

Student Council

Tuesday 12 December 2023 6.00pm to be held online via Zoom

Draft 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

3. Terms of Reference of Sub Committees (*appended at end*)

The Terms of Reference for the Sub-committees of Student Council will go to the first meeting of the relevant Sub-Committee where their Members will have the opportunity to review and approve them before they come to Student Council for approval.

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

Student Council are asked to **note and approve** the minutes of the last meeting of Student Council held on **17 October 2023**.

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

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

Any minutes from meetings of the Sub-Committees, these will have been circulated in advance and will be taken as read. Council members and any students attending will then have the opportunity to put questions to the relevant Chairs/members.

- a) PG Board 9 November 2023
- b) BLSA (Malta) Board 11 October 2023
- c) BLSA (Malta) Board 7 November 2023

7. Reports from and Questions to the Executive Officers

The Executive Officers will have submitted written reports on their work so far this year in advance of the meeting, and which will be taken as read. They will be invited to give a brief verbal report highlighting any particular matters of interest, Council members and any students attending will then have an opportunity to put questions to the Officers.

Any students wishing to ask questions are asked to notify the Secretary (b.coales@qmul.ac.uk) before the meeting so that they can be given access to the meeting as participants, rather than just watching the live stream.

8. Update on the new QMSU Strategic Plan

The Students' Union has completed development of its new Strategic Plan. This will now be presented to Student Council for consideration.

9. Bye-Law Changes

Amendments are proposed to the following Bye-Laws:

- a) Should the Students' Union change the title of Vice President Communities to Vice President Liberation, International and Postgraduates (and amend Bye-Law 7 Executive Committee to change the title of the current VP Communities Roll)?

10. Motions

- a) Should students be given the opportunity to round up their purchases in QMSU outlets with the proceeds to go to the UCU Strike Fund?
- b) Should Disability History Month be added to the calendar of QMSU liberation campaigns?
- c) Should the Students' Union lobby the University to install bidet attachments to at least one male, one female, one male accessible, one female accessible, one gender neutral, and one gender neutral accessible toilet in all student-facing university buildings where applicable?
- d) Should the Students' Union lobby the University to have a mandatory minimum number of occupants in a bookable group meeting room to supplement the maximum occupancy?
- e) Should the Students' Union lobby QMUL to introduce weekly consultation hours to enable students to book one-to-one consultations with their teachers?
- f) Should the Students Union hold a Pakistani Cultural Day Celebration? (*Provisionally included as not debated at the AMM*)

11. 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 will have been discussed by the Executive Officers, who will have made recommendations for each - Serena can lead on this and the Executive Officers can take any questions.

Held over from Previous inquorate meetings (and therefore still active)

The following policies were due for review in February 2023 and have been carried over as the meeting had become inquorate by the time they were due to be considered:

Policy	Recommendation

12. AOB

Postgraduate Board

[9th of November 2023, 5:30pm and Microsoft Teams]

Attendance

Present

- Matthew Beach (MB) - Chair
- Bishoy Fajar (BF)
- Amarja Shivraj Pawar (ASP)

Apologies

- Prasiddhi Shahi
- Lei Yuan

In Attendance

- Nicholas Anakwue (NA) - Secretary

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions

- MB invited everyone to make introductions, pointing out why they ran for the position and why they accepted the role.
- ASP introduced herself, highlighting her motivation for running in enabling effective communication between postgraduate staff and students, and making sure that students have a good experience.
- BF explained that his acceptance of the role is by default to represent the Barts and the London and highlights his motivation as his interest in representing the university more and finding this opportunity to do that effectively.
- MB offers context of the Postgraduate Research Representation Assistant role occupied by NA as secretary to the board, as one that is new, and is to aim at enabling better representation of postgraduate student experience in the school.

2. Adopt Terms of Reference (ToR)

- Members expressed inability to access the ToR in earlier meeting invite mails and are given some time to download the document and read it in view of discussion and adoption.
- BF pointed out that the names of the representatives of the Barts and the London are not included in the ToR appropriately.
- BF pointed out two significant challenges that students have communicated to him so far, namely:
 - Struggle with high cost of living, especially for international students,
 - High costs of courses and fees in general, that puts a lot of students in difficult situations.

