

# Student Council

Tuesday 7 February 2023 6.00pm to be held online via Zoom

## Agenda

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

*Members are reminded:*

- *The meeting will be recorded and also live streamed.*
- *Please be respectful towards each other at all times.*
- *Please use the 'raise hand' function if you wish to speak during the meeting.*
- *Please remember to keep yourself muted during the meeting, unless asked to speak.*

### 2. Chair's Introduction

Including confirmation of the appointment of two new Council members to fill the vacant positions of Sports Officer (ME), and School of Geography Representative.

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Student Council are asked to note/approve the minutes of the last meeting of Student Council held on 6 December 2022.

*These will have been circulated in advance and will be taken as read.*

### 4. Minutes from Sub-Committees (*appended at end*)

Minutes which are available have been added to the end of the Council papers and will be taken as read. Members can then ask any questions to the relevant Chairs/members.

**BLSA Board** - 6 October 2022, 1 November 2022, 13 December 2022

**Club Sport Committee** - none

**HSS Board** - 4 October 2022

**Postgraduate Board** - 25 October 2022, 12 December 2022

**Science and Engineering Board** - none

**Societies Board** - 15 September 2022, 26 October 2022

**Sustainability Board** - 11 December 2022

**Volunteering Board** - none

**Welfare and Communities Board** - 11 October 2022, 8 November 2022

## 5. Executive Officer Updates

As there was no January Scrutiny Panel meeting due to the exam period, the Executive Officers will be given the opportunity to give an extended verbal update on their work and take questions from members of Student Council and any other QMSU members present.

## 6. Bye-Law Changes

*None at present*

## 7. Motions

### a) **Should Queen Mary University's Student Union become more sustainable by transitioning to a 100% plant-based food system?**

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**Proposer:** Keenal Shah

**Seconder:** Krishan Shukla

#### **What do you want?**

Plant-Based Universities is a student-led campaign with over 40 active campaigns across the UK and international higher education institutes. At Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), students have launched a campaign to ask their university to act on the climate emergency by becoming a 100% plant-based institution. We want to transition all the Student Union food outlets at the Mile End campus to 50% plant-based catering by the end of 2023. By the end of 2025, we want these food outlets to become 100% plant-based.

This year, we would start off by making incremental changes to the Ground Cafe and Draper's Bar & Kitchen, as these are the most popular places students eat on the Mile End campus. We would like to see slightly discounted prices for the vegan options at both venues. Not only would this incentivise students to make more eco-friendly food purchases but would also help with the cost-of-living difficulties affecting students. At the Ground Café, there should be more ready-to-go vegan food options that are clearly labelled as vegan. By default, plant-based milk should be served in all drinks. Customers would have to request to switch to dairy milk if preferred. At Draper's Bar & Kitchen, there should also be a greater proportion of vegan options. For all other Student Union-run outlets, we want a reduction in food products that are derived from animal origin, and a greater variety of vegan products.

By implementing some of the changes listed above, we could easily achieve our goal of having 50% plant-based catering by the end of 2023. The changes we make this year would serve as a stepping stone to our end goal of having 100% plant-based foods served on campus. The Plant-Based Universities team can actively help our Student Union to make this sustainable transition. Plant-Based Universities work with various organisations including: ProVeg who can support menu design. Plant-Based Health Professionals who ensure the nutritional adequacy of new menus. The Forward Food Program, who offer training to catering

staff as well as climate footprint calculations and labelling for food items. And not to forget Plant-Based University's affiliation with cooking organisations such as BOSH!, Heura, and 'Made in Hackney', who can provide cooking workshops/demonstrations on campus for students and staff, engaging them in the potential vibrancy, ease, and affordability of plant-based cuisine.

We are not demanding a ban on animal products from campus, but rather that our universities divest from these industries at their outlets. Because it is these industries that are the leading cause of the climate crisis which threaten our economy, livelihoods, and liberty over the coming decades. This change allows our academic institutions to act in alignment with the best interests of future generations now.

### **Why do you want it?**

We are dedicated to building a sustainable food system on campus to address the climate and ecological emergency. As students of QMUL, we share the same values of dedication to environmental and social sustainability. It is there in the university's sustainability goals and our commitment to improving access to fair food during this cost-of-living crisis. Queen Mary University of London's Environmental Sustainability Action Plan clearly states that one of the university's long-term ambitions is to 'significantly increase our sustainable food and menu offerings'. This change is realistically achievable in the short term, as seen by the University of Stirling's Student Union. Given the urgency of the climate crisis, we should begin to implement these changes now rather than delaying them.

While we recognise this is a bold ask, it is undeniably proportional to the severity of the climate and cost of living crises we are facing. We are asking our influential institutions to listen to the growing body of scientific research that highlights the necessity of transitioning towards a just and sustainable plant-based food system. A plant-based food system will produce more food, with fewer emissions, whilst also increasing carbon drawdown. It can free up 76% of global farmland, much of which can be rewilded and restore our precious wildlife. It is inclusive of all faiths and all religions. It helps tackle the climate crisis, the cost-of-living crisis, and it is truly sustainable for humans and the planet. Here are some examples of how the campaign is growing across the UK: The University of Stirling has agreed to become 50% plant-based by the end of this academic year, and 100% plant-based by 2025. King's College London has opened a plant-based café. So has The University of West England, whose campus catering is already 51% plant-based. London Metropolitan now has meat-free Mondays. The University of Exeter has removed red meat from all its campus outlets except one. Bournemouth University has lowered the prices of plant-based alternatives to meat and dairy. And the list goes on, growing all the time.

This catering transition is an unprecedented opportunity for the university to set an example of how to act on the climate and cost of living crisis in accordance with the rise of youth activism. It will spark important discussions and promote awareness around sustainability amongst all QMUL stakeholders. Together, we can raise and spread awareness of climate change and the viable solutions that exist. We can create an environment where students can actively engage in these important discussions and celebrate this beneficial shift.

### **What impact will this have?**

A recent YouGov poll has shown that 55% of students in the UK would like to see more plant-based options in university outlets. This is no surprise considering that, in the UK, 2 million

people now identify as vegan and seven million as vegetarian. Our goal is to shift the concept of a plant-based food system from something once considered unthinkable to something celebrated as a key solution to the climate and ecological emergency.

The impact on the student experience will be mixed, some will be very happy, and others will not be supportive of the change. However, the climate and cost of living crises are inextricably linked to a government that has failed to plan and mitigate disaster. We have the opportunity to do better. This is a preventable problem, and the solution is one that has been massively stigmatised. But the hostility and resistance towards a plant-based food system is one that we can change and improve through collaborations with various organisations, such as the ones mentioned above.

While this may be a bold change at QMUL, we can draw from case studies across the UK which demonstrate the social and financial viability of such changes. For example, at University College London when transitioning to default plant milk, they used the classic 'Net Promoter Score' survey which found that more than 80% of responders were in favour of the change. Student activists also went around campus and conducted short interviews with students on their opinion of default plant milk and then created an Instagram reel as an accessible way to celebrate the change.

Essentially, a plant-based food system will produce more food, with fewer emissions, whilst also increasing carbon drawdown. It can free up 76% of global farmland, much of which can be rewilded and restore our precious wildlife. It is a key to protecting the future of this planet for the next generations, securing essential resources, and ensuring the health of students and the earth.

In a cliché yet concise summary, we can be the change we need to see in the world.

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## **8. Student Council Review**

An interactive discussion for Council Members to give their views on the effectiveness of Student Council, and to any make suggestions for changes or improvement.

## **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: *These have been discussed by the Executive Officers, who have made recommendations for each - Adi can lead on this and the Executive Officers can take any questions.*

| <b>Policy</b>   | <b>Recommendation</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| The Union should introduce a 'Big Green Box' online 'suggestion box' /concern reporting form                                      | Renew                 |
| The Union should introduce sustainability training for all SU staff   | Renew                 |
| The Union should introduce a new 'sustainability role' within society committees on a voluntary basis                             | Renew                 |
| All Queen Mary Students' Union staff should undertake suicide awareness training  | Embed                 |
| The Union should recommend all staff and student officers to include their name pronunciation in their email signature            | Embed                 |
| The Union should lobby the University to implement a long-term scheme to provide and distribute free menstrual products on campus | Renew                 |

## **9. AOB**

# Student Council

## Minutes

**Tuesday 6 December 2022, 6.00 pm - Held via Zoom and livestreamed**

### Present

Azzah Abubacar, Chair of Student Council

### Executive Committee:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Jojo Croft          | VP Welfare                                    |
| Saynab Sharif       | Vice President Humanities and Social Sciences |
| Charlie Sellar      | Vice President Barts and The London           |
| Radhika Thiagarajan | Vice President Communities                    |

### Student Representatives and Part-time Officers

|              |                   |  |
|--------------|-------------------|--|
| Matthew      | Beach             | Postgraduate Research Representative (HSS)                                   |
| Elena        | Erescov           | Postgraduate Taught Representative (BL)                                      |
| Ali          | Hammed            | Societies Officer (BL)   |
| Shivin       | Hassan            | LGBT+ Representative (BL)  |
| Rahma        | Hegy              | School of Medical and Dental Sciences Clinical (Medicine) Representative     |
| Sofia        | Heras Valdivielso | Volunteering Officer (Mile End)  |
| Austin       | Iroegbu           | BAME Representative (BL)   |
| Eileen       | Jia Huey Lee      | Disabled and Specific Learning Difference Representative (BL)                |
| Amelia       | Jones             | Welfare Officer (BL)   |
| Giritharadas | Kayatre           | Womens Representative (BL)   |
| Yunus        | Khan              | Welfare Officer (S&E)  |
| Ivy          | Lee Jia Jia       | International Representative (BL)  |
| Annie        | Mae Wright        | VP Barts   |
| Liam         | Nicholson         | VP London  |
| Shirin       | Sadat Massroor    | School of Medical and Dental Sciences Pre-Clinical (Medicine) Representative |
| Faizan       | Sheikh            | Disabled and Specific Learning Difference Representative (Mile End)          |
| Janice       | Tan               | Volunteering Officer (BL)  |

|        |          |                                   |
|--------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Kaye   | Tian Hoo | International Representative (BL) |
| Rob    | Tucker   | Welfare Officer (BL)              |
| Melody | Zhao     | School of Law Representative      |

### **In attendance:**

|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Brad Coales        | Secretary and Governance Adviser     |
| Marianne Melsen    | Student Voice and Insights Manager   |
| Jak Curtis Rendall | Head of Communications and Marketing |

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following:

- Kareemah Jaigirdar - Allied Courses Representative
- Aisha Qadi - International Representative (S&E)
- Adi Sawalha - QMSU President
- Muneer Hussain - Vice President Science and Engineering

### **1.0 Chairs Welcome and Announcements**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2.0 Chair's Introduction**

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

The Chair reminded Members that she had been trying for some time to encourage Members to complete an online poll to approve the appointment of two additional members to fill the vacant positions of Sports Officer (ME), and School of Geography Representative, but so far had not received sufficient votes. Their statements had already been circulated several times, so Members were asked to vote whether, or not they were in favour of appointing to those positions. There were two separate votes, one for each position.

