

Student Council

Tuesday 15 March 2022 6.00pm via Zoom

Draft Agenda and Papers

1. Welcome and Apologies






2. Chair's Introduction

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council are asked to approve the minutes of the last meeting of Student Council held on 1 February 2022.

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
3. Club Sport
4. Communities Board:  [Communities Board 15 February](#)
5. Education Board
6. HSS Faculty Board:  [HSS Board 25 January](#)
7. Postgraduate Board
8. S&E Faculty Board
9. Scrutiny Panel
10. Societies Board:  [Societies Board 2 February](#)
11. Student Media Board
12. Student Media Finance and Affiliations Panel
13. Sustainability Board:  [Sustainability Board 20 January](#)
14. Volunteering Board
15. Welfare Board:  [Welfare Board 27 January](#)

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

Scrutiny Panel

The Scrutiny Panel met on Monday 7 March 2022. The agenda and reports submitted to the Panel are appended at the end..

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

6. Ratification of the appointment of new External Trustees to the QMSU Board of Trustees

The Students' Unions Appointments Committee received over 20 applications for the three vacancies for External Trustees. The Appointments Committee shortlisted seven applicants and interviewed them on 8 March 2020.

The Appointments Committee included two representatives from Student Council. The full membership of the Appointments Committee was as follows:

- Chris Weavers - QMSU External Trustee (Chair)
- Adi Sawalah - QMSU President and Chair of the Board of Trustees (Executive Officer Representative)
- Jonathan Morgan – (QMUL Representative)
- Aisha Qadi - School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences Representative and Student Council Deputy Chair (Student Council Representative)
- Azmain Iftexhar- School of Economics and Finance Representative (Student Council Representative)

The Appointments Committee have recommended the following for appointment, subject to the approval of Student Council (as required by our Articles of Association. Student Council are asked to formally approve the appointment of:

Oscar Tang

Oscar is practicing solicitor. He advises on technology and data protection matters, including in relation to regulatory and compliance issues, data breach and response, and privacy-related litigation. He also has significant experience representing clients in disputes and regulatory investigations arising out of complex commercial transactions and stakeholder relationships.

Oscar has been actively involved in ad hoc *pro bono* work since he started working as a lawyer, including advising on charity incorporation and constitutional documents, commercial arrangements, and discrete matters including human rights litigation. He also contributes to the ethnic diversity and LGBTQ+ professional networks within and outside the firm, including working with local teenagers to improve access to and increase diversity in the profession. Recent *pro bono* work has included Representing Amnesty International in its intervention in a case before the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal on the recognition of foreign marriages between same-sex couples (*QT v Director of Immigration*).

Oscar is a graduate of Kings College London and BPP, and is a keen distance runner.

Dominique Gracia

Having trained as a barrister, Dominique spent nine years working in Parliament as a Procedural Clerk where the core of her role was always advising individual Peers and Committees about how to achieve their goals within relevant statutory and procedural frameworks. Dominique is a trained leadership and transformation coach, and has worked on projects such as bespoke governance and policy reviews, including equity, diversity and inclusion, and bullying and harassment policies. Dominique is currently Corporate Services Team Leader for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

In a voluntary capacity, Dominique is Administrative Director and Advisory Board member of the Collaborative Organization for Virtual Education (COVE),

Dominique is a graduate of Harvard, BPP and the University of Exeter. She lives local to Queen Mary in Mile End 'just across the canal' and often walks across our campus.

Hiba Khan

Hiba is a qualified NHS doctor, having studied at Hull York Medical School, is a tutor at the university of Central Lancashire, and is chief revenue officer at Medics Academy.

Amongst her voluntary roles, Hiba is a member of the Junior Doctors Representative Committee (JDRC) at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital; National Teaching and Curriculum Director, Friends of Irise International - Friends of Irise International is a student led charity that works towards empowering women in communities in developing countries by teaching menstrual hygiene management in schools. Hiba also worked on development of the curriculum for sexual and menstrual health education for schools in the UK.

Hiba has produced and directed a documentary exploring the plight of the Rohingya people in Burma, and is an Olympic Weightlifting National Competitor with several gold medals to her credit.

7. Bye-Law Changes

None submitted at this time - *possible minor 'housekeeping' changes to follow if ready in time.*

8. Motions

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.

8a - Queen Mary University of London to end ties with companies/brands complicit in Uyghur forced labour.

Proposed by: Khalid Al-Tamimy (President, Queen Mary Islamic Society)

Seconded by: Muhammad Yasif Rahman

What do you want?

The union should mandate the following:

1. A call to the Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) Finance and Investment Committee to end all current and future relations and investments with companies complicit in the use of Uyghur forced labour (as set out in the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's [Executive Summary](#)).¹

2. Student Union to lobby NUS (National Union of Students) at the national conference in 2023 to remove all complicit companies from their student discount platform.
3. Lobby QMUL on the following:
 - I. To divest QMUL's investment holdings in the named companies and inform those companies of the reasons for doing so;
 - II. To decline any future research funding and studentships sourced from the named companies or their associated companies, including those from the Joint Research Management Office and the Finance Department;
 - III. To terminate all current research projects sourced from the named companies and their associated companies; and
 - IV. To make a public statement setting out: its opposition to forced labour in Xinjiang and complicit companies, and its reason for ending ties with complicit companies.