- BF noted that while this has been discussed with the staff body, there is need to flag it as a student issue to hasten its discussion in Student Union meetings, and possible resolution.
- MB highlighted that since there are no current Vice Presidents for International Matters, it makes it difficult for the interests of international students to be adequately represented.
- MB committed to sending BF more information on who to discuss these complaints with.
- In absence of any other corrections on the ToR, members are invited to vote for adoption of the document.

Vote on Adoption of ToR

Members	For	Against	Abstain
Bishoy Fajar	✓		
Amarja Shivraj Pawar	✓		

- With all present members voting for adoption of the ToR, the ToR is adopted with minor amendments.

3. Student Union/University Structure

- MB gave a brief overview of the role of the PG board within the overall structure of the Student Union, emphasizing its mandate to discuss issues relating to postgraduate student experience, and to influence policy decisions that directly affects postgraduate students.
- MB emphasized the soft lobbying power of the board, within the Student Union body, and underscored the importance of enough student data to back the recommendations of the board for it to carry substantial weight.
- As such, MB stressed the importance of active representation to stimulate positive change and progress.
- Any issues beyond the PG board are dealt with by the Student Council. He also highlighted the impact of the PG board, with the example of the PG board's past recommendations on increasing pastoral care and support for postgraduate taught (PGT) and research (PGR) students. With the complications existing with the governance of PGTs, it had been difficult to implement this for the PGTs; however, following consultation with the Doctoral College, additional responsibilities for pastoral support have been included for PGRs.
- Further discussions with Student Voice, has also enabled that the issue of pastoral support be made an agenda item on the Education Quality Standards Board as well.
- MB explained to members their roles as board representatives, to liaise with other course representatives, to get actionable feedback from students, and get them actioned at board meetings.
- MB also pointed out that each member would have been assigned a staff support within the Student Voice team who would help with any issues, and that the 'Find My Rep' sheets on the QMSU website will be appropriately updated to reflect the newly elected reps.
- MB noted to share to members details of how to propose a policy conversation and put forward a motion. MB stressed the importance of interrogating why one would be proposing the motion, and what positive impact on student experience would the decision have, as key considerations to reflect on when proposing motions.

4. Review Student Council policies related to postgraduates

- MB shared with members details of the Student Council policies that relate to postgraduates, and invited members to study them later, and share comments and feedback on the policy items before next board meeting.

5. Interests/projects for the year ahead

- BF shared that he has been in contact with the Head of the Medical School to see how to increase the representation of course representatives at the Intercalation Fair, so that they can talk about their respective intercalated degrees.
- BF is also interested in getting the students more involved in international student events. BF also pointed out interest in contacting the international representative for Queen Mary as most of them are from the Barts and the London.
- MB pointed out that the international representatives are faculty-based, and that there is a role share for the Barts and the London, by the current international representatives, who are responsible for international student experience across all levels. MB also highlighted that the international representatives sit in the Welfare and Communities Board, headed by Tahmid.
- As such, MB noted discussing this further with Tahmid.

6. What the Chair is working on and how to get involved

- MB shared his work around three major points, namely:
 - Continuing the work of his predecessors in international student matters, such as additional scholarships for international students, decolonizing Queen Mary, increasing postgraduate representation in the Student Union, engaging further with the Barts and the London postgraduate community,
 - Work with the Postgraduate Consultation Group (PGCG),
 - Sustainability work around better waste management, etc.
- MB highlighted exiting gaps also with course rep positions, and the necessity of creating listservs through which postgraduate students can offer feedback directly. MB noted being in conversation with IT on accomplishing this task.
- MB pointed out work with the new Postgraduate Research Engagement Assistant on a specific communications plan/strategy for PG students and invited members to contribute ideas to help the process.

7. Meeting Times – PG Board

- Members noted the need to gauge availability for subsequent meetings ahead of time to enable better attendance.
- Members suggested that a doodle poll be used to determine availability of most members ahead of meeting times.

8. AOB

- MB highlighted the interest of the Careers and Enterprise Team to set up an employability certification for postgraduate international students, to enhance their employability chances, and graduate visa applications, etc.
- ASP pointed out the dearth of part-time work opportunities for students who are keen on working while studying.

- MB noted that this would be discussed with the Director of Student Experience to find solutions.

9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6.33pm.