The results of the votes were as follows:

Sports Officer (Mile End)

For: 13  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 3

School of Geography Representative

For: 15  
Against: 0 Abstain: 3

Although a majority of a quorate meeting were in favour of the appointments, the Bye-Law requires that a simple majority of Student Council (i.e. 50% plus one) vote in favour of the appointments, and the votes cast in favour at the meeting did not meet that threshold. Therefore, the Secretary would amalgamate the votes of those voting at this meeting with

those who had voted online, filter any duplication, and then see whether the combined totals met the threshold.

### **3.0 Student Council nominations for QMSU Appointments Committee**

The Chair explained that Student Council needed to nominate two members to serve on the Union's Appointments Committee to appoint two new External Trustees to replace Hugh Murdoch who recently resigned from the Board of Trustees, and another External Trustee coming to the end of their term of office.

Azzah Abubacar, Chair of student Council and Matthew Beach, HSS PGR Representative both nominated themselves and, in the absence of any other nominations, were both appointed.

### **4.0 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Members were asked to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Student Council held on 18 October 2022. The minutes were duly approved.

### **5.0 Minutes from Sub-Committees**

There were no minutes to consider at this meeting.

### **6.0 Report from the Scrutiny Panel and Executive Officer Updates**

The Chair reported that the Scrutiny Panel had met on Monday 21 November.

The Panel members were: Azzah (Chair), Aisha Quadi International Representative (S&E) and Course Reps: Melody Minjun Zhao, Sara Othman, Faruq Yinusa

The Panel received reports from each of the Executive Officers and judged all of their work to be satisfactory.

The Panel recommended that the following Executive Officers should be recommended for Commendation:

- Charlie Sellar - VP Barts and The London
- Radhika Thiagarajan - Vice President Communities

Student Council approved the Panel's recommendations.

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.

There were no questions to the Executive Officers.



## Motions and Amendments

### 7. Byelaw Changes

The Chair introduce this part of the agenda by explaining that there were four Bye-Law changes for consideration - the first three were really housekeeping to clarify existing provisions and did not really change anything. In the absence of AS, SS would outline the reasons behind the first three, and CS would explain the fourth. As there was a very crowded agenda, Members were asked to take the supporting papers as read and to concentrate on the proposed changes.

- a) Should the Students' Union amend its bye-laws to specify the term in office for Executive Officers?
- b) Should the Students' Union amend its bye-laws to clarify who can hold part-time officer positions?
- c) Should the Students' Union amend its bye-laws to ensure the elections rules are fair and clear?
- d) BLSA Board Student Council Positions

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**a) Should the Students' Union amend its bye-laws to specify the term in office for Executive Officers?**

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**Proposed by: Adi Sawalha (SU President)**

**Seconded by: Saynab Sharif (Vice President Humanities and Social Sciences)**

SS introduced the motion, as per the covering paper and as there were no questions, and there being no speaker against, the motion was put to a vote:

**In Favour: 13**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 4**

The motion was **passed**

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**b) Should the Students' Union amend its bye-laws to clarify who can hold part-time officer positions?**

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**Proposed by: Adi Sawalha (SU President)**

**Seconded by: Saynab Sharif (Vice President Humanities and Social Sciences)**

SS introduced the motion, as per the covering paper and as there were no questions, and there being no speaker against, the motion was put to a vote:

**In Favour:** 13  
**Against:** 1  
**Abstentions:** 3

The motion was **passed**

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**c) Should the Students' Union amend its bye-laws to ensure the elections rules are fair and clear?**

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**Proposed by: Adi Sawalha (SU President)**

**Seconded by: Saynab Sharif (Vice President Humanities and Social Sciences)**

SS introduced the motion, as per the covering paper and as there were no questions, and there being no speaker against, the motion was put to a vote:

**In Favour:** 14  
**Against:** 0  
**Abstentions:** 3

The motion was **passed**

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**d) BLSA Board Student Council Positions**

**Proposed by: Charlie Sellar (BLSA President)**

**Seconded by: Jumainah Fardaus Rahman (Pre-Clinical Rep), James Tavner and Rahma Hegy (Clinical Rep), Kareemah Jaigirdir (Allied Courses Rep), Sabir Saleh (Dental Faculty Representative), Annie Mae Wright (VP Barts), Liam Nicholson (VP London)**

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CC introduced the motion, as per the covering paper and as there were no questions, and there being no speaker against, the motion was put to a vote:

**In Favour:** 11  
**Against:** 0  
**Abstentions:** 5

The motion was **passed**

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## 8. Motions

The following motions were not debated at the Annual Members Meeting held on 28 November as the meeting ran out of time. They are therefore being brought to Student Council for debate instead. Their proposers and seconders have been invited to attend the meeting.

- a) Should the Union Lobby the University to support and invest in a Queen Mary Nightline service and to more broadly improve the Mental Health service offered to students?
- b) Should the university look into reducing the financial burden on international students?
- c) Should the Union lobby the University to enable undergraduate International Students studying Law to access Vacation Schemes?
- d) Can the Union Shop allow students to heat their own food in the microwave?
- e) Should the Union organise an annual 'Idea for Humanity' summit?
- f) Should QMSU be more generous in using its Liberation funds, society funds and other funds to allow students to spend on food (and not just cultural food) when QMSU events are organised? QMSU reps and reps that sit on boards to make financial decisions should also do the same.
- g) Should the Students' Union lobby the University that all PhD students at Queen Mary University of London that did not receive the stipend increase announced by UKRI on the 2nd of September 2022, should receive a one-time payment?

Council were then asked to approve the text of a letter re. to the University from the Students' Union concerning the BL Rebrand, as per the motion passed at the AMM.

- h) Approval of Letter re. BL Rebrand.

**a) Should the Union Lobby the University to support and invest in a Queen Mary Nightline service and to more broadly improve the Mental Health service offered to students?**

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**Proposed by: Radhika Thiagarajan (VP Communities)**

**Seconded by: Adi Sawalha (QMSU President), Saynab Shariff (VP HSS)**

RT spoke in favour of the motion. There being no questions and no speaker against, the motion was put to a vote:

**In Favour: 11**

**Against: 0**

**Abstentions: 5**

The motion was **passed**

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**b) Should the university look into reducing the financial burden on international students?**

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**Proposed by: Kaye Tian Hoo and Ivy Lee Jia Jia (international Rep (BL))**

**Seconded by: Radhika Thiagarajan (VP Communities) Aisha Qadi (International Rep (S&E))**

Ivy and Kaye shared a speech in favour of the motion. There being no questions and no speaker against, the motion was put to a vote:

**In Favour: 13**

**Against: 4**

**Abstentions: 1**

The motion was **passed**

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**c) Should the Union lobby the University to enable undergraduate International Students studying Law to access Vacation Schemes?**

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**Proposed by: Ananya Mukherjee**

**Seconded by: Aks Khurana**

Melody Zhao spoke in favour of the motion. There being no questions and no speaker against, the motion was put to a vote:

**In Favour: 12**

**Against: 2**

**Abstentions: 4**

The motion was **passed**

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**d) Can the Union Shop allow students to heat their own food in the microwave?**

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**Proposed by: Nimat Choudhury**

**Seconded by: Sahra Yusuf**

As neither the proposer or seconder were present to speak for the motion, it was not debated. However, the Secretary said that Union policy was not required to raise the question of whether there could, or should be access to a microwave on the Godward Square side of the campus. Therefore, they would raise this request with the commercial services team to see what could be done.

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**e) Should the Union organise an annual 'Idea for Humanity' summit?**

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**Proposed by: Yash Jangid**

**Seconded by: Mahak Kharb**

As neither the proposer or seconder were able to be present to speak for the motion, it was not debated. However, the Secretary again said that Union policy was not required to explore this suggestion. Therefore, they would put the proposer and the Union's President in touch outside of the meeting to discuss the proposal in more detail.

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**f) Should QMSU be more generous in using its Liberation funds, society funds and other funds to allow students to spend on food (and not just cultural food) when QMSU events are organised? QMSU reps and reps that sit on boards to make financial decisions should also do the same.**

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**Proposed by: Radhika Thiagarajan (VP Communities)**

**Seconded by: Jojo Croft (VP Welfare)**

RT spoke in favour of the motion. There being no questions and no speaker against, the motion was put to a vote:

**In Favour: 12**

**Against: 2**

**Abstentions: 2**

The motion was **passed**

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**g) Should the Students' Union lobby the University that all PhD students at Queen Mary University of London that did not receive the stipend increase announced by UKRI on the 2nd of September 2022, should receive a one-time payment?**

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**Proposed by:** Luca Marinelli

**Seconded by:** Matthew Beach

Luca spoke in favour of the motion, and Matthew added that QM had accepted lower payments for some PGR students knowing that they were insufficient. The 20hr working rule for international students compounded the issue. The University said that they were 'encouraging' funders to increase the payments, but this was not a very effective lobbying position.

There being no questions and no speaker against, the motion was put to a vote:

**In Favour:** 11

**Against:** 6

**Abstentions:** 0

The motion was **passed**

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**h) Student Council to agree text of letter to be sent to QMUL re. BL Rebrand as per motion passed at AMM**

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**Proposed by:** Charlie Sellar (BLSA President)

**Seconded by:** All other QMSU Executive Officers

CS introduced the item. The letter was the result of the related motion passed at the AMM and the text had been circulated within the papers. Student Council were being asked to approve the text, as the letter would be signed by the Executive Officers and sent on behalf of the Students' Union. There being no questions and no speaker against, the letter was put to a vote:

**In Favour:** 14

**Against:** 1

**Abstentions:** 2

It was **agreed** that the letter as circulated should be sent to the University on behalf of the Students' Union.

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## **9. 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 (see next page) 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 (it was indicated on the presentation where policies had been Covid related):

There being no speakers against any of the recommendations contained in the block, it was put to a vote in a single motion:

**In Favour:** 10

**Against:** 2

**Abstentions:** 4

The motion was **passed** and therefore the recommendations of the Executive Officers were accepted.

## **9. AOB**

LN commented that the attendance at Student Council was very poor this year and that this was not acceptable. SS added that there were also attendance issues with her Board. CS and RT had not had the same experience with their Boards.