Why do you want it?

Following FOI requests, it was found that QMUL has close ties to a number of the companies complicit in forced labour. QMUL relationship with these companies amounts to £4,702,427. These come from research funding, studentships, and investment from QMUL.²

Company	Total
Jaguar Land Rover Ltd	£ 105,000.00
Huawei	£ 1,881,219.70
Microsoft	£ 1,320,431.15
BP International Ltd	£ 24,485.00
Sony	£ 238,545.00
Tesco	£ 286,876.00
General Motors	£ 214,616.00
Disney	£ 230,131.00
Celine	£ 12,375.00
Chanel	£ 383,958.00
Samsung	£ 4,541.00
Sony	£ 250.00

As students we feel that QMUL's close ties with these companies damages the credibility of the University as an institution. It also harms our relationship with the University. Knowing that the University is so closely tied with these companies is disappointing. More widely, it is arguably in the long-term interests of QMUL to begin disassociating with industrial and Chinese Communist Party (CCP) sources of funding and investments. Given the CCP's track record on human rights abuses, it would prevent

future challenges from students. Further, it would increase QMUL's international reputation as a university that ensures its academic freedom is not closely tied to questionable funding sources. QMUL has an opportunity to distance itself from wider human rights issues.

QMUL Strategy 2030 sets out its own mission as "Dedicated to the *public good*" and "nationally and *internationally to create a better world*".³ Further, one of QMUL's core values is "ethical". As students we feel that being closely linked to companies complicit in systematic and widespread forced labour is incongruous with QMUL's mission and values.

This policy allows students the opportunity to pave the way for change; to set the standard for more ethical practices. The ends do not justify the means.

What impact will this have?

Students will study in a university that is more ethical in its investments and sources of funding. This policy provides a method to reduce QMUL's involvement in companies involved in forced labour. It also takes positive steps towards pressuring the complicit companies in investigating and making changes.

Students and the SU will have had a direct impact in alleviating some of the human rights abuses being carried out through forced labour. Students will, once again, be on the right side of history that they can be proud of.

¹ Brioni, Levi's, Louis Vuitton, Dior, Fendi, Givenchy, Celine, Timberland, Dickies, Vans, Theory, Sephora, Coach, Versace, Jimmy Choo, Michael Kors, Chanel, Costco, Hanes, Hermes, Gucci, Balenciaga, Yves Saint Laurent, Bottega Veneta, Alexander McQueen, Kate Spade, Fila, LL Bean, Hugo Boss, Lacoste, Li-Ning, The North Face, Skechers, Tommy Hilfiger, Victoria's Secret, Zara, Zegna, Anta, Jansport, Acer, ASUS, Dell, HP, Huawei, Lenovo, LG, Microsoft, Oppo, Samsung, Sony, Xiaomi, Cisco, Electrolux, Muji, Kohl's, Macy's, Nordstrom, Target, Tesco, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, HomeGoods, Walmart, Sam's Club, Flipkart, Bonobos, Walt Disney, BMW, General Motors, Jaguar, Land Rover, and Volkswagen. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), funded by the UK Government, carried out primary research and analysis on the use of forced labour in Xinjiang, China. ASPI concluded that a number of companies benefited both directly and indirectly from forced labour. These companies are listed in the [report](#). Forced labour is a concerning problem in a number of countries. In this particular instance, the systematic and widespread nature of the forced labour warrants QMUL's specific consideration.

² Sourced from Freedom of Information requests made of QMUL

³ [QMUL Strategy 2030: Our strategy for the next ten years](#), May 2019

9. 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	Recommendation
The SU should establish an antisemitism awareness month	EMBED
Investigate Mental Health Support	LAPSE*
The Union should set indicative dates for Student Council & AMM	EMBED
The Union should make it easier for students to raise issues and participate in mandates	RENEW
Supporting QMSU's Student Staff - #QMFurloughNow	LAPSE
QMSU expresses no-confidence in QMUL's Principal and President, Professor Colin Bailey	(N.B. discussions ongoing)

9. AOB

Queen Mary Students' Union Scrutiny Panel Meeting

Monday 7 March 2022 at 6.00pm
to be held via Zoom

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 • Amy Dowse, Disabled and Specific Learning Difference Representative (ME) • George Boulton, School of Languages, Linguistics & Film Representative • Azmain Iftekhar, School of Economics & Finance 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) • Pranshu Goyal, HSS <p>Apologies:</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">These can be viewed on the Students' Union Website at: https://www.qmsu.org/yourvoice/repsexec/	-
2b.	Executive Officers' Action Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none">These are being re-formatted and so are not available for this meeting	
2c.	Progress on Policy Implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none">These is being re-formatted and so is not available for this meeting	
Executive Officer Presentations and Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">Each to give a short (max 5-minute presentation) followed by 10 minutes (max) for questions from the Panel members		
Executive Officers		Time to join meeting
Robert Tucker - VP Barts and The London		6.10
Adi Sawalha - President		6.25
Muneer Hussain - VP Welfare		6.40
Radhika Thiagarajan - VP Communities		6.55
Saynab Sharif - VP HSS		7.10
Bilge Kacmaz - VP Science and Engineering		7.25
3.	Part Time Officers' Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">Panel members are asked to have read these reports circulated before the meeting	Chair
4.	Recommendations to Student Council <ul style="list-style-type: none">Members will be able to make recommendations to the 15 March 2022 Student Council meeting for Censure, Satisfaction, or Commendation	Chair
5.	Consideration of Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">Feedback and suggestions on the meeting	Chair
7.	Chair's Closing Remarks	Chair