Action Items

Item	Key Responsible Individual	Due Date
Include board representatives' names for Barts and the London in ToR	NA	13 th November 2023
Send BF more information on contact in charge of international student matters to resolve cost of living challenges	MB	N/A
Send information on how policies are proposed and actioned, and how to put forward a motion	MB	Before next board meeting
Review Student Council policies and share feedback, comments, or questions on the document	All members	Before next board meeting



BLSA MALTA MEETING MINUTES

Venue: Conference room B / MS Teams

Date: 11th October 2023

Time: 1:40 – 2:40 PM

1. ATTENDANCE

Tristen Arkless (TA)
Kayleigh Chatoor (KC)
Jolie Ghobrial (JG)
Rishabh Joshi (RJ)
Sonia Leon (SL)
Zavier Mirza (ZM)
Emma Quiviger (EQ)
Mina Sadik (MS)
Yeshodhaa Soobramoney (YS)
Rayan Syedian (RS)

2. APOLOGIES

N/A

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

N/A

4. ACTIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

N/A

5. AGENDA ITEMS – CAMPUS

5.1. Access to the storage room

- QMUL facilities department is requesting a list of named personnel that has access to the storage room
- This will be restricted to BLSA board members and societies' presidents

5.2. Canteen food and operating hours

- Hours will be extended until 6:00 PM again as a trial
- The concern from the canteen team's end was that sales after 2:00 PM are not sufficient to maintain the canteen open for that long
- It has been confirmed that toasties will now be sold to students throughout the entire day
- Potential student discount in the canteen to be discussed further
- There have been discussions with the chef around the implementation of new vegetarian options, in order to work on variety and inclusion, and improvements have already been noted
- The BLSA should encourage students to fill in the dietary requirements form, in order to help the canteen plan ahead the approximate amounts needed from each dish

6. AGENDA ITEMS – EDUCATION

6.1. SSLC course reps and minute-takers

- BLSA to ask if there are any volunteers willing to assist in minute-taking for the JSSLC and the SSSLC meetings
- If no students show interest, course reps could take on that responsibility (perhaps based on a rota system)

7. AGENDA ITEMS – EVENTS

7.1. Halloween party

- The university can provide funding according to the given number of students attending
- Main date proposals are on Friday 27th or Saturday 28th October 2023

7.2. Charity dance

- This is organized by Dr Sunnucks and the SAPS department
- The event will take place on Wednesday 29th November from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

- The cost will be €5 per person
- It has been offered to the BLSA to suggest certain charities that can benefit from this event's proceeds; a list will be put together and forwarded to the organizers, which may include SPCA, Inspire, etc...

8. AGENDA ITEMS – SOCIETIES

N/A

9. AGENDA ITEMS – SPORTS

9.1. Rounders initiation

- Students will start a society
- BLSA will offer support in booking venues
- Gaudos Gym & Fitness Center is booked every Friday from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM and every Saturday from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM
- Other providers are also being considered, for example the pitch in Sir Michelangelo Refalo Sixth Form is being booked for an hour every Wednesday
- Accordingly, a signup form should be made to allow different groups and societies to organize various sport sessions

10. AGENDA ITEMS – OTHER

10.1. Terms of Reference framework

- The document has been circulated to all BLSA Malta board members
- Members have provisionally agreed to the current guidelines, with formal approval and amendments to be finalized in the next meeting

10.2. Collaboration with the Malta Medical Student Association (MMSA)

- Sports and community outreach days are encouraged as points of collaboration
- Medical affairs involving campus tours are not advised by faculty

10.3. Collaboration with the Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

- Approved by faculty
- The plan is for ESN representatives to visit the campus and give a brief presentation, introducing ESN and its services

- The BLSA will create a signup form for students to fill if they are interested in the ESN membership card, so that purchases can be facilitated with a student discount

11. AOB

11.1. Students receive excessive emails from the QMSU regarding matters that are happening in London and do not relate to our student body in Malta

11.2 Christmas dinner should be planned in advance, in order to secure the venue hoped for on a suitable date

12. REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS

Action number: 1

Agenda item: 7.1

Action: Contact the manager of Villa Fiorita, in order to inquire about the venue's availability and pricing for the halloween party

Actioner: SL

Action number: 2

Agenda item: 7.1

Action: Ensure venue preparation and decoration for the Halloween party

Actioner: RJ, ZM

Action number: 3

Agenda item: 10.2

Action: Connect with the MMSA president, in order to clarify our stance regarding the collaboration of both student unions

Actioner: YS

Action number: 4

Agenda item: 10.3

Action: Contact the vice-president of ESN, in order to agree on a date and time for the introductory talk that was agreed to take place

Actioner: MS

Action number: 5

Agenda item: 10.3

Action: Create a signup form for students to show interest in purchasing the ESN membership card

