season. Aside from this, I have been looking to find effective ways to improve womens safety, and hope to work with the venues team if I have ideas about implementing physical changes to social events.</p>		
Welfare Officer (S&E)	Fahad	Kolim
Womens Representative (BL)	Rebecca (Becky)	Hoskyns
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organising self-defence classes for women, these will be running in February - Been in communication with SMD about teaching of female catheterisation - Attending meetings for the Athena Swan committee 		
Women's Representative (Mile End) Joint Ticket	Amy	Krens
	Natasha	Kaur

Disabled and SLD Rep (Mile End) Scrutiny Panel – 1st February 2022

Wednesday 1st December to Tuesday 14th December was Queen Mary's first 'Disability Awareness Fortnight', and as the Disabled and Specific Learning Differences Students Union rep I was responsible for organising events and content.

The aim of the fortnight was to show that, despite the challenges faced by people with a disability or specific learning difference, amazing things are possible. The challenges you face do not have to hold you back. It is these challenges that help you grow.

When planning the events, competitions, campaigns, and content throughout the fortnight, I had 3 main focuses:

- 1) Make the most of it - I wanted to have a different event or content on each working day of the fortnight.
- 2) Online and in person - where possible, I wanted to include an online version of all in person events so that no one was excluded.
- 3) 3) Alone and together - I wanted to provide a mixture of events for people do with other people or independently.



DISABILITY AWARENESS FORTNIGHT 1-14TH DECEMBER				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 Art Competition Launch	2 Deaf Awareness Training	3 Puzzle Pages Competition Launch
6 An Evening with David Smith	7 Is it OK.?	8 What Disability Means to Me	9 Film Screening: Dear Evan Hansen	10 Assistive Technology Demo
13 Blog	14 Digital Library			

• Online
• In person



Wednesday 1st December

On the first day of 'Disability Awareness Fortnight' we launched an art competition. Students were asked to produce a piece of artwork, based on any subject, and made from any medium, using their non-dominant hand. This competition was inspired by Henry Fraser. Henry is an artist, paralysed from the shoulders down, who uses his mouth to hold his paintbrushes and pencils. The two winners both received a Henry Fraser print.

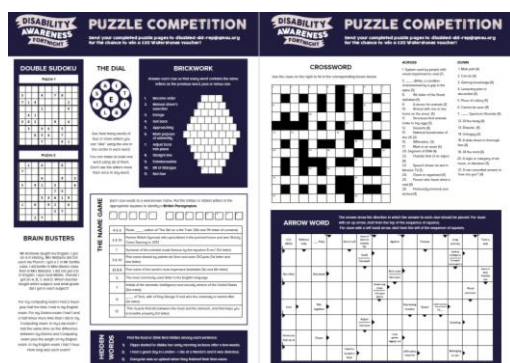


Thursday 2nd December

A Deaf Awareness Training event was planned to take place on the second day of the fortnight, organised by the BSL Society. Unfortunately, this event had to be postponed due to the instructor being unwell.

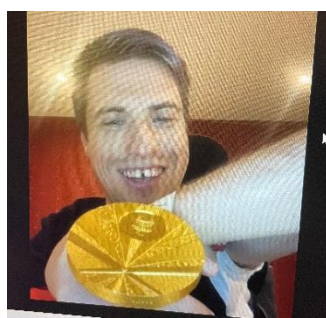
Friday 3rd December

On the third day of 'Disability Awareness Fortnight' we launched a second competition - Puzzle Pages. Students were challenged to complete a variety of puzzles, including a crossword, arrow word, sudoku, and many more.



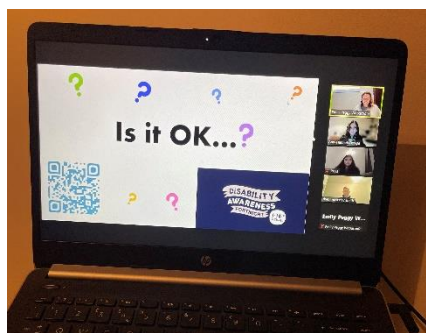
Monday 6th December

We held an evening with David Smith MBE, Paralympic Boccia Champion. He spoke about the challenges he's faced associated with his Cerebral Palsy, his amazing Boccia career, and his exciting plans for the future.



Tuesday 7th December

On this day we held an event called 'Is it ok...?'. This was a relaxed student panel discussion about life as a student with a disability or specific learning difference. It was a chance for students to discuss their experiences and ask questions.



Wednesday 8th December

On Wednesday we held an event in the campus library asking students to anonymously write down their answer to the question: 'What does disability mean to you?'. These responses were added to our wall, allowing other students to read them and get an insight into what disability means to QMUL students.



Thursday 9th December

On the 7th day of 'Disability Awareness Fortnight' we held a private screening of 'Dear Evan Hansen' for 30 students – this event sold out days in advance. This is a hugely popular new film – based on the hit Broadway and West End musical – about a high school student with social anxiety disorder and his journey of self-discovery and acceptance following the suicide of a fellow classmate. We hope that the themes covered in this film around mental health helped to start valuable discussions.



Friday 10th December

This was our last in-person event as part of 'Disability Awareness Fortnight'. This event was held in the Assistive Technology room in the campus library and students were given the opportunity to try out some of the amazing assistive technology services available to students with a disability or specific learning difference.



Monday 13th December

I launched my blog - written by students, for students. This was one of my manifesto pledges when I was elected; a blog where students can write about their experiences as a student with a disability or specific learning differences so that other students do not feel alone in the challenges they face.

Guest Blog: Relationship with Writing

**Amy,
Dyslexia**

Computer Science PhD, 2nd year

I opened up a new Word document around 30 minutes ago with the intent of writing a quick blog post about my relationship with writing. The thing is...

Tuesday 14th December

On the final day of the fortnight, I launched our 'digital library'. This consists of a huge range of books, documentaries, films, series, social media accounts, and podcasts that were created by and celebrate disabled people, raising awareness of the barriers disabled people face.

Digital Library

Books

Books - Fiction

- A Room Called Earth by Madeline Ryan (Autism)
- One Two Three by Laurie Frankel (Autism, Wheelchair use, communication device)
- So Lucky by Nicola Griffith (Multiple Sclerosis)
- Get a Life, Chloe Brown by Talia Hibbert

The first 'Disability Awareness Fortnight' was a huge success.

I have received multiple messages from both students and staff congratulating me on the success of the fortnight and sharing with me how impactful it has been for them.

However, I could not have organised this fortnight alone - I want to say a huge thank you to the SU staff and other SU reps for their support and help in organising and advertising these events.

Please visit @disabled_sld_rep_qmsu on Instagram and look at the 'DAF' highlight to see more about the fortnight.

You can also visit this liberation campaigned page on the SU website:

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