Rob Tucker - VP Barts and The London

January-February:

- Furthered branding conversations supporting the MOA (memorandum of agreement) meetings with the university – focusing on duplication of societies for Mile End & BL, faculty naming of the other universities in London with historic medical schools & BLSA bye-laws – allowing on all of these for it to be shown the SU is democracy and we only change things if students ask and vote on it.
- On branding, am working with Barts Health NHS trust, Barts charity (c. £340 million), legal advice, and many other external stakeholders on a full paper that with SMD staff support should be able to go to SENET and then College Council to provide evidence of relationship issues a rebrand of Barts and The London School of Medicine & Dentistry would do to QMUL as whole.
- Hosting two BL student consultation events with VP Health Prof Sir Mark Caulfield – supporting students being updated on the BL branding work and in an environment that they can give their honest opinions saying many of the un-said problems for student groups.
- Met with University College Council on an update of aims for this year as VP BL alongside the other QMSU exec.
- Attended an Access to QM launch event – supporting local students interested in coming to university as whole (many for medicine) as well as specifically for QMUL.
- Supporting QMSU with education awards organising, supporting new categories in sustainability and how postgraduate reps can be specifically highlighted.
- Meeting weekly with the university over the current UCU industrial action – focusing on recovery of missed teaching and students' opinion shared about the current situation. Although SMD has been mostly unaffected by the industrial action, have been supporting for all faculty students.
- Supported the BLSA team with the United Hospitals Conference, providing training to reps and cross-London conversations about health students needs and student union support.
- Co-created a paper being used in BL SMD both to NHS staff as academic clinicians, and to our university staff & students on guidance for using cameras during online teaching sessions – on how we can encourage students giving guidance when it helps with teaching/learning and how to support students with several reasons why they do not want to have their cameras on.
- Supporting BLSA Malta – new structure introduced this year for BLSA Malta reps is going well, the reps are regularly meeting and beginning to take advantage more of staff committee meetings with regular updates. Supporting them with a social media presence now to help get the word out to more students, facility space in their campus speaking to SMD staff, and merch for Maltese students to feel more included as a community. And regularly attending the Malta SSLCs to support their course reps there.
- Supported by BLSA VPs, blues & colours awards for medic & dentist finalists nominations and selection was done incredibly well this year over the last few weekends (well done to Varvara & Numa, BLSA VPs for help organising this).
- Supporting the Students' Union elections team – in promotion to students via bulletin & social media. As well as hosting both the BLSA candidate debate, and QMSU Executive Officer Question Time.
- Working with estates staff about Blizzard Muse space – since Blizzard building opening in 2005, several attempts made to get it from an empty space to one that can be utilised by students – have been co-ordinating design and support in estates

strategy board (ESB) – now in finalising designs will ensure more student feedback into the space.

- Working on intercalation (one year BSc/MSc courses taken during medicine/dentistry) external appeals process – how in future these may be less dependent on academic grades that have been hugely affected by covid and more towards students' passion of subject shown in the interviews.
- Interviewed & selected new head of Student Academic & Pastoral Support for SMD – going to support individual over the next few months before they officially start in the role, making sure they meet with our students, so the service adapts more to students' current needs 'post-covid'.

Vice President Welfare (Muneer Hussain) – Scrutiny Panel Report

March 2022

www.qmsu.org



Student Wellbeing

Welfare Reps

Muneer organised an event for welfare reps to network and raise concerns. The event was well received by those that were present and issues were identified regarding the different demands of welfare reps that depended on the nature of the society. Welfare reps for sports societies and clubs often have a much larger role to play and experience a lot of pressure in the role. Muneer is looking to organise a drop-in session for welfare reps to encourage those that have concerns or issues to come forward with them.

Academic Welfare

The Advice and Counselling Service have now recruited three wellbeing advisers whose purposes are to look at ways of improving student wellbeing across the university from a more preventative and general lens. Muneer will be meeting the advisers to identify areas of collaboration and push forward some of the ideas around integrating welfare provisions within lectures and other teaching activity.

Graduation Fund

The Students' Union previously had a Graduation Hardship Fund that assisted students in their costs towards graduation by funding their cap and gown hire. The fund lasted two and half years and as of January 2022 graduations, has been depleted. Muneer has been working on securing more funding for this and has managed to secure £30,000 from the university to go towards the Graduation Fund. It is intended that this will until Summer 2024.