Actioner: MS

Action number: 6

Agenda item: 11.1

Action: Raise students' concern in Malta with the BLSA president concerning the excessive emails received from the QMSU that are exclusively relevant to the London campus

Actioner: SL

Action number: 7

Agenda item: 11.2

Action: Decide on an appropriate venue and date for the Christmas dinner in advance, in order to secure the most desired booking

Actioner: RJ, ZM

Action number: 8

Agenda item: 11.2

Action: Outline a plan with the main events that the BLSA hopes to host over the course of the entire year with their respective timeframes

Actioner: RJ, ZM



BLSA MALTA MEETING MINUTES

Venue: Conference room B / MS Teams

Date: 7th November 2023

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM

1. ATTENDANCE

Tristen Arkless (TA)
Kayleigh Chatoor (KC)
Jolie Ghobrial (JG)
Rishabh Joshi (RJ)
Sonia Leon (SL)
Zavier Mirza (ZM)
Emma Quiviger (EQ)
Mina Sadik (MS)
Yeshodhaa Soobramoney (YS)

2. APOLOGIES

Rayan Syedian (RS)

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Approved

4. ACTIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Action number: 1

Agenda item: 7.1

Action: Contact the manager of Villa Fiorita, in order to inquire about the venue's availability and pricing for the halloween party

Actioner: SL

Status: complete

Action number: 2

Agenda item: 7.1

Action: Ensure venue preparation and decoration for the Halloween party

Actioner: RJ, ZM

Status: complete

Action number: 3

Agenda item: 10.2

Action: Connect with the MMSA president, in order to clarify our stance regarding the collaboration of both student unions

Actioner: YS

Status: pending

Action number: 4

Agenda item: 10.3

Action: Contact the vice-president of ESN, in order to agree on a date and time for the introductory talk that was agreed to take place

Actioner: MS

Status: complete

Action number: 5

Agenda item: 10.3

Action: Create a signup form for students to show interest in purchasing the ESN membership card

Actioner: MS

Status: action amended

Action number: 6

Agenda item: 11.1

Action: Raise students' concern in Malta with the BLSA president concerning the excessive emails received from the QMSU that are exclusively relevant to the London campus

Actioner: SL

Status: complete

Action number: 7

Agenda item: 11.2

Action: Decide on an appropriate venue and date for the Christmas dinner in advance, in order to secure the most desired booking

Actioner: RJ, ZM

Status: complete

Action number: 8

Agenda item: 11.2

Action: Outline a plan with the main events that the BLSA hopes to host over the course of the entire year with their respective timeframes

Actioner: RJ, ZM

Status: pending

5. AGENDA ITEMS – CAMPUS

5.1. Variability and increases in canteen pricing

- The menu states 'prices change daily'
- Call for a student discount, as discussed with the chef previously

5.2. Mitigating high energy expenditure

- The main concern that the university has in reference to opening up the classrooms on level 2 during partial lockdown is our carbon footprint
- Request for lighting and AC sensors that automatically shut off when not in use by anyone

5.3. Request for adequate recycling bins

- This is to assure students that their recyclable materials (papers, plastic bottles, etc...) are not going to landfill

5.4. Water replenishment at evenings and weekends

- Request for students to understand how/why water is replenished according to the current system put in place
- In the case that expense is an issue, a cost-effective option can be installing water filters in certain areas

5.5. SAPS room space

- The SAPS common room is crucial for a few students who make use of it at times of need
- Potential proposal for the yoga room to be repurposed for more BLSA and student-oriented usage, given that it is not in use for the majority of time

6. AGENDA ITEMS – EDUCATION

N/A

7. AGENDA ITEMS – EVENTS

7.1. Christmas dinner

- Confirmed venue is Ta' Frenċ restaurant
- Confirmed date is 2nd December 2023
- Arrival to the venue and welcome drinks at 6:30 PM, with food service starting at 7:30 PM
- Main entertainment events involve a talent show and superlative awards for societies
- Decorations can involve Christmas-themed paintings that are produced in mindful art
- Buffet menu is approved; possibility of having fruits and a chocolate fountain to be explored