It was agreed that there should be some form of post Xmas 're-launch' to try and understand possible causes and address them to improve engagement.

| <b>Policy</b>  | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
|--|--|
| Should the Union lobby the University to ensure no teaching from 1-2pm on Fridays?   | Renew  |
| Should QMSU do more to help the PGR community at QMUL?   | Renew  |
| Should QMSU work on a national scale to refund fees for University students?   | Lapse  |
| Tuition fees reduction according to the "blended learning"   | Lapse  |
| Should the Students' Union lobby for postgraduate research students to get automatically assigned to an external "personal" academic mentor for the duration of their PhD? | Renew  |
| QMUL Rent Strike Campaign Motion: 'Should QMSU commit to supporting QMUL Rent Strike Campaign in the following specified ways?'  | Lapse  |
| This year the 'Race and the Desire for Difference' module has been 'suspended' due to COVID  | Lapse  |
| Reduce International Fees  | May be superseded by new policy from the ASM (now referred to Student Council) |
| Should the Students' Union lobby the university to instate a 'no-detriment' policy?  | Lapse  |
| Clarity and Communication for Postgraduate Research Students   | Embed  |
| COVID Motion (Support of QMSU Rent Strike)   | Lapse  |
| Disability Awareness Week  | Embed  |
| The Union should support and commit to pushing the re-evaluation of Queen Mary's ethical investment policy   | Renew  |





# Barts and The London Students' Association

## Minutes

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### BLSA Board Meeting 1

Date: 06/10/2022

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Meeting Room

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Meeting called by: Charlie Sellar

Scribe: Ali Rookes

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### 1. Preliminary Items

#### **Apologies**

Janice Tan Sue Wei (JTSW)

Amy Hickey (AmH)

Mohammed Zaid Jaweed (MZJ)

Rawand Shado (RS)

#### **In Attendance**

Charlie Sellar (CS), Ali Rookes (AR), Liam Nicholson (LN), Annie Mae Wright (AMW), Amelia Jones (AJ), Kareemah Jaigirdir (KJ), James Tavner (JT), Rahma Hegy (RH), Shirin Sadat Massroor (SSM), Jumainah Fardaus (JF), Sabir Saleh (SS), Ali Hammed (AH), Sarah Chan (SC), Amy Ng (AN), Shivin Hassan (SH), Kayatre Giritharadas (KG), Austin Iroegbu (AI), Ivy Lee Jia Jia (ILJJ), Kaye Tian Hoo (KTH), Eileen Lee Jia Huey (ELJH), Amaan Abbas (AA), Christina Carrington (CC), Carl Evans (CE), Lauren Johnson (LJ)

#### **Did Not Respond**

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## **Part One – Terms of Reference Review**

### **1. Terms of Reference Review**

Approved by all

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## **Part Two – Updates**

### **1. President Updates**

Garrod Phase 3 – functional plans (e.g., storage), frozen floor plan in place – multi-faith centre confirmed and shall remain on third floor.

Freshers Fortnight – major success

Cost of Living – survey data collected and will be analysed

BLSA Malta – Governance and Terms of Reference to improve structure of BLSA Malta

- First ever Freshers Week held

### **2. Officer Updates**

Shall be included and ordered by zone for the next BLSA Board meeting.

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## **Part Three – Agenda**

### **1. MBBS with Honours (JT)**

*“Does the BLSA Endorse the MBBS With Honours system, whereby new students (23-24 intake) would be eligible for an MBBS with honours upon graduation?”*

Certain medical schools across the country use this system, and it may lead to increased points on foundation training, therefore potentially putting BL students at a disadvantage

Honours system would be based on Educational Performance Measure and would be internal, therefore separate to UKMLA

New intake only (23/24) as changing to honours system would require consent from all students

- JT: Current system works, changing to honours system not worth it due to potential for toxic, competitive environment created among students. Merit/distinction also can be used to allocate points.
- RH: Pass/fail system preferable, specialty applications do not discriminate between honours system and our current system
- SSM: Agree with RH, MLA precludes necessity of honours system
- CS: Honours system is divisive within staff community
- AA: Honours system devalues other MBBS degrees, before the change



# Barts and The London Students' Association

- CS: Top 15% only receive 'honours' at end of degree, currently merit/distinction given by year.
- AJ: Core Surgical Training has criteria for distinction/merit system regardless, competency-based degree preferable
- CC: Honours system discredits every other facet of medicine
- CE: Honours system promotes exam-focused culture, and not necessarily better doctors
- LN: Distinction/merit still used by competitive speciality applications, therefore benefit to changing to this system is unnecessary.

| Motion   | For | Against | Abstain |
|--|-----|---------|---------|
| <i>"Does the BLSA Endorse the MBBS With Honours system, whereby new students (23-24 intake) would be eligible for an MBBS with honours upon graduation?"</i> | 0   | 20      | 3       |

## 2. Get BSc Oral hygiene and Therapy included in the rites of passage upon graduation (RS)

*"Should the BLSA make arrangements for BSc Oral Hygiene and Therapy to be included in the 2022/23 Rites of Passage Ceremony at St Pauls Cathedral?"*

BSc Oral Hygiene and Therapy (OH&T) work closely with BDS students, but still do not get to attend Rites of Passage (RoP)

- LN: Declarations of Geneva specific to medical and dental students, capacity issue is critical, Allied Courses and other courses may also want to join Rites of Passage, separate ceremony not possible due to the substantial costs occurred by booking St Pauls, gowning is a major issue also as only medical or dental students can wear black gowns, issues with QMUL and whether the Senior Executive Team (SET) will even allow it to continue
- CS: Previous BLSA President has booked St Pauls for the next few years, and Rites of Passage cannot coincide with QM Graduation, and currently, relationship with QM is good and should be maintained
- SS: Current BSc OH&T freshers may believe they are getting a RoP ceremony and are looking forward to it, in addition to the course shares many aspects with BDS.
- AMW: Despite sharing similarities with BDS, they still miss the first and last years – it is a different course ultimately. RoP exists largely due to the Declaration of Geneva – if other courses are let it, it risks the existence of RoP
- CS: PA students do not partake in Declaration of Geneva
- LN: Medics and dentists receive Blues and Colours at RoP – other BLSMD courses do not – a compromise should be reached: ceremony like Halfway Ball should be provided, possibly underwritten by Assoc Fund, for Allied Courses etc. We should make them feel like valued BL students
- KJ: Interested in acknowledgment as suggested by LN, but RoP is specific to MBBS and BDS
- CS: Potentially including external intercalators
- RH: Celebrating these students is important as BLSMD is comprised of more than just medics and dentists – we should treat them as BL students
- KJ: Allied Courses should graduate together, as currently they graduate with QM
- CS: We have little control of graduation, other than for medics and dentists
- AMW: Cannot provide a dinner for everyone, specifically intercalators – these dinners are to celebrate contributions and work at BLSMD. It would also incur a large amount of work. May be possible for Allied Courses, however.



# Barts and The London Students' Association

- AJ: QM would likely be in favour of sharing graduations
- SS: Including them in a BL event will make these students feel more valued by BLSMD
- JT: Allied Courses should get an event, intercalators should not as it is unlikely they would have sufficiently contributed to the BLSA

| Motion   | For | Against | Abstain |
|--|-----|---------|---------|
| <i>“Should the BLSA make arrangements for BSc Oral Hygiene and Therapy to be included in the 2022/23 Rites of Passage Ceremony at St Pauls Cathedral?”</i> | 0   | 20      | 3       |

| Amendment  | For | Against | Abstain |
|--|-----|---------|---------|
| <i>“Should we provide Allied Courses a celebratory event?”</i> | 23  | 0       | 0       |

### 3. Get alumni fund to support covering the cost of dental Dinner (RS)

*“Should the BLSA partially fund the 2022/23 Dental Dinner, given the difficult situation with Dental Sponsors amongst the current economic climate?”*

Difficult to get sponsors in the current climate, and the current Dean is leaving – who currently funds much of these events. If there is money remaining in the Alumni Fund, that would be useful to fund the Dental Dinner. It is a celebration for all BDS students at the end of each year, and all staff are invited. Tickets can be up to £80.

- SS: Any contribution would be useful, we are investigating saving costs (e.g., venue, catering) and continuing to search for sponsors at dental conferences and events etc.
- LJ: Apply to Assoc Fund requires reasoning
- LN: Money allocation depends on the President – the money must be allocated to all, such as student groups. Assoc Fund panel can determine the money allocated. The provision is that any money formed from events immediately re-enters the BLSA bank account.
- CS: We make money from many of our flagship events (e.g., RoP) – Halfway Ball will be the most similar in this case. The money made from these events is used to fund other BLSA activities
- CS: Alumni Annual Fund and Assoc Fund would be the only sources of funding available
- AMW: Halfway Ball is funded through application to Assoc Fund, perhaps DentSoc should also have to apply to this fund.



# Barts and The London Students' Association

- CS: Applying to Assoc Fund would be preferable as it would be a more democratic process. Applications open on Monday (10/10/2022) and would likely be the best way to go about this.
- LN: Halfway Ball did not require £500 grant from Assoc Fund last year
- SS: High price last year may be due to very nice venue
- CS: We will help with applications to Assoc Fund

## 4. Status of WeareBL - 'Should the responsibilities of the WeareBL task force be dissolved into BLSA Responsibilities? (CS)

*"Last year, as a response to the Branding crisis brought about by the renaming of the faculty from BLSMD to FMD, a task force of students was established under the 'WeareBL' campaign. Does the BLSA Board move to dissolve the duties of this committee into the roles and responsibilities of the BLSA Board?"*

Students involved in protecting BL, including the interests of BL. However, this group is not democratic and accountable. Formation of a 'Marketing and Branding Subcommittee' and will be democratically elected.