Accommodation

Feedback Week

Residences held their feedback week in December to collect student input regarding their experiences in halls. Muneer lead from the Exec to ensure there was presence from the Student Union. Overall, feedback from the students was positive with the odd maintenance issue being flagged up. Some halls mentioned the lack of spaces and opportunities to socialise and get to know their neighbours.

Housing Fair

Following on from previous work in this area the Housing Fair has been pencilled in for the 15th of March. Muneer has been present in conversations regarding the fair and what services would be present. He will push the Students' Union to promote the fair in order to make sure as many students as possible are aware of it.

Miscellaneous

Friday Prayer Motion

Muneer submitted a paper to the Education Quality Standard Board (EQSB) regarding blocking off Fridays 1-2pm from teaching as per the AMM policy. The paper also outlined further steps to help mitigate the issues faced by Jewish students in regard to the Sabbath. The board agreed with the principles of the paper and actioned a group to look at the feasibility of the steps suggested. Muneer has also contacted the university about Exam timetables to ask about ensuring there are no exams/assessments scheduled for Friday 1-2PM.

Contemplation Space

Muneer has raised the issue about lack of contemplation space with the university. The Nest Kitchen is space in the Students' Union Hub that is not utilised during the academic year. Currently it is used for commercial purposes during the summer. Muneer will meet with Estates to discuss looking at this issue in general and the possibility of converting the Nest Kitchen into a quiet space that could double as contemplation space during peak usage times.

Radhika Thiagarajan - Scrutiny Panel Report – March 2022

Employability:

As per previous update, 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. In term 2, Radhika organised Alumni Café for Computer Science and Engineering Students for the month of February and alumni from Spotify, Braze and Ministry of Justice attended. Again, this event was 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 aspiring a career in the Arts (like actors, journalists, authors etc.) and the event is set to happen on 30th March.

Moreover, Radhika is also leading on the Student Engagement sub-group of the Graduate Attributes work-stream team at Queen Mary. In January and February, Radhika spoke to students about how their course can be better developed and tailored to help them find jobs, or help them with their lives after university. Focus groups are now being conducted based on my initial conversation with students, to gather more details. Hopefully, the findings of these focus groups will help the university adapt its academic curriculum so that it 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 met with Nightline Association who have encouraged and promised to support the establishing of an in-house drop in service Nightline at QM. Radhika is currently in discussions with the University, QMSU and Nightline Association and other representatives about budgeting, insurance, safety, training etc. that comes with setting up a drop in service nightline. Radhika is also working with Gloucestershire Nightline to get the service agreements and governance documents ready for the Nightline to be set up. A realistic timeline to expect the Nightline on campus would be July – September 2022.

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 meetings in the next few weeks with these reps to explore collaborations.

Furthermore, there were issues with international students who have failed their January assessments. Their resits do not happen soon enough 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 is raising the issue with Colin Grant in the Global engagement meeting and also with the international advice team to help make arrangements so that these students do not lose their 2-year Post Study Work opportunity.

Women's welfare and safety of the LGBTQ community:

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 on campus. Radhika has worked with representatives and the QMSU communications team to get out the Ask for Angela posters, which are now available all over SU spaces. She is also currently lobbying the University to do the same in their venues.

Furthermore, Radhika is working with women's reps in order to lobby the university to invest on providing free sanitary products for women across the different campuses. The university has now promised to take up this project as a matter of priority and free sanitary products should be made available for all students soon enough across all campuses.

University Name Change Policy:

Radhika is also working with LGBTQ reps to lobby the university to change its system so as to allow students change their "known as" name on Teams or Email, without having to produce proof or go through complicated processes. This type of a system will be trans students friendly and Radhika is lobbying for the university to prioritise this matter.

Liberation:

Asian Heritage Month:

Radhika is currently working with international and BAME reps to organise Asian Heritage Month for March. Part of the planned activities for the month includes, food trucks on campuses, multicultural fair at BL, developing social media content to promote the Asian heritage, organising a panel event to showcase Asian leaders.

Saynab Sharif (Vice President Humanities and Social Sciences)

March Report

[This report covers the period 24th January to 25th February]

Education Board & Humanities and Social Sciences Board

- VP HSS chaired HSS Board and co-chaired Education Board with the VP BL.
- 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.
- Issues raised by students:
 - Teaching Rooms Technology – in particular, teaching rooms there are camera quality and loud background noise, connectivity, differing experiences online and in-person as well as interaction. There are issues with playback on Q-Review from quiet audio and microphones, and the use of QM Plus during exams there is a system outage when students are using it.
 - UCU Strike Action – during these meetings asked for feedback on the impact within each school. There were concerns with coursework and dissertation deadlines not yet moved, missing teaching time and when it will be rescheduled. It was also noted that campus engagement in activities has significantly dropped.