8. AGENDA ITEMS – SOCIETIES

N/A

9. AGENDA ITEMS – SPORTS

N/A

10. AGENDA ITEMS – OTHER

10.1. Terms of Reference: point 4.7

- The BLSA Malta board approves of the given terms of reference
- A few notes about point 4.7 are recorded
- Students often prefer to raise issues and concerns anonymously via feedback forms or via personal discussions with BLSA board members over mentioning them in a public/general meeting
- Student votes are beneficial in the circumstance that there is a controversial topic that the BLSA is unsure on how to move forward

10.2. Access to a Canva Pro account

- Request to either access the university's Canva Pro account or have another one for the BLSA

11. AOB

N/A

12. REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS

Action number: 9

Agenda item: 5.1

Action: Email Justin Agius requesting to meet regarding the canteen pricing issues, ideally inviting TA, Laurette Dudney, and the chef as well

Actioner: SL, YS

Action number: 10

Agenda item: 5.2

Action: Propose automated sensors as a solution to high energy expenditure (in MMSOG or elsewhere)

Actioner: SL, YS

Action number: 11

Agenda item: 5.3

Action: Request adequate recycling bins around campus to reinforce its importance and reassure students (in MMSOG or elsewhere)

Actioner: SL, YS

Action number: 12

Agenda item: 5.4

Action: Discuss current water replenishment methods and potential additional/alternative options regarding this procedure

Actioner: SL, YS

Action number: 13

Agenda item: 5.5

Action: Request for BLSA access to the yoga room for more student-oriented activities and events

Actioner: SL, YS

Action number: 14

Agenda item: 7.1

Action: Consider different options for offering a chocolate fountain with fruits at the Christmas dinner

Actioner: TA

Action number: 15

Agenda item: 10.2

Action: Request for BLSA access to a Canva Pro account

Actioner: TA

VP Communities Written Report

Matthew Beach

Since the last Student Council, I've aided organising four events:

1. a photographic printmaking workshop for Sustainability Week;
2. alongside our VP S&E, a QM Sexual Assault and Harassment Advice Team services event;
3. an International Postgraduate Researcher Mixer and QM Meet & Greet;
4. and a QM symposium for Disability Awareness Fortnight.

Across my manifesto aims, I have:

- Started drafting content to extend the printmaking workshop into a QM webpage that presents information about biodiversity on our Mile End campus. I also contributed to a Centre for Public Engagement grant proposing a new Sustainability Assistant role and seeking to further a project our SU completed last year.
- Worked with our Comms team, alongside our Postgraduate Assistants, to propose postgraduate-specific communications assets, delivered our first Postgraduate Consultation Group that had over 70 sign-ups, and I am currently working with our comms team to scope an application for a Postgraduate Research-specific comms role to be funded by QM's Enhancing Research & Innovation Cultures stream.
- Worked with ResLife in Foyer House to introduce new furniture in communal spaces and upcoming kitchen decorations; and we're scoping for a new communal mural art project.
- Led on a letter to the Senior Executive Team arguing for stronger sustainability aims in the 2030 Strategy.

Finally, across my ongoing policy work, I am currently:

- Working with university's equality, diversity, and inclusion team to lobby QM to acknowledge institutional racism and implement free menstrual products across our campuses;
- drafting policies related to a social media strategy between the SU and university, installing bidets in campus buildings, and renaming VP Communities to VP Liberation, International, and Postgrads to more accurately reflect the role's scope and workload;
- and lobbying the university for proper feedback channels for international students, including fee amounts.

Appendix A: Executive Committee Notes

24 November

Sustainability – Met with the Barts and the London Sustainability Officer to discuss his project around cigarette and vape disposal, covering a survey, awareness campaign, and working with estates for disposal bins. Met with Serena and Students' Union staff to discuss the university's investment policies around fossil fuels and steps we could take to lobby for divestment.

Liberation – Attended Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Steering Group and fed back on new initiative around EDI forums in faculties with invited students as well as policy seeking to adopt definition of carer. Chaired first LGBTQ+ History Month Student Organising Committee and discussed ideas around neurodivergence intersectionality and gender affirming care, anonymous social media spotlights, as well as support for these events. Met with a postgraduate taught student based between the Wolfson Institute and the School of English and Drama who is interested in learning how to go about moving forward with an idea to draw attention to interdisciplinarity through creative pop-up interventions in various Schools/Institutes. Also spoke about challenges to inclusive medical education in the Wolfson Institute and channels to take that forward.

Postgraduates – Working on the feedback from the PG Consultation Group. Attended drop-in session for Enhancing Research & Innovation Cultures Fund to learn whether the Students' Union may be suited to apply for funding for a postgraduate-specific role in our Communications and Marketing department. Emailed all Postgraduate Research Managers about scheduling drop-in sessions to all School/Institute postgraduate research student spaces over the next couple of months.