- LN: Governance and Terms of Reference nearly complete. Elections planned for General Committee Meeting (GCM)
- CS: Engagement Officer likely to be chair of this subcommittee
- AMW: Concern as to whether Engagement Officer may have too much work to be able to effectively manage group
- CS: Extraordinary vote at GCM likely mechanism of election
- CE: Frustration with WeAreBL being separate to BLSA – BLSA felt redundant, as the BLSA Board should be running the campaign as the job is to represent BL students
- CS: The group needs to be accountable, and therefore should be subsumed into the BLSA. It will be a subcommittee that reports to us but cannot vote.
- LJ: Alumni and BATLAA are keen to get involved and help.
- CS: WeAreBL society could be preferable, as would be held accountable to Societies Officer and still be part of the wider BLSA.
- CE: Former Heritage Society – relatively low uptake so WeAreBL society may not be effective. Also, role of Societies Officer would significantly change if they were responsible for WeAreBL.
- CS: Society under BL or subcommittee under BLSA Board ensures consistent messaging between campaign and BLSA.
- KJ: Representation as society or part of BLSA Board may improve opportunities for courses other than medicine to get involved in campaign.
- CS: Subcommittee minutes would be part of updates to BLSA Board to ensure progress/whether we could offer support.
- AA: Many BLSA Officer roles are involved in this – Alumni, Engagement, External Affairs etc. – could present difficulties regarding chairing this committee
- AMW: Chair could be elected by subcommittee, but Operations Officers will sit on this subcommittee as their roles are critical to WeAreBL success. Subcommittee structure would be best way to hold campaign to account.
- CE: BLSA Board have mandate to represent BL students – it is our role. Therefore, WeAreBL should be run by the BLSA Board. The BLSA Board are elected to perform this task, not necessarily external students.
- AH: Shared agenda points would make subcommittee unnecessary – there would be significant overlap. The campaign should be run by the BLSA Board as it increases our involvement.
- AJ: Significant work required for the WeAreBL campaign last year. Purpose-build subcommittee would permit more time to work on the campaign.



# Barts and The London Students' Association

- AMW: Campaign took a lot of work; therefore, subcommittee would be preferable due to time constraints of BLSA Board members. External Affairs, Alumni and Engagement Officers should attend these meetings and be a bridge between subcommittee and BLSA Board.
- AA: Subcommittee will be large considering all the *ex officio* members – perhaps one person chair/spearhead would be preferable (CS: this would not get past student council due to undemocratic nature)
- JT: BLSA Board should advise, but be kept separate, as the campaign may interfere with BLSA Presidents' activities. This campaign will affect all future BLSA Presidents as well, and a good relationship with QM is in jeopardy if the BLSA remain too close to the campaign.
- LN: Significant workload, highly detailed campaign – future campaign will require significant workforce
- JT: Motion should be left until we have a plan and all information
- CS: Plan should be formed before motion is taken.

## 5. Push to get the Barts and The London ID badges back (AR)

*“Should the BLSA Lobby Queen Mary University of London to reintroduce the Barts and The London ID badges to all students of BLSMD?”*

Lacks first name, 'medical student' and NHS logo – highlighted as patient safety concern.

- CS: GDPR and safety concern for a vocational degree like medicine or dentistry, complete lack of 'medical student' is a safety risk for patients
- AH: QM ID with 'medical student' is a possibility
- CS: This should be addressed as safety concern, as BL ID will only come with wider branding push.
- JT: GP Practices do not offer separate card – therefore card stating 'medical student' is very important
- AH: In addition, not all placements are at Barts Health NHS Trust, therefore use of 'medical student' on ID is not applicable in all cases.
- SSH: Barts Health NHS Trust ID did not even say 'medical student' either
- CS: Safeguarding issue will be pushed as it is critical for patient safety.

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## **Part Four – Any Other Business (AOB)**

JT requires help for fair likely to be in the February period

RAG week assistance required – help will be offered by various BLSA Board members

BLSA Board Member of the Month: Amaan Abbas – above and beyond

Report and Support lead may come and talk to the BLSA Board

## **Date of Next Meeting**

01/11/2022

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**End of Meeting**



# Barts and The London Students' Association

## Minutes

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### BLSA Board Meeting 2

Date: 01/11/2022

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Study Room

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Meeting called by: Annie Mae Wright

Scribe: Ali Rookes

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### 1. Preliminary Items

#### Apologies

James Tavner (JT)

Rawand Shado (RS),

#### In Attendance

Charlie Sellar (CS), Ali Rookes (AR), Liam Nicholson (LN), Annie Mae Wright (AMW), Amelia Jones (AJ), Kareemah Jaigirdir (KJ), Rahma Hegy (RH), Shirin Sadat Massroor (SSM), Jumainah Fardaus (JF), Sabir Saleh (SS), Ali Hammed (AH), Sarah Chan (SC), Amy Ng (AN), Shivin Hassan (SH), Kayatre Giritharadas (KG), Austin Iroegbu (AI), Ivy Lee Jia Jia (ILJJ), Kaye Tian Hoo (KTH), Eileen Lee Jia Huey (ELJH), Amaan Abbas (AA), Christina Carrington (CC), Carl Evans (CE), Lauren Johnson (LJ), Rob Tucker (RT), Elena Erescov (EE), Eve Patrick-Troy (EPT), Mohammed Zaid Jaweed (MZJ), Amy Hickey (AmH), Janice Tan Sue Wei (JTSW)

Did Not Respond



## **Part One – Updates**

### **1. President's Update**

Garrod reprovision taking priority – stage 3 reached. Critical point being reached.

Multi-faith room review occurring on Thursday 03/11/2022: meeting with Estates and Facilities – consulting with religious unions across BL and QM. AbSoc QM society have not been liaised with – to be liaised with to ensure they are invited to the meeting.

Lockers in the Garrod Building – CS understands that they will be included in the Physiology Room. Potential to be included, but not a huge volume of demand from students, therefore not a top priority.

### **2. Officer Updates**

To be released onto the Instagram to show to students

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## **Part Two – Agenda**

### **1. BLSA Scrutiny Process (LN)**

Papers circulated with agenda.

Scrutinising process now given to respective boards – passed at Student Council. This shall be our own scrutiny process.

All BLSA Board members to submit updates – updates must be submitted by deadline, to be set by the BLSA Secretary. SPC to scrutinise the updates – outcomes include accepted, commended, no confidence or censor. Questions shall then be asked to Officer at the next meeting for clarification. This to hold each other to account and to commend Officers for good work. SPC members shall leave to room while they are being scrutinised.

'No confidence' vote in an Officer shall trigger a by-election. This is due to the Officer not fulfilling their duty to BL students. It shall not occur immediately but will occur if the Officer continues to not fulfil their specific duty. Support shall be offered before removal from post. Struggling in the role is possible and okay, so support will be offered if requested. Censorship shall occur before no confidence in most cases, unless in particularly severe cases.

This only applies to Part-Time Officers. Point 1.1 shall be amended to reflect this.

Point 1.6a changed to reflect 'appropriate SPC member, staff/student support, and BLSA President' rather than 'manager'.

BLSA Board takes priority over specific societies with regards to scrutiny.

Censorship entails a meeting with SPC.





| Motion                | For | Against | Abstain |
|-----------------------|-----|---------|---------|
| BLSA Scrutiny Process | 19  | 0       | 0       |

## 2. Association Fund (LN)

Papers circulated with agenda.

Confidential – not be circulated to students.

No confirmation of second pot of money, therefore this round was more conservative than usual.

Alumni Annual Fund shall be applied for by CS – hope to free more funding for the Association Fund.

QM Alumni Fund have stated they will not directly fund student groups. BLSA President shall have to apply for a certain amount of this fund, which shall be allocated using an internal process.

Information was missing from applications – the new application form shall include additional requirements. This is included in Section D: balance and justification. Signature from named account holder at QMSU shall in included.

Student Council members receive £100 part-time officer budgets to put on events. Larger funding requests must be applied for via the Association Fund.

All guidance is found on the BL website.

| Motion           | For | Against | Abstain |
|------------------|-----|---------|---------|
| Association Fund | 20  | 0       | 0       |

## 3. Restarting the WeAreBL campaign (AR)

*'Should the BLSA restart the campaign to protect Barts and The London SMD in light of continuing to be ignored by the senior management team?'*

Students are unhappy with the current direction taken by student management regarding the future of Barts and The London SMD.

- RT: Links to BLSA building – once guaranteed, it may be possible to restart. Keen to keep as a student-directed campaign.
- LN: The building is critical – ensuring the building is guaranteed is the priority.
- CS: Building reprovision may be at stake. Once guaranteed, there may be opportunity for future campaign, in addition to letting students know the progress of the campaign.
- AMW: Who is restarting the campaign remains an issue. Last year to was not quite a subcommittee of the BLSA Board – this remains a difficulty. Recruitment needs to be considered. Campaign on the side may be preferable.
- RH: Workload considerations if members of the campaign included BLSA Board members, in addition to protecting the image and relations with external figures.
- AH: By discussing this, the BLSA are involved already.
- AMW: Board members may want to join, despite the subcommittee being separate to the BLSA Board.



# Barts and The London Students' Association

- CS: Is the campaign more effective from an organisation such BLSA?
- LN: BLSA Board may be involved in subtle campaigning.
- AMW: BLSA Board may be more effective if we are strategic but should not necessarily be exclusive to the BLSA Board. So long as we receive funding, the campaign would be better if it was separate.
- CS: Our central aim is to be the voice of BL students. It is our constitutional imperative to do this. We are mandated to do this, not only in role, but also considering the petition.
- SH: A balance between BLSA and separate campaigns may be preferable.
- AA: BLSA Bulletins have the WeAreBL logo already.
- AMW: We should be transparent in our aims.
- CE: This is the most unifying aspect for all BL students. It is what the students want of us, and it appears we are not working hard enough on this at the current moment.
- RH: Subcommittee with experienced campaigners may be good.
- AMW: Accountability of campaign is still important – BLSA Board members will likely be involved.
- KG: Subcommittee may be formed in similar manner to Halfway Ball
- CS: Support BLSA assisting campaign, as BLSA has access to wider QMSU procedures and events. BL students attending will help us to pass motions beneficial to us. BLSA endorsement is preferable.
- CS: This is established as something we would like to do. Motion should be changed to *'Should the BLSA endorse restarting the WeAreBL campaign and offer endorsement?'*
- EPT: IDs only have initials and lack 'Medical Student' – this is a major safety issue.
- SH: Meetings with alumni and staff who want to help would be very beneficial.
- CS: Branding comes up at every single meeting.

| Motion   | For | Against | Abstain |
|--|-----|---------|---------|
| <i>'Does the BLSA endorse the WeAreBL campaign?'</i>   | 20  | 0       | 1       |
| <i>'Should the BLSA actively support the WeAreBL campaign to recruit individuals to assist with the campaign?'</i> | 20  | 1       | 1       |

#### 4. Centralised BLSA engagement (AA)

*'Should the BLSA restrict individual student group promotion on chats in favour of centralised BLSA engagement?'*

The student groups contain a large volume of promotional material – some students have expressed concern regarding this. The group chats have not been used for their intended purpose.