Industrial Action Strategic Contingency Group

- This is a group that was set up to look at the effects of the strike, the effects of mitigating measures on the student experience, teaching and assessment, academic progression, and award outcomes etc.
- I have continued to convey the feedback from students who have strong concerns on the impact of teaching strikes will have on them. I've raised that there needs to be better communication with students from staff and direct instructions on what is happening and next steps. The issue of extenuating circumstances and how missed teaching will be mitigated when it comes to submitting coursework, dissertations, and exams. These are continuing discussions with the university and is still ongoing.

Festival of Education

- Involved in the planning of the Festival of Education 2022 – alongside Vice Principal Education, I will be chairing the Student Panel on 'Social Responsibility and Community Engagement'.
- This will take place this week and I have been working on outlining the content for the panel and engaging with students with what they'd like to discuss, how to participate.

SU/University meetings

- Inclusive Curriculum – working towards a HSS workshop
- Assessment and Feedback – participating in new group within this workstream on the attainment gap
- NUS Delegate – working together with delegates to propose a policy at the conference
- SSLC Course Feedback – staff training as co-chairs with students, looking through the evaluation of the course.
- Education Quality and Standards Board
- Economics Masters' Apprenticeship Programme Induction
- SU January Welcome Fair
- Election week: 28th Feb – 4th March 2022

Bilge Kacmaz – VP for Science and Engineering

PhD Hub

Bilge has regular meetings with PhD students and helps them with their issues in both academic and working environments. PhD students raised some issues related to access to academic papers. Bilge had a meeting with the library team and let them know about the difficulties students faced and James Soderman had a meeting with Bilge and students. Also, guidance about library services related to finding academic papers is sent to students by James.

There were health and safety issues in the PhD hub at SEMS. Bilge took some photos and let the related QM staffs know about ceiling collapse, heating, cleaning in the kitchen and boxes piled in the sitting area. All these issues were discussed with the estate team and solved. From now on PhD hub will be checked every month and the school will make sure that students do not have any difficulties in their studying environment.

Another issue raised by students was 24-hour access. Before the pandemic students used to have 24-hour access to SEMS. Because of health and safety issues, lonely working they have limited access now. Especially 3rd-year students and students who are working part-time during the day would like to stay overnight sometimes to study. The issue is discussed with the School Manager and she said it was not possible for the reasons mentioned before. Since some students really need access, schools consider giving them access until midnight.

Queens' Building Phase 2

Bilge is currently working with the Estates and Facilities team for Queens' Building Phase 2 project. Bilge took part in the architects' interview panel and score them. She also gave some feedback related to the basement part. Since there are a couple of teaching rooms in the basement, she mentioned that it would be really good for students to access the courtyard between their classes and have a nice break. Bilge is in touch with the team and she also brings some ideas for the project to be done with considering students' well-being and their needs.

Also, as an engineer, Bilge encourages the team to find the best team including engineers who are working with the materials which have a positive environmental impact. Because of the limited budget courtyard will be done for the specific areas Bilge mentioned that the selected team should leave some room for future developments in case the school needs to make some changes later on.

Internship

Bilge is currently working with SEMS to find at least 10 internships for each school. Bilge is trying to create this environment at QM where students can do internal credit-bearing internships. She thinks this will be pretty helpful for students and Queen Mary. This will also help students to get involved with the university more.

With this project also external internships opportunities will be found for students. Big companies will be contacted and make an agreement with the university. Long term goal is to have agreements with specific companies where queen mary students can make their internships there.

The internship page will be launched soon on Queen Mary Students Union's website. Internship guidance and tips will be added to this page. Internal and external internships options will be added where students directly click on the link and can apply for. Lastly, some external links will be added for students to find internships from different areas and companies.

Position	Name	Name
Allied Courses Representative	Polen	Bareke
BAME Representative (ME) (joint ticket)	Devanshu	Goyal
	Muhammad	Hamza
BAME Representative (BL)	Shivani	Ganesh
BLSA Malta Co-President (Activities)	Tiago	Huber
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supported BLSA Malta Sports Officer in organising a UK Sports Day fundraiser bake sale on campus for the sports teams - supported BLSA Malta Entertainments Officer in organising a Valentine's Day roses & chocolates distribution service on campus - established a group of (eight) Welfare Volunteers to support BLSA Malta Welfare Officer in planning and running welfare campaigns this and next semester - in ongoing discussions with QM on establishing student common rooms in the Malta campus - in ongoing discussions with QM on setting up and inaugurating the commercial kitchen in the cafeteria - met with the SU Marketing Team (Jak) to establish communication link between Malta and the Marketing Team 		
BLSA Malta Co-President (Education)	Yousef	Salem
Commercial Services Officer	Sakshi	Kumawat
Dental Society President	Jathursha	Suresh
Disabled and Specific Learning Difference Representative (ME)	Amy	Dowse
<p>1) I have continued to work on my 'Disability Spotlight' series on my Instagram account @disabled_sld_rep_qmsu. The aim of this is to raise awareness for a variety of different disabilities, illnesses and learning differences. I have been posting information about these different disabilities, illnesses and learning differences to coincide with the national/international awareness day/week/month.</p> <p>2) Alongside the 'Disability Spotlight' I have also been publishing a quote from someone who experiences the spotlighted disability, illness or learning difference. Some quotes have come from friends and family, but most have been provided by 'celebrities'.</p> <p>3) I have been working on a video series where I ask employers and employees about working with a disability or learning difference as I want to give students some help and guidance for when they leave university. I currently have 3 volunteers who are recording their answers to a set of questions which I will then edit into a video.</p> <p>4) I have been assisting a group of students organise an Autism Awareness Event to coincide with the awareness week at the end of March. I have also spoke to other groups</p>		

of students giving them advice and guidance on who to organise disability awareness events.

5) I have been working on creating a simple and clear flow diagram which tells students the process involved with applying for Disabled Student Allowance – this is a notoriously confusing process. I am contacting the Disability and Dyslexia Service to involve them in this work.

Disabled and Specific Learning Difference Representative (BL)	Emily	Woodrofe
International Representative (BL)	Panayiotis	Stavrinou
International Representative (HSS)	Martin	Paszi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have finalised and revised the scholarship scheme proposal, and communicated about the necessary adjustments to it with the relevant people from the school's management. I am glad to say that the project will end soon, as it looks the scheme is going to be accepted, and be made available for 2023 entry students. This means all international students will finally be eligible to at least one scholarship to fund their studies. I have flagged some issues that I have been made aware of to the relevant representatives. I have started planning the International Students' week with my fellow international representatives, and started gathering students' information for social media 'profiling'. 		
International Representative (S&E)	Adya	Aggarwal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Week - April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organising on-campus activities, filming video representing students' diversity at QMUL, international student profiles for social media, Instagram quizzes Organising Asian Heritage Month(AHM) with VP Communities and BL BAME Representative - March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organising Food Trucks for Mile End Campus, Asian Culture and Snacks Video, Social Media Quizzes, AHM's QMSU Website Worked with the Careers and Enterprise Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increased engagement for International Students' Careers Week by improving communications through emails and social media. 		
LGBT+ Representative (BL)	Amelia	Jones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with students and staff to rewrite Y1 diversity training. Will attend the tutor trainings in the summer. Passed a motion at student council mandating ALL students (including med & dent) can change their names without providing ID. Took this to the SMD EDI team. On the back of this, I am meeting with the head of SMD IT tomorrow to change the system. Organised many events for LGBT+ HM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosted the LGBT+ History Month Panel, with 4 guests: Chloe Orkin (head of Barts SMD EDI), Michael Brady (head LGBT+ advisor to NHS England, Phil Samba (works for PrEPster), and Martin Storey (Mermaids rep). 30+ attendees, also received lots of positive feedback. Helped with the Drag Show. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ran 'All You Need To Know About LGBTQIA+ Sex' event, with positive feedback. Will select the winner of the prize draw next week. ○ Ran the 'Queer Climate Festival' as part of LGBT+ HM and Green Week. Had very good attendance and lots of positive feedback. People made zines and tried drag makeup, and won prizes! ○ Helped organise the dalston drag brunch, a joint event between the 2 lgbt+ socs. ○ Organised the Queer Climb. Sold out the 30 subsidised £2 tickets. ~35 people ended up coming. Lots of positive feedback, we are hoping to do it again. Also it led to a new group for lgbt people wanting to do exercise together to be formed. ○ Hosted the LGBT+ HM - themed Griff Quiz. 26 people attended. Raised £58 for Positive East. ○ Got the LGBT+ Progress Flag up on the top of the Garrod Building for the month. • Found two people who want to run for Trans rep. • Worked with Isi (ME LGBT+ Rep) to design new (nicer!) pronoun badges. • Have been advising students on how to change their names, having positive feedback about my guidance document. • Volunteers for consent training have received safeguarding training. <p><i>Before February:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted an event on the effects of HIV on the LGBT+ Community over the decades for SHAG week. • Organised STI testing on campus for SHAG week. Fully booked on second day. • Held a joint LGBT+ Rep forum on 18th Jan. Had good attendance for one of these events, and the attendees ended up engaging more with the societies afterwards. 		
LGBT+ Representative (ME) (joint ticket)	Katrina	Fuller
	Isidora	Zagradanin
<p>We:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - had the first LGBT+ Forum in collaboration with the LGBT+ BL Rep, Amelia Jones, to gather feedback - have redesigned the pronoun badges and will be ordering them soon - just finished LGBT+ History Month (February) whereby many events (online & in-person) in collaboration with the society and LGBT+ BL Rep, Amelia Jones, took place. - An LGBT+ Book Swap is still being planned, we contacted the book club societies and will follow-up in due course. 		
Postgraduate Research Representative (BL)	VACANT	
Postgraduate Research Representative (HSS) (joint ticket)	Matthew	Beach
	Vikki Barry	Brown
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