General – Discussed taking forward community volunteering sector project around postgraduate bid-writing and marketing and communications after learning we were not awarded The Centre for Public Engagement large grant we applied for. Met with Vice Principal for Education and discussed concerns around lack of pathways for feedback regarding international students and postgraduate taught students. Toured three Mile End accommodations and met with Housing Services regarding Foyer House aesthetics and potential positive interventions, as well as the potential for a collaborative outdoor art project with the residents.

10 November

General – Supported editing Aisha's Employability Curriculum Group Terms of Reference. Attended SU90, a QMSU team lunch where all teams across the Students' Union provide 5-min updates about key activities from the semester, reflections, and priorities for the rest of semester. Attended drop-in session for students at Foyer House residence to hear about their experiences and organised subsequent meeting to plan action with ResLife.

Postgraduates – Met with Senior International Advisor to firm up plans for December International PGR Mixer, sorted catering, and a communications promotional materials request. Chaired first Postgraduate Board. Introduced Postgraduate Research Representation Assistant and Postgraduate Engagement Assistant to the Doctoral College. Identified students to participate in first Postgraduate Consultation Group.

International Students – Met with Senior International Advisor and discussed potential plans to start up an 'International Café' where students meet every six weeks to discuss concerns as well as learn about careers, skills, networking, etc. Discussed potential plans for Refugee Week in March. Organised time for international reps to meet with student advising team in absence of other

university meetings to relay feedback and set up monthly catchups with Aisha to cover crossover in international student representation.

Liberation – Chaired first Jewish Heritage Fortnight organising committee and third Disability Awareness Fortnight (DAF) organising committee. Enquired with the Disability and Dyslexia Service about attending an event for DAF highlighting disability research at Queen Mary. Attended Race Equality Action Group.

3 November

Postgraduates — Helped finalise and submit Centre for Public Engagement Large Grant for postgraduate bid-writing project. Met with Student Support Officer in Dentistry around postgraduate support, feedback, and engagement. Discussed plans for spring events for postgraduate taught and research students. Conducted introductory and project planning meeting with new Postgraduate Engagement Assistant and relayed plans for January postgraduate taught and research events in Dentistry as well as began planning around postgraduate communications.

General — Attended residence tours of Floyer Hall and Dawson Hall and relayed feedback about aesthetics and student wellbeing as well as proposed ideas for hanging picture frames and changing paint. Will meet with ResLife in the next couple of weeks to discuss steps to take ideas forward. Attended away day meeting Westminster Students' Union all-day Thursday, with all our Executive Officers, and learned about their Student Unions' representation structures as well as how they're building postgraduate engagement. Revisited project plan to focus on identifying deliverables and timelines.

Sustainability — Met with School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science Professor, his PhD student, and IHSS Environmental Futures Programme Director to discuss element of their curriculum around understanding moss on the ME campus.

20 October

Magazine Making – finished planning workshop before going on leave, which went well.

Climate Action – worked with staff on letter about Climate Action to Senior Executive Team, cosigned by the Executive Officers and Sustainability representatives. Also met with the Sustainability team to discuss how to progress with divestment.

Postgraduates – met with reps to discuss the consultation group and board.

Liberation – Charing Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM) chairing meeting to discuss events for this. Also supporting Black History Month events.

Should the Students' Union change the title of Vice President Communities to Vice President Liberation, International and Postgraduates?

Proposed by: Matthew Beach (Postgraduate Research Representative)

Seconded by: Amaan Abbas

What do you want?

To change the title of Vice President Communities to Vice President Liberation, International and Postgraduates

Why do you want it?

We believe the current title of VP Communities does not accurately represent the role and its responsibilities in its entirety. Many students do not comprehend the term 'Communities' and what it encompasses. Often, staff at QMUL or students ask the VP Communities officer what it means.

What impact will this have?

It will increase student engagement with the SU and more specifically with VP Liberation, International and Postgraduates, because students and staff will have a better understanding of the scope of the role. We also believe more students from liberation groups, international students and postgraduates will proactively put themselves forward for this role during election campaigns. We also think that this officer will be more visible to the groups of students the role represents because of the clarity of the title.