- RH: It is not our role as BLSA Board to be moderating these chats. If students do not like the group chats, they are free to disengage from them. Staff members often like to ask to have items posted in the groups, which is useful.
- SH: Many people have these groups muted as they are not useful.
- LN: No one uses societies bulletins due to the volume of information posted on the group chat.
- AH: Calendar engagement is not good. The issue with restricting these posts on group chats as that it is unenforceable.
- LN: Could remove posters from group chats if they break enforced rules.
- SS: Dentistry have multiple group chats, one for just students, but also one with committee members involved: this has reduced the volume of inappropriate promotion.



# Barts and The London Students' Association

- KG: Weekly events are missed due to the volume. If they are stopped in societies, perhaps more people would see them on the calendar.
- KJ: Like the dentists, we have an advertisement chat, in addition to year group chats. Who are we to restrict what people post? Students may not like this.
- AA: Instagram chats are too small. Not feasible to have
- AH: Micromanagement of group chats is not ideal – it is not our responsibility and feels wrong, and like censorship.
- RT: This may benefit the student groups – feedback from students is imperative. BLSA admins responsible for the group chats may lead to repercussions for the BLSA.
- CS: Difficult to force, although it would be preferable. BLSA may appear to be the villain if student groups forced to advertise through the BLSA.
- CE: Implementation is key. It is not overly micromanagement – reviewing posts before posting is not unheard of and may be better for students. One page may be better and easier to read. If we draw people in by restricting the group chats, more people may engage with the calendar.
- AA: Micromanagement argument is fair. But in the last month, groups are largely only promotions. Restricting promotion on the group chat is important to integrate people in BL culture.
- RH: Moderation is key as a large volume of potentially inappropriate posts are included on group chats. If the BLSA are responsible for these groups, it may become our issue. Asking societies if they would be happy to endorse the calendar rather than post in the group may be preferable.
- LJ: People have told reps that students are getting frustrated with volume of posts. Asking society leaders to direct students to calendar would be good.
- SH: By asking students whether this is what they want, it is less of a micromanagement situation.
- AH: Practicalities of moderating group chats is too difficult and not worth it. Especially if the group chat is BLSA-run. Pushing on the societies chat would not help, perhaps only for 1-2 weeks. It may look like micromanagement to many students.
- RH: BLSA admin moderation would be the only way to do this.
- CS: Who does responsibility fall under?
- AA: We put idea into group chats and let students decide. People not wanting to spam groups may result in self-moderation. People may use the chats if they are not being spammed.
- JF: Admin privately messaged, asking not to spam group. Gentle nudging would be preferable idea. Specific restrictions may be better. Group chat links can spam as much as they want within their own groups.
- SH: Medicine group chats are for medicine, not promotions.
- AH: A lot of promotions are from external providers.
- RH: Societies may not always send events, and it is not exclusively for events. Moderation is difficult due to this. Telling students that they can use the calendar would be preferable, even if they do not.
- LN: Asking society leaders to stop spamming student year groups will be preferable, as BLSA moderation is too difficult.
- CE: Asking why they are not going through the BLSA would be good. They are not engaging with the BLSA.
- AH: Tried pushing, may come down to being more direct about it.
- AMW: Not necessarily, can be more polite: a nudge.
- CS: Happy to use some executive power if AH cannot force it.
- AH: May be more direct, it would be preferable.



# Barts and The London Students' Association

## **5. Point of Discussion (CS)**

The BLSA is looking to restructure the way many of the roles and the way we are organised. Any motions regarding the change of roles are being held until the December meeting where we can approve any changes in principle.

CS will come forward with full plan in December – opportunity for feedback.

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## **Part Three – Any Other Business (AOB)**

RH workshop 5:30pm in the Garrod Building from Thursday to Monday.

BLSA Board Member of the Month – RAG Officer Amy. Maze shall be open late on Wednesday 02/11/2022.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

13/12/2022

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**End of Meeting**



# Barts and The London Students' Association

## Minutes

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### BLSA Board Meeting 3

Date: 13/12/2022

Time: 18:30 – 20:30

Study Room

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Meeting called by: Charlie Sellar

Scribe: Ali Rookes

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### 1. Preliminary Items

#### Apologies

Rawand Shado (RS)  
Sarah Chan (SC)  
Janice Tan Sue Wei (JTSW)  
Ali Hammed (AH)  
Kareemah Jaigirdir (KJ)  
Christina Carrington (CC)  
Amy Hickey (AmH)  
Mohammed Zaid Jaweed (MZJ)  
Shirin Sadat Massroor (SSM)  
Rahma Hegy (RH)

#### In Attendance

Charlie Sellar (CS), Ali Rookes (AR), Liam Nicholson (LN),  
Annie Mae Wright (AMW), Amelia Jones (AJ), Rahma Hegy  
(RH), Shirin Sadat Massroor (SSM), Jumainah Fardaus (JF),  
Sabir Saleh (SS), Amy Ng (AN), Shivin Hassan (SH), Kayatre  
Giritharadas (KG), Austin Iroegbu (AI), Ivy Lee Jia Jia (ILJJ),  
Kaye Tian Hoo (KTH), Eileen Lee Jia Huey (ELJH), Amaan  
Abbas (AA), Carl Evans (CE), Lauren Johnson (LJ), Rob  
Tucker (RT), Elena Erescov (EE), Eve Patrick-Troy (EPT),  
James Tavner (JT), Carl Evans (CE)

#### Did Not Respond



## Part One – Updates

### 1. President's Update

Taken as read

### 2. Officer Updates

Taken as read

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## Part Two – Agenda

### 1. BLSA Board Restructure and Discussion (CS)

Paper included with agenda

Improving efficiency of BLSA Board – educational zone issues: non-medical or dental representations. There is a greater affiliation with institutes than BL. 'Allied Courses' suggests simply non-medical. Moving to 'Institute Reps' is a major improvement. CS proposes each institute has their own representative. Allied Courses Rep is for this change in BLSA Board structure and will help to improve engagement from these students.

Operational zones: confused structure. Difficult to distinguish VP Barts and VP London. VP Barts (Operations) and VP London (Activities) proposed name change. Secretary removed from Operations zone to expand scope of role. External Affairs role re-designed to 'Treasury' role.

Welfare zone to remain unchanged.

AA: Ops zone not having structured support

CS: Admin team (Secretary and Treasurer) – work closely with BLSA President. Work ongoing regarding accessing staff support.

AJ: Lack of allied courses rep may mean there will not be a non-medical or dentist on the SPC team. Losing this may be a detriment to BLSA, as they may not sit on SPC.

CS: Early stages of plan, currently difficult to answer. Current proposal is more for conception. Finer details yet to be confirmed. Potential nomination from each proposed institute rep to attend SPC.

AMW: Role can be adapted to ensure there will be a non-medical/dentist at SPC

JT: One per institute will improve voice of students, but integration to SPC is important

CS: Finer details yet to be confirmed



# Barts and The London Students' Association

LN: Allied courses engagement is difficult – rotation through institutes to attend SPC may be preferable. Allied courses member must be present at SPC.

AA: Communication between the institute reps will be important – formalisation of attendance at SPC would be an option.

RT: Certain things must be decided ASAP – before January elections is critical. All institutes require a rep, not just the larger ones. Separate admin team is not ideal. BAME rep name consultation still required. Some work is required very soon.

CS: Some details will need working out soon, but what we agree to need here and now may be subject to change.

RT: Consultation on BAME Rep name required, but difficult to address.

AI: If BAME Rep can fulfil role effectively, the goal being accomplished is the major priority.

## **CS: Action Point - Consultation on the BAME Name by January**

CS: Admin team not a priority – creating distinct teams is the priority to improve effective team working with clearer roles. Secretary and Treasurer do not necessarily fit into specific teams and therefore 'Admin' team.

AMW: BAME Rep renaming could involve the Anti-racism steering committee

CS: In this meeting – passing motion before January elections as issues need to be fixed as soon as possible. Stress next year means our systems need to be improved very quickly. Getting everything in place for January elections is key. Getting this motion passed in principle is the current plan, the finer details are less of a priority for now. The name changes of role and functions to VPs need passing today, but the other details can wait.

AMW: Altering diagram to reflect 'Institute Reps', ensuring they will be represented on SPC (CS agrees to this).

JT: Education zone meeting regularly could then feed back into SPC if required, bypassing need for institute rep from sitting on SPC.

CS: Role of SPC – new structure would improve SPC effectiveness in running daily BLSA activities.

AA: Why is admin team not part of SPC? Especially considering expanded scope of roles.

AMW: SPC involves reporting back on reps under VP jurisdiction. More reps could make it another BLSA Board, and this is not necessarily the point of the SPC. However, having allied courses reps in attendance at SPC is very important.

CS: SPC – BLSA President, Dental President, Allied Courses, Welfare Officers and VPs. New SPC would remove Allied Courses but add Malta Co-Presidents.

JT: Institutes often have their own societies, academic officers may need to pair up with society leads, as with dentistry.



# Barts and The London Students' Association

SS: Exact roles of Dental President and Dental Faculty Lead is still being determined internally – similar problems could be encountered with institute reps.

CS: SPC is more about BLSA running, rather than specific representation or educational roles. Education is separate to SPC.

LN: SPC would be ideal if there is an Allied Courses representative, it is an activities-focused council, rather than educational.

AA: Educational side of institutes may have reps and attempt to bring the society reps together may be preferable – may take a few years, however.

LN: This will not be a quick fix. Four institute reps nominate individual to attend SPC – but not educational – primary focus on activities. It is difficult to schedule events widely across campuses.

AMW: Current Allied Courses Rep is involved in institute societies – and are therefore at an advantage to entertainment officers in organising events.

AA: Institute reps would provide better events, as they are students of those specific campuses.

CS: Nothing set in place now can be easily changed – we may make mistakes. But these can be amended in the future.

RT: BLSA Board Restructure Issues:

Representation:

Allied courses representation - institute representation if all 5 also attended SPC - is this too many people, and going to overwhelm educationally, or better without them as more activity focused? Postgraduate representation can't be assumed through adding only institute reps.

Operational:

Engagement support - needing a social media officer on top of this, as engagement doesn't do what they are supposed, should be supported by someone else to make graphics/run social media with, but engagement to be more strategic & senior.

VP Barts vs VP London workload - there is many difficult students facing reps until VP London (as all student groups & RAG).

Zones falling apart - education zone & welfare zone no longer existing

Role descriptions vs support and what people know what they can/should be doing - this is the key thing to get people on board to create a unified structure to run with in 23/24

Other:

Malta Board Restructure - Mat & I's ideas had a large addition to Malta BLSA Board, do they need anything extra added or one more year of a smaller board - how often do this zone meet?

Welfare Officer name if rest of SPC are presidents - considered by Lucy when we talked about this last year, the Welfare officer is a large difficult role needing to be more senior.

Students getting used to preclinical & clinical rep name changes - how are we going to do this?

BAME rep name - needs a student consultation

CS: These points could be solved in future; this is a vote in principle.

LN: We need to comply with QMSU structure – continuity makes more sense than VP Welfare.

AA: Sports not included and will need to be added.





# Barts and The London Students' Association

CS: Plan is not perfect – it can be adapted if required in the future. This is a vote to agree in principle that the BLSA requires re-structuring in the manner shown in sent papers and above.

EPT: Why not retain Allied Courses Rep and add institute reps?

CS: Institute have their own identity and do not necessarily engage with 'Allied Courses'

AA: Stepped, incremental changes could be preferable – not immediately removing Allied Courses Rep.

CS: Allied Courses rep struggle to do anything, as staff do not associate with Allied Courses – role should not exist, and it lacks identity.

EPT: Could this lack of identity not be rectified with a name change? Could still be a member of SPC

CS: Institute Reps would have overlap with allied courses rep, therefore making this role unnecessary. Institute staff do not engage with Allied Courses rep – they want to speak to an institute rep.

SH: Is the demand for institute reps there?

CS: Providing the resources may encourage more people to get involved in the BLSA. Demand cannot be much lower.

AMW: Filling four more positions may be difficult

AA: Providing the opportunity would be good *per se*

CS: We as the BLSA is to ensure everyone is represented – it is our job as BLSA to at least provide the opportunity.

AMW: Allied Course president believes this structure will work.

CS: Renaming Allied Courses without reference to medicine or dentistry is very difficult, and there is no collective term for each of them together

RT: Staff want structure within institutes

| Motion                              | For | Against | Abstain |
|-------------------------------------|-----|---------|---------|
| BLSA Board Restructure in Principle | 15  | 0       | 1       |

## 2. Cost of Living Crisis (RT)

In general – updates on feelings of students. Conscious we are not doing enough about this. Money from Alumni Fund – WP funding.

JF: Staff changed lecture timetables to reduce commuter costs – this was a good move.

RT: Maria Hayfron-Benjamin has asked a group of reps to organise free travel – proving quite difficult.



# Barts and The London Students' Association

CS: IHSE Director and SAPS have offered £300,000 for medical, dental, and intercalators as hardship-funds, especially for those receiving NHS bursaries. This data may be used as a pilot scheme for future hardship developments. Proposed for January. Email to be sent out tomorrow.

AA: Other universities are offering free meals etc. What is central QM offering?

CS: Working with VP Welfare at QMUL on this.

RT: IHSE Director has previously suggested ideas such as subsidising some of the cost of food at the Griff Inn.

### 3. MEDPRO Discussion and Update (CS)

MEDPRO issues and supervisor aspect in particular – the medical school has too few for everyone, so the medical school are looking at restructuring MEDPRO. There will be a supervisor, but it may be shared between multiple people.

AA: Is this not how MEDPRO worked anyway?

CS: It is supposed to be 2-3 per supervisor

LN: What is the point of 30 people on a zoom call?

AMW: People have really benefitted from one to ones with the MEDPRO tutors

CS: GMC requires aspects of MEDPRO – this is regarding the tutors.

AA: I have benefitted from my MEDPRO tutor, and we met one to one. 'Form class' structure would not facilitate these one-to-one meetings. There is little incentive for new MEDPRO tutors.

#### **CS: Action Point – as JF for feedback on MEDPRO**

JF: Mixed feedback on MEDPRO – some students have effective tutors, others do not.

SH: Engaged MEDPRO tutors are important – the inconsistency of MEDPRO tutors needs change – the tutors that sign up must be engaged

AMW: Group work defeats benefits of MEDPRO – the one-to-one aspect is the most important aspect of MEDPRO that must be preserved. The medical school should incentivise being a MEDPRO tutor.

LJ: Previous system – regular meetings were optional

CS: Medical school has not succeeded in this endeavour for a while now.

CS: Academic tutors are only available for those who fail.

CE: MEDPRO system is not good – agree with AMW: best part of MEDPRO is having the supporting tutor. The medical school needs to incentivise MEDPRO tutors.

RT: Mandate – 'advisors document' – having a tutor is a requirement.



#### 4. Approval of the BL Branding Letter to University Council (CS)

Branding letter taken as read. Vote on letter approval. Motion passed at AMM regarding letting College Council know.

| Motion   | For | Against | Abstain |
|--|-----|---------|---------|
| Approval of BL Branding Letter to University Council | 15  | 0       | 0       |

#### 5. Update on Annual Members Meeting (CS)

Various discussions took place – disaffiliated from NUS is the major development. We would be removed from the political arm of the NUS, meaning we could not be involved in national endeavours.

BLSA will not be particularly affected, but QMSU will.

#### 6. Official Position of BLSA on BMA Strikes (CS)

BMA ballot in January for a Junior Doctor strike – looks likely. Still unsure of exact shape of strike. We have been approached by BMA reps to have an official stance of the BMA strikes.

Clinical students will be told to not attend placements by the medical school, as it is a dangerous environment. Do we want to promote this, as it would reduce our students' educational experience?

AA: We are expected to work in the NHS – it will be our employer.

CS: Strike dates still unconfirmed. We require official stance.

AMW: Saying we do not support the doctors strike would not make a lot of difference. We should support them.

LJ: What impact would our stance even have?

CS: It is just our stance

LN: We blame the government for reducing our education, this could help the junior doctors.

AA: Use strike days as educational tools for students – the realities of medicine

LN: People in years 4/5 did not know how little junior doctors get paid – students being aware is important.

AMW: Students may not mind this (CE agrees – more time to revise)

CS: Strikes would be reflected in the sign offs required.

CS: Teaching obligations would not be affected



| Motion  | For | Against | Abstain |
|---|-----|---------|---------|
| <i>Should the BLSA support the BMA strikes?</i> | 13  | 0       | 2       |

LN: Educational zone get ready to disseminate information

## 7. Griff Operational Strategy (LN)

The Griff Inn naming objections – The Griff preferred due to connotations of 'Inn' and alcohol. The Griffin Café and Bar, or The Griff Café and Bar proposed. The word 'Inn' is the supposed issue.

LN: Fact of the matter – it is a bar, regardless of anything.

CS: Café to bar transition. Do we want to retain 'The Griff Inn' name?

LN: This is just a thought collection – no vote required today.

AA: 'Griffin' name could retain heritage

CE: Shame to lose the name and history. This is not a major matter.

LN: People have mentioned this is an issue.

CS: We want this to emulate the Ground Café – café and bar. This will cost us nothing.

CE: Action Point – data on this name change

RT: This is about history and branded – we are the only to retain the Griffin name – it is important to preserve it.

LN: Taps will be at the back of the bar and could be covered. This is purely a name. Could be an alcohol-free zone before 5pm.

SH: If alcohol being sold is the issue, these people would not go anyway. The bar must sell alcohol at some point regardless – the name change will not change anything.

RT: Garrod reprovision and table ordering means people do not have to go to the bar to order food.

EPT: Rebranding to new thing could be good considering the Garrod reprovision. We want it to be new and exciting, and this may help.

CS: Not necessarily a blanket ban on alcohol sales, private bookings or special events may still be able to buy alcohol.

LJ: Renaming could cause backlash, especially among alumni.

SH: Changing name will not make a difference.

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# Barts and The London Students' Association

## **Part Three – Any Other Business (AOB)**

BMA talk on foundation allocation – shall be picked up in January

Barts900 stash available soon – personalisation available, and multiple colours.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

10/01/2023

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**End of Meeting**

# Humanities and Social Sciences Board

[04/10/2022 17:30 – 19:00, Microsoft Team]

## Attendance

### Present

- Pranshu Goyal, School of Business & Management Representative
- Saphia Rahman, School of Economics & Finance Representative
- Saynab Sharif, VP HSS
- Raminta Kacinskaite, Secretary (HSS)

### Apologies

- Naomi Marshall, School of History Representative
- Asma Majeed, School of English & Drama Representative
- Rameesha Ahmed, School of Politics & International Relations Representative
- Mathew Beach, Postgraduate Research Representative (HSS)
- Mikolaj Kowalewski, Welfare Officer (HSS)

### In attendance

- Isha Negi, Student Voice Administrator

### VP HSS Updates

- Saynab: Assessment and feedback – how to support students when prepping for assignments e.g., essay questions – make sure all the information for HSS students are being uploaded like reading and lectures. Resources to be made on how HSS can guide you – checklist
- Decolonisation project – decolonisation of the curriculum and a showcase that students can join in and have their voices heard, can express what they would like to see QMUL do in terms of decolonisation
- Accessibility – supporting students with specific disabilities – disability awareness fortnight (hopefully December?) in library square – speak to the people in services and help students discover if they have an undiagnosed disability – would be guided to the right services and provided with leaflets

### PTO updates

- Pranshu: wants more events to be hosted for 3<sup>rd</sup> year students – wants 60 credit modules to have less exams (currently are 100% exam) prefers it to be more evenly distributed for students
- Saphia: econ socials – make it more accessible to everyone (guarantee no lecture/class clashes) a Halloween event – opportunity to talk to teachers and other students. Also ensure lecturers are uploading materials on time

## Terms of reference

- See voting record below.

## AOB

- Reminder that budgets for events are available
- HSS training sessions will be running in November

## Voting Record

|  | <b>Terms of Reference</b> |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Pranshu Goyal, School of Business &amp; Management Representative</b> | For                       |
| <b>Saphia Rahman, School of Economics &amp; Finance Representative</b>   | For                       |
| <b>Saynab Sharif, VP HSS</b>   | For                       |
| <b>Raminta Kacinskaite, Secretary (HSS)</b>                              | For                       |

# Postgraduate Board

25/10/2022, 17:30 – 19:00, Microsoft Teams Meeting

## Attendance

Present:

- Radhika Thiagarajan (RT) - President Communities – Chair
- Matthew Beach (MB) - Postgraduate Research Representative (HSS)
- Gargeya “Grey” Sharma (GS) - Postgraduate Taught Representative (Science and Engineering)
- Elena Erescov (EE) - Postgraduate Taught Representative (Barts and The London)
- Rawad Yehia (RY) - Postgraduate Taught Representative (Humanities and Social Sciences):
- Sebastian Mylly (SM) - Student Liaison: University and College Union (UCU)
- Eszter Zsisku (EZ) - Postgraduate Engagement Assistant

## Agenda item 1

- *Board members and Guests introduce their plans for the year ahead*
- MB:
  1. To amend Education Manual for University Schools to become more active in engaging students with Subject Representation roles
  2. Project to create new role(s) to represent postgraduate (PG) students in the Student's Union (QMSU)
  3. Creating events for PG Research students:
    - i. Interdisciplinary mixer aimed to be flexible for parents and carers
    - ii. Event specifically aimed at parents and carers
- SM (Guest):
  1. To establish more efficient communication between UCU and QMSU
  2. To increase student understanding of UCU
  3. Informed the group that UCU has recently achieved a mandate for industrial action at QMSU, however whether or not this will result in industrial action is not yet known
- RY:
  1. To increase social events aimed at PG students.
    - i. RT offered to put RY in touch with International Student Reps to see if there is potential for collaboration on these events
- RT:
  1. Continuing Period Poverty project to install free period products across campus



2. Initiative to lobby QM University to address difference between home and international tuition fees
  3. Continuing project to establish a Nightline (peer-to-peer listening service) in QM Mile End campus
  4. Lobbying QM University to speed up process for exam resit results which currently can impact student's applying for post-study visas
- EE:
    1. Introduced idea to install water coolers at Barts campus, is planning to meet with Marianne Melsen (Student Voice and Insight Manager) to discuss further
    2. Organise social events for PG students. RT suggested coordinating with RY to organise an event.
  - GS:
    1. Requested suggestions for projects for the year from the group, is open to being contacted by other attendees.
    2. RT suggested reaching out to coursemates to understand what they would like to see

#### Questions

- MB asked if PGT faculty reps have event budget. RT provided details
- EZ requested to speak about role as PG Engagement Assistant and relevant social projects, offered to collaborate with representatives on these
- GS asked about paid positions in QMSU, RT gave an outline of vacancies

#### Agenda item 2

- *Discussion of plans to introduce paid role for PG Representation in QMSU*
- RT outlined plans, queries whether this will be full time vs part time and whether it will be split into PG Taught vs PG Research
- MB queried how RT can make the proposal for this project a priority – RT outlined the next step in the project would be conducting research on different universities' models of PG representation
- RT asked whether any Reps would be interested in the research, no hands raised. EZ raised hand and explained they are planning some preliminary research within their role as PG Engagement Assistant
- MB felt this research is beyond the scope of Representative roles, RT replied the University expects research to come from Reps
- RT offered to Speak to Marianne Melsen about this work to propose a realistic timeline

#### Agenda item 3

- *University's email about potential for Industrial Action*
- MB shared screen to show email sent to students by Prof Colin Bailey (President and Principal QMUL) updating students re: industrial action. MB felt the tone of the email constructs a particular narrative about strikes and wondered if SU can respond to this, queried drafting motion to do so for next PG board meeting
- SM commented wondering whether there would be a more indirect way to achieve this goal

- RT provided context that motions within QMSU passed last year means QMSU cannot support UCU with strike action, and that a motion to counter this could be submitted by students for the Annual Student Meeting (ASM) in November. RT also outlined student's views of strike action collected last year
- MB queried how to make this a topic of discussion at ASM, RT suggested (1) bringing up as AOB, (2) writing to Marianne Melsen to place on agenda (which may not be possible). RT also suggested creating statement on QMSU webpage to address Repts' opinions, and finding out student opinions during Exec on Tour
- SM encouraged listening to students' opinions as much as possible to understand majority view on strike action. Also suggested working with SU to help inform students about purpose of any industrial action that occurs. RY agreed with this approach focused on spreading information

## **AOB**

- None

## **Actions:**

- EZ to ask Marianne Melsen for this year's Terms of Reference document for Postgraduate Board to sign
- RT to arrange meeting with MB to discuss sabbatical role funding project timeline (invite GS and EE as well)
- RT to discuss topic of University's presentation of strike action with other Executive Officers, to speak to students about the topic of industrial action during Execs on Tour.
- SM to email RT with any questions they would like students to be asked during Execs on Tour (due early-mid WB 31/10/22)

# Postgraduate Board

12/12/2022, 17:30 – 19:00, Microsoft Teams Meeting

## Attendance

Present:

- Radhika Thiagarajan (RT) - President Communities – Chair
- Matthew Beach (MB) - Postgraduate Research Representative (HSS)
- Elena Erescov (EE) - Postgraduate Taught Representative (Barts and The London, BL)
- Rawad Yehia (RY) - Postgraduate Taught Representative (Humanities and Social Sciences):
- Eszter Zsisku (EZ) - Postgraduate Engagement Assistant

Apologies:

- Gargeya “Grey” Sharma (GS) - Postgraduate Taught Representative (Science and Engineering)
- Israfil Soyler (IS) -Postgraduate Research Representative (Science and Engineering)

## Agenda item 1

- *Approval of Terms of Reference*
- MB queried how to approve elimination of BL PGR Representative, RT agreed they could go back and approve this item individually
- MB commented they believe doctoral management group was dissolved, RT believes it is the same at the moment
- No members objected to approving ToR, agreed approval

## Agenda item 2

- *Approval of the minutes from previous board meeting*
- Approved, no queries or changes

## Agenda item 3

- *Updates from each representative*
- EE - has met all reps for MScs at BL, planning to collaborate on social projects with EZ, no significant problems with any courses
- RY - outlined issues they addressed for several courses where the assistant of the professor was teaching the course rather than the professor, and is awaiting changes for the next semester. Is also planning to organise more socials for HSS PG students for spring term

- RT - gave an update on Annual Members Meetings (AMM) where a policy was passed asking for Student Union (SU) to support University and College Union (UCU). RT created a statement and actions for the senior management team, and is waiting for approval from remaining Executive Officers. Is also organising PGR Jack the Ripper museum tour for Term 2, chasing ticketing for this. Has met with Doctoral College to discuss ways SU and Doctoral College can collaborate for both elections and creating projects on entrepreneurship which is something PhD students are interested in.
- MB - outlined wanting to organise an event for parents and carers in spring term. Supported a motion for a petition to give one-off payment to PhD students without stipend uplift (internationally funded)

#### Agenda item 4

- *Discussion on Eszter's research on PG Sabbatical position*
- EZ gave outline of 19 different universities PG representation structures
- EZ to reach out to Oxford consultation group to collect more details about the specifics of their Postgraduate Consultation Group structure/ funding / bye-laws / how agenda items are made
- EZ to collect further information about Sheffield and Plymouths PTO roles
- MB outlined their preference would be a Sabbatical Officer coupled with a Postgraduate Consultation Board similar to Oxford University. Would like these to be paid representatives who are elected. RY agreed with this proposed structure
- RT outlined budgeting may not allow for both roles. MB suggested VP Communities remains main representative for Postgraduates, and Consultation Group is added to structure
- Discussed further details of an elected system in Consultation Group format. Considerations included whether representatives would be existing PG Representatives (Faculty vs course reps)
- EE voiced opinion that one role for BL PGT would be sufficient representation
- MB suggested the Group could be a separate body from elected representatives, but only elected representatives could apply for the role.
- RY suggested that in the existing representation structure, Schools should have representation at PG level as well rather than only Course and Faculty level.
- RT outlined further considerations for the group including how many people it should be formed of, how often they would meet, what is within its remit. MB suggested a proportionate number of PGT to PGR, RT commented PGR problems may be more nuanced.
- Discussion on how many group members the Group should have, RT suggested more than Oxford as QMUL has more PG students
- Discussion on how many Consultation Group meetings should be hosted per term, MB suggested 1.5 - 2 hour duration, minimum of three times per year (autumn, spring, summer). RT suggested 5x per year (2x autumn, 2x spring and 1x summer)
- Discussion on whether the same students should be in each Consultation group, RT suggested different students each time would be appealing due to reduced time

commitment, MB countered that using the same students each time could increase accountability, which EE agreed with

- Discussion on agenda of Consultation Group. MB offered that students who would like to voice a particular opinion should be able to join the group and suggest topics for discussion by Members. For first term, SU can allocate “to-do” list, then agenda is reviewed in next meeting
- RY raised the point of wanting to ensure engagement in the proposed group and commented on lack of activity amongst current Course Reps. RT commented that paid Consultation Group would be a good method of increasing engagement, and suggested clauses in their contract to ensure engagement. RT added that competition for roles (i.e. multiple candidates) would be appealing. RT added that increasing promotion of Course Rep positions would be helpful to meet RY’s point
- Discussion regarding what the pay rate for the Consultation Group should be - agreed for EZ to find out from Oxford group to use as a model

### **AOB**

- MB queried how the Student Union can support the motion raised at the last Student Council meeting re: pay uplift for unfunded and internationally funded PhD students. RT agreed communications could be sent to all PG students to raise awareness. RT commented they have already raised this issue but further support from the Post-Graduate community would be helpful.
- RY queried motion passed regarding QMSU no longer affiliating with NUS and whether it is possible to reinstate this affiliation. RT explained this would need to be decided by student vote after one year
- RY queried whether a social event for Representatives could be held in the next term, EZ agreed to speak with Student Voice Education team about this

### **Actions:**

- EZ to conduct further research on Oxford PG Consultation group structure and share with PG Board
- RT to request Communications sent out about student council motion re: unfunded and internationally funded PhD student uplift
- EZ to speak to Student Voice Team re: organising another PG Rep social event

# Societies Board Meeting

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2022, Microsoft Teams, 17:30 – 19:30

## Attendance

### Present:

- Benedict Kwakuyi (ME Societies Officer) (BK)
- Kyriaki (Sundy) Papalois (BL) (KP)
- Joan Claravalls (ME) (JC)
- Rob Tucker (BL) (RT)

### Apologies:

- Ali Hammad (BL Societies Officer) (AH)
- Neha Kasera (ME) (NK)

### In attendance:

- Amie Raphael, Student Engagement Manager (Students' Union) (AR)
- Aiden Power, Societies Development Coordinator (Students' Union) (AP)
- Adi Swahalla, Students' Union President (Students' Union) (AS)

## Agenda

Welcome and Apologies

Welcome Fair

Terms of references

Societies Officers Updates

New Society Applications Proposal

Societies Development Fund Applications

Any Other Business

## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

BK: Welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **2. Welcome Fair**

AR: Gave a summary of Welcome Fair for Whitechapel & Mile End

### **3. Terms of References**

AR: Summarised the changes to Terms of Reference

All of the board approved the changes

### **4. Societies Officers Updates**

AH: Not present to give update

BK: No updates to give

### **5. New Society Applications Proposal**

Please see separate document for new society applications proposal.

## **6. Societies Development Fund Applications**

Please see separate document for grant funding applications.

## **7. Any Other Business**

No other business was raised.

Meeting closed at 7:05pm

Round two opens Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October, and closes 12pm, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The next Society Board meeting is yet to be set but will take place the week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October.



# Societies Board Meeting

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Microsoft Teams, 17:30 – 20:30**

## **Agenda**

Welcome and Apologies  
Societies Officers Updates  
New Society Applications  
Societies Development Fund Applications  
Any Other Business

## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

#### **Present:**

**Ali Hammed- BL Societies Officer**

**Benedict Kwakuyi- ME Societies Officer**

**Rob Tucker- BL Rep**

#### **In Attendance:**

**Joanna Croft- VP Welfare**

**Aiden Power- Societies Development Coordinator**

**Amie Raphael- Student Engagement Manager (Secretary)**

**Brigette Coelho- Malta Societies Officer (Left at 6:30pm)**

#### **Apologies:**

**Joan Puig Claravalls- ME Rep**

**Sundy Papalois- BL Rep**

## **2. Societies Officers Updates**

BK- No updates

AH- Started a weekly social media about events for societies. Still encouraging groups to email in their events. Association fund board meeting today

## **3. New Society Applications**

Please see separate document for new society applications.

## **4. Societies Development Fund Applications**

Please see separate document for grant funding applications.

## **5. Any Other Business**

RT- raising issue with water damage to BL music items and MFC

AR- raised using unallocated round 1 & 2 grant funding to allocate to water damaged items for BL groups. Board agreed they were happy for this to be done.

Meeting finished at 7:20pm

Round three opens Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December, and closes 9am, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The next Society Board meeting is set to happen 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

# Sustainability Board

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 6:00-7:00pm, MS Teams

## Attendance

Present:

- Amelie Anh Barone (Mile End) – [AB] **Chair**
- Leilani Van Someren, Mile End Sustainability Representative - LS

Apologies:

- NA

In attendance:

- Zoe Sturgess – Sustainability Coordinator – ZS
- Keenal Shah – Student at QM in 2<sup>nd</sup> year – Geography and Business management

## Agenda item 1 – Welcome

- AB opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

## Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

- AB gave a brief overview of the minutes from the previous meeting
- AB updated that they have some ideas for Greenweek since the last meeting

## Agenda item 3 - Updates from sustainability officers

- AB gave updates – low Canal Week attendance, need to be advertised more after exam season in Jan/Feb

## Agenda item 4 –

- AB over £400 raised approximately
- A lot of swaps – will be following up with Roxy to get figures of the swaps and figure out how much CO2 is saved – based on t-shirts – so will be an underestimate
- People really enjoyed the jewellery so want to bring this back again
- Want to start earlier – didn't get set-up until 11am – first 2 hours people didn't have a way to follow on social media etc due to barcode not being sorted
- People excited about February – workshops
- Want to do a poll to figure out popularity for the workshop options for January

- Another clothes swap after Feb? - will be discussing this with Roxy

### **Agenda item 5 – Green Week**

- ZS – Run through of events to go ahead in Green Week, approximately 12 to be run

### **Agenda item 7 – Visual Advertisements**

- LS – Recycling and cigarette butts posters – has been working on these – recycling poster as well – what you can and can't recycle on Canva – wants to put these around campus
- Want to launch a campaign – bin your butts – biodiversity harming – reduce healthiness of the grass and environment – posters to go near the smoking areas

### **Agenda item 8 – Bins to litter-prone spaces**

- LS - Most litter prone areas – e.g., where are the most cigarettes? - cigarette butts cleaned up a lot during the canal clean-up – map these areas as part of a campaign for more bins in some areas of campus
- AB – Added that we could make this more interesting – competition over a week – who can pick up the most cigarette butts – discount from ground? - to be looked into
- LS – Agreed would be good to have this kind of competition – could then weight the bags of cigarettes – make it shocking – e.g., “we found 500g of cigarettes here”

### **Agenda item 9 – Reusable cups**

- Should dedicate some of the budget to reusable cups – available in the SU for hire – could be helpful for societies – same way societies borrow tables and chairs – has looked on Amazon – 100 cups for £17 - 200 could be reasonable – could get branded ones
- ZS – Mentioned that some other unis have done similar things – rental basis - £2 for a cup – either return the cup to get the £2 back or keep the cup for £2 - some issues with who would clean the cups and buy in more if none are returned – definitely something to explore
- KS – Campaign coordinator for environmental society – plant-based university – how to submit a policy motion?
- ZS – Said we would return to that in AOB

### **Agenda item 6 – Online sustainable alternatives**

- AB – students don't have time to find good sustainable alternatives – easier for students to just click on a link
- Will have to be built up over the year – like a catalogue – meat free alternatives too as this something students don't think about
- LS – students can have an idea exchange – like a forum
- ZS – could look into doing an in person forum – do this as part of the Green Mary event in Green Week
- LS – happy to just to a Padlet – very easy to set up
- ZS – link to padlet can be embedded in the website

## **AOB**

- ZS – explained to Keenal how to submit a motion – happy to arrange a sustainability drop-in if the society wants to go through anything
- KS – will send an email to arrange
- The next meeting will take place on January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023 6-7pm –

# Welfare Board

11/10/22, 6-7:30 and online

## Agenda:

1. Terms of Reference Review
2. General Liberation Fund Applications
3. Updates from Welfare Board members
4. AOB

## Attendance

### Present:

- Joanna Croft, VP Welfare
- Radhika Thiagarajan, VP Communities
- Shivin Hassan, BL LGBT Rep
- Faizan Ulhaq Sheikh, BL Disabled and SLD Rep
- Austin Iroegbu, BL BAME Rep
- Kayatre Giritharadas, BL Women+ Rep
- Eileen Lee, BL Disabled and SLD Rep
- Yunus Khan, Welfare Rep (S&E)

### Apologies:

- Amelia Jones, BL Welfare Rep

### In attendance:

- Ruth Truscott, Welfare and Liberation Coordinator

## 1. Terms of Reference

- JC asks if we can include international reps in the TOR
- RadT would like it to be called welfare and communities' board
- These changes were voted on and passed 100% vote for these changes.

## 2. General Liberation Fund

- No new funding applications to approve.

## 3. Member's Updates

- JC update, overview of three main projects working on. To raise awareness of the welfare services through having stalls at Barts and ME, encourages members to come along. Working with ACS to extend advice and counselling. Project on extenuating circumstances.
- RadT: Overview on projects working on period poverty project continuing with free period products, establishing a nightline in the university, continuing alumni cafés, working with University name change policy for trans+ students being able to change their name easily.
- AI: Projects working on, provided disposable sleeves and hair nets. Trying to organise to order some disposable hijabs. Started Black History Month events. Anti-racism steering committee had first meeting to give some ideas on what to change in the curriculum.
- EL: BL sign language training in DAF in process of applying for fund. Collaborating with pre-clinical reps to set up a Whitechapel SLD room. Grammarly conversations for students. Set up WhatsApp group to connect SwD together.
- FS: Brainstorming different project providing captions for students, looking at what capability there is to facilitate this, Communicating with DDS on what SLDs students have and why we need captions. Having some peer mentoring tailored to SwD.
- KG: Made an anonymous survey to find out what events women at Barts want, women's week is very late in the year, get events earlier, trying to find an external speaker. Meet up with QM women's rep,
- SH: talking to charity for a talk on and for queer Muslims on the 17<sup>th</sup> Online planned to do a speech and presentations, inviting Isoc and LGBTQ+, meeting in GLAAD charter to help barts sign this. Organising Red Run for Worlds Aids Day.
- YK: Working with Muneer. Develop an anonymous survey.

## AOB

- RadT: call for events or projects
- SH: Has created a form for Trans+ students, RLT to support.
- YK seconded on having international students invited to this meeting
- RLT: asked if anyone hasn't booked in a meeting please do.

## Voting record

|  | ToR changes |
|--|-------------|
| <b>Joanna Croft</b><br>VP Welfare                        | For         |
| <b>Radhika Thiagarajan</b><br>VP<br>VP Communities       | For         |
| <b>Shivin Hassan</b><br>BL LGBT                          | For         |
| <b>Faizan Ulhaq Sheikh</b><br>BL Disabled and<br>SLD Rep | For         |
| <b>Austin Iroegbu</b><br>BL BAME Rep                     | For         |
| <b>Kayatre Giritharadas</b><br>BL Women's Rep            | For         |



# Welfare and Communities Board

8/11/22 Online

## Attendance

Present:

- Ivy Lee Jia Jua Barts International Rep (ILJJ)
- Shivin Hassan Barts LGBT+ Rep (SH)
- Austin Iroegbu BL BAME Rep (AI)
- Joanna Croft VP Welfare (JC)
- Aisha Najeeb S Qadi S&E International Rep (ANSQ)
- Kayatre Giritharadas (KG) BL Women Rep
- Radhika Thiagarajan VP Communities (RadT)
- Eileen Ja Huey Lee Disabled and SLD Rep (EJHL)
- Yunus Khan Welfare S & E (YK)

Apologies:

- [Full name, role]

In attendance:

- Ruth Truscott Welfare and Communities (RLT)

## General Liberation Fund

- RadT asked for clarification on how these funds are approved and RLT confirmed an email is sent out to the board or brought up in welfare board

## Welfare and Communities Updates

- SH: Red Run , Trans Remeberance and Queer Muslim event
- EJHL promoting events for DAF, asks for support on promotion
- YK water jugs looking for where to purchase, RadT does YK know of Muneer's bidet project, YK is aware, and is planning to collaborate
- JC Focus groups on extenuating circumstances, asks if anyone is interested in signing up
- ANSQ Working with DDS and Library intergrate support into library services, provide ore reseoruces into academic services especially to understnaidng london circulum. Work with acadmeic skills for a workshop for first year transition into second year

- RadT: Period poverty project making sure every building on whitechapel and mile end has free perdio products, trying o establish a nightline within queen mary, helping international student with fee paying requirements especially in key international areas (paying installments etc)
- KG: Focusing on women's safety (free rape alarms), RadT suggested going through nightline
- ILJJ: Internationla fee brought up in internationla forum meeting with RadT to discss this futher
- RadT asked for the next meeting to be in person (doodle poll for social RLT to do)

## **AOB**

- YK query on budgeting

**Voting record [delete if no votes were taken]**

|                                   | <b>Vote 1<br/>[specify the motion that was voted on]</b> | <b>Vote 2<br/>[specify the motion that was voted on]</b> |  |  | <i>Add more columns if necessary</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Rep name 1, Rep position 1</b> | For/Against/A abstain [delete as appropriate]            | For/Against/A abstain [delete as appropriate]            |  |  |                                      |
| <b>Rep name 2, Rep position 2</b> | For/Against/A abstain [delete as appropriate]            | For/Against/A abstain [delete as appropriate]            |  |  |                                      |
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| <i>Add more rows if necessary</i> |  |  |  |  |                                      |