Part Time Officers' Reports – Scrutiny Committee

School of Biological and Chemical Sciences Representative	Aisha	Qadi
<p>Asian Heritage Month (AHM): Working on AHM in collaboration with the international representative (S&E) on Asian culture & trying Asian snacks</p> <p>Library services: Continuing ongoing collaboration and work with the library services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support for first year students on progression for second year and workload management -Support for SBBS students on academic skills and writing -Project to work with the DDS and academic skills -Ways to promote the services that the library has on QMplus websites <p>Assessments and Feedback: Working with assessments and feedback to improve semester B assessments and examinations</p>		
School of Business and Management Representative	Diya	Singh
School of Economics & Finance Representative	Azmain	Iftekhar
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I have been in touch with course reps of my School and took their feedback regarding assessments and feedback 2. I will be attending the Festival of Education as the student representative from QMUL at 2 different panel talks one for assessment and feedback and the other for social issues 3. I will also be organising a school forum by the end of my term 4. I have had meetings with few module organisers regarding problems that the students were facing 5. Finally, I had meetings with prospective school reps for the next term as I have decided not to run for this position for the 3rd year. 		
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
School of English & Drama Representative	Katie	Butler
School of Geography Representative	VACANT	
School of History Representative (joint ticket)	Rosanna	Matthews
	Madison	Miller
<p>Rosie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Posting on the rep Instagram I made. - Finalising content to help with assignments. - Frequently discussing ways to improve accessibility with Liesbeth Corens who oversees the EDI sub-committee for accessibility in the School of History about ways of further improving the lives of students with disabilities. - Working on a report in response to the Google Form surveys I produced. - 		

School of Languages, Linguistics & Film Representative	George	Boulton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have been meeting regularly with the SLLF Senior Tutor, departmental teaching leads, and other school staff to discuss school-related matters to work on how we can improve the quality and breadth of teaching I have been in touch with Course Reps regarding assessments and feedback. Working on a Google Forms survey focusing on inclusivity, diversity, accessibility, and equality in SLLF As School Rep, I am attending Education Committee meetings with SLLF staff. I have set up a working group to research why attendance, engagement, and participation, particularly among first-year students, have been challenging this academic year, as we are concerned about retention and students' engagement and communication I attended a departmental SSLC meeting at the meeting chair's request. We discussed issues related to the Modern Languages and Culture/Comparative Literature and Culture Research Project, industrial action, deadlines as well as teaching and learning. There was an abundance of positive feedback concerning the delivery of lectures and seminars, modules' content, and communication from the school and academic staff <p>Regarding industrial action, I sent out an information booklet to all Course Reps that was forwarded to the students whom they represent. I had a few enquiries and concerns about the strikes; however, most students seemed satisfied with the level of communication from their lecturers, how their lecturers have explained and justified strike action, and from the school. I met with a French Y4 Course Rep. and someone she represents to discuss the strikes and the detrimental impact this, along with COVID-19, has had on students' educational experience. A letter has been drafted to Colin Bailey, which SLLF Course Reps want to sign, and possibly get support around HSS, but I need to discuss the next steps with QMSU Executive Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have been asking Course Reps. and students for their thoughts on school matters, including deadlines, assessments, and the quality of education and teaching they are receiving in SLLF. I am going to update my SLLF School Rep Instagram page this week I am intending to send out a Google Forms student satisfaction survey Additionally, I am still intending to arrange a school social at the end of this semester 		
School of Law Representative (joint ticket)	Gunjit Dinesh	Madra
	Alina	Liebholz
<p>Alina</p> <p>The last weeks have been more quiet than usual. In the first part of this semester I was advising various students on assignment feedback and how to raise issues concerning feedback with the school of law. Furthermore, I have been in contact with candidates for the position of the School of Law Rep for next year and gave advise on running in the Student's Union election. Furthermore, I had some enquiries about the strike, but most students were very satisfied with the School of</p>		

<p>Law's and Student's Union communication regarding the strike days. I am currently preparing a new student satisfaction survey which I will sent out in the beginning of reading week. In the survey I want to find out how well-prepared students feel for the upcoming May examinations and potentially host a workshop or event to answer questions or to give advice to students about the exams. One idea I had was to host a "Problem Question Workshop" as this is something many law students, especially first years tend to struggle with.</p>		
School of Mathematical Sciences Representative	Hemanth	Paneer Selvam
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"> Started planning a specialty fair for clinical students to educate them about pathways to follow and steps to take post medical school. Began to survey students about their access to electronic patient records to identify issues within specific trusts. Having this access is a requirement from the GMC and is essential for students education. It has been found that and insufficient number of students have access this data. I will now be presenting this data to the associate deans (heads of education at different hospitals) to allow them to see which hospitals are fulfilling this requirement of our education with an in-depth analysis of the survey. Been involved with discussion surrounding BL branding. Meet with new head of ISHE to discuss plans about improving co-designing curriculums with students with a special focus on getting different background and experiences involved in these discussions. Plans with BL Welfare team about introducing compulsory mental health first aid within the curriculum. This is because we feel it is just as important as BLS. We feel this would be helpful both personally and professionally. 		
School of Medical and Dental Sciences Pre-Clinical (Medicine) Representative	Rahma	Hegy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had discussions regarding bookings of the clinical skills room at the RBC in Charterhouse square and the safety guidelines students have to follow. Discussed with different academic societies about planning a Q&A event for year 1 and 2 students regarding their OSCEs, and a future MOCK OSCE event for these students too. Continued discussions about online vs in person examinations and LP format worked with the university to help communicate to the students the need to fill their OH questionnaires regarding their vaccination status and to update them on the regulations in regards to the vaccine mandate. 		
School of Physics & Astronomy Representative	Sharafina	Binti Razin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the 11th of February, it was the International Day of Women and Girls in Science – I had circulated an email to the SPCS students regarding the importance of celebrating the day, including some statistics on how women get published less in high profile journals, receive less research funding, and are less likely to get promoted. In the same email, I attached a link to a crossword puzzle I created on Women in Science (https://crosswordlabs.com/view/women-in-science-11) and prepared book prizes for the first 2 people to complete it. I gave the winners an option between two books: Figuring by 		

Maria Popova, and Ten Women Who Changed Science, and the World by Catherine Whitlock and Rhodri Evans. I had also circulated via the aforementioned email, the @qmspcsreps Instagram page, as well as through course representatives, that I was interested in doing profiles on our students as a chance to learn about our very own women in science; however, I did not get any response or engagement, and that plan fell through.

- On the 9th of February, I had successfully chaired another SPCS School Forum – and attendance and communication this time around was better. SSLC took place the week after, on the 16th of February, and the format of this meeting as well as the reports was a lot more structured, with it focusing on solutions and implementing changes. Through these two meetings, I saw a trend of feedback of students, which circled around IT issues, and the quality of online learning. I had brought these up during the Education Board on the 22nd of February, and I am aiming to bring some issues up during the next IT meeting as well.

- Following my ArtScience idea, I had discussed more details as well as raised concerns regarding engagement and participation, with my staff support, Jonathan Otter, in our meeting on the 8th of February. We had decided to set up a meeting with the Student Support Officer, Harvey Abraham-Green, to look at the trend for student engagement and how the school could support the execution of this event. I dropped Harvey an email on 10th of February, but I have yet to hear back from him.

School of Politics and International Relations Rep	Louis	Gouget
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Societies Office (ME)	Bhavleen	Kaur
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Societies Officer (BL)	Karolina	Wieczorek
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Recently we've worked on:

- elections promotion,
- multicultural ball with cultural societies,
- societies weekly events in Griff,
- meeting with societies board and going through their applications,
- blues and colours committee awards,
- Malta representatives meetings.

Sports Officer (BL)	Olivia	Dupere
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- continued work on this year's Merger cup campaign, which will be based on increasing trans representation in sports. We have named the charity that we will be raising money for (Mermaids), and the details for promotional t-shirts have been sent out to all clubs. We have also made a plan to find some case studies to post on our social media platforms to increase awareness.
- Further to this I have been liaising with sports clubs to make sure both sides are happy with how the Merger cup is scored, and to help answer individual questions from clubs who have perhaps never participated in the event before.
- Been working with other members of the BLSA to decide Blues' and Colours' awards for this year's finalists. This is a lengthy process but I believe we have been able to award all those whose dedication and commitment to sports and societies has gone above and beyond.

Sports Officer (ME)	Zain	Khan
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Student Council Chair	Mouna	Ichidou
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Sustainability Officer (BL)	Minahil	Khan
Sustainability Officer (ME)	Tala	Sammur
Trans Representative	VACANT	
Volunteering Officer (BL)	Mahnoor	Ahsan
Volunteering Officer (Mile End)	Tasmiah	Shamsad
VP Barts	Numa	Ali
VP London	Varvara	Evgeniou

VP Barts and VP London Joint Report

Flagship events

- Association dinner: booked reception and dinner venues, events team looking for afterparty venue, opened nominations which are closing on March 4th, will be shortlisting the week after and releasing tickets 2 weeks prior to event, event taking place on April 6th
- Rites of passage: St Paul's booked, met with Gary from photography and Nicholas from St Paul's, had a tour of St Paul's and made a rough plan of the running of the event, trying to sort out ticketing and gowning issues
- Halfway ball: committee formed and planning underway (both on London and Malta campuses), NA and VE supporting their work
- Doctors Day BBQ: planning underway, most likely to be held at Charterhouse Square on March 30th when finalists get their results
- Graduation dinner (July 16th): events team to signed papers and find afterparty venue, to take place at Royal College of Physicians

Finalists

- Released a guide with all information finalists need to provide us with
- Blues and Colours: received over 250 nominations, gave out awards, will be releasing results sometime in w/c 7th March, and then going through appeal process
- Yearbook forms collected
- BLSA Contribution Awards collected

Student Groups

- Bringing back Griff Live events: bi-monthly events at the Griff to increase engagement of societies with the whole BL community and increase the number of non-drinking socials, held 2 quizzes (Xmas and LGBTQ) and a Drag show afterparty. Plans for March: International-themed Quiz 11th March and Multi-cultural event 25th March.
- Vigil in collaboration with BL Women's Rep and Women In Healthcare Soc: walk from ME to Garrod Building in Whitechapel and vigil against gender based violence set up in front of Garrod, Mayor and other distinguished guests were to attend on March 3rd, due to tube strikes we had to reschedule to March 10th.