Changes to Bye-laws

Bye-Law 7 Executive Committee

To enact this motion, if passed, it will be necessary to replace all references to '**Vice President Communities**' with 'Vice President Liberation, International and Postgraduates' as follows:

2.2 The Executive Officers shall be:

iii) **The Vice President Communities**

2.3 Any full Union member may stand for the Position of President, Vice President Welfare or **Vice President Communities**.

7. **Vice President Communities**

The **Vice President Communities** shall:

Should students be given the opportunity to round up their purchases in QMSU outlets with the proceeds to go to the UCU Strike Fund?

Proposer: Jules Buet

Seconded: tbc

What do you want?

For students to be given the opportunity to round up purchases made in Union outlets to make a contribution to the QMUL striking staff and teachers fund.

Why do you want it?

QMUL has been very tough in terms of taking the whole salary of teachers away if they missed classes to strike. This has put a lot of staff and teachers in difficult situations and affected their ability to freely support strikes if they want to. Participating in strike funds is a good way to show support for those strikes, practically. The SU has already expressed support for those strikes, but I believe actions speak louder than words.

What impact will this have?

For the striking teachers and staff, this may be the difference between being able to make rent or not, and being able to continue to put pressure on the university through strike actions, or be financially starved from being able to strike.

For the students, the impact should be minimal as it is a voluntary option to round up on Student Union Shops, so at most 99p per transaction.

Inclusive Liberation Needs Disability History Month - Should Disability History Month be added to the calendar of QMSU liberation campaigns?

Proposer: Adam Khan (Campaigns Officer of the Neurodivergent Society, Social Secretary of Students with Disabilities, and organising committee member of Disability Awareness Fortnight 2023)

Seconders: Viktoriia Sereda (President of Neurodivergent Society, Daniel Gill (President of Students with Disabilities), Henriana Kombo Nguila Iyongo (One of the Welfare Rep of S&E)

What do you want?

- Disability* History Month (DHM) should be an integral part of QMSU's calendar of liberation campaigns.
- The current format of QMSU's Disability Awareness Fortnight (which in 2023 takes place between 1st December and 14th December) should be extended and rebranded to incorporate the whole of Disability History Month.
- The national UK Disability History Month campaign runs from the 16th November until the 16th December. Due to the overlapping dates with the end of QMSU's Islamophobia Awareness Month (IAM), this motion does not seek to replace or conflict with this.

Both months are complimentary to each other. The proposer and seconders feel that it is important that both liberation months take place. Surveying current students within various disability and neurodivergent networks at QMUL, a consensus was found regarding the dates of Disability History Month:

- On the 16th November, Disability History Month will be 'soft launched', to be in line with the national UK Disability History Month, with social media post only, to not conflict with IAM. There of course is an option for either organising committees to organise a cross-liberation event on the intersection of disability and Islam, if they choose.
- From the 1st December the main events of Disability History Month will begin taking place, and DHM branding follows suit. This is until the end of Semester 1 (the specific date varies each year), as QMSU stops posting during the Winter Holidays.
- The dates of DHM as part of this motion shall not be binding, and should be flexible to change in the future, if deemed necessary.
- Due to time constraints for 2023, this motion will be effective from 2024 onwards.

Why do you want it?

Queen Mary Students' Union has a variety of liberation campaigns which represent different aspects of marginalisation. The majority of these follow national trends of both timeframe and 'branding', for example Black History Month in October, and LGBTQIA+ History Month in February. These History months enable a multifaceted approach to each individual marginalisation, enabling multidisciplinary and intersectional look into the community, and allowing the community to design its events and campaigns in any way they themselves want to. This should apply to the disabled community too. The disabled community is the second largest marginalised community according to the 2021 Census, with 35.2% of the

*In this motion, the terms disability and disabled are used in an inclusive manner which incorporates all aspects of disability which includes, but is not limited to, mental health, neurodivergence, learning difference, and chronic illness.

population of England identifying as disabled, thus should be recognised in equal standing alongside the other liberations.

Over the last few years, the disability community has been evolving. Awareness has been and still is needed. But in a country which has been consistently infringing on the rights of marginalised communities in the last decade, acceptance is even more important now. Disability History Month enables this nuance, and it will enable a focus which is more flexible for future organising committees, allowing them to focus on awareness, acceptance, and liberation to the levels which are appropriate in any given year.

It has also been noticed by some students that the acronym for Disability Awareness Fortnight, “DAF” (IPA: [dɑːf]) phonetically sounds similar to the word daft (IPA: [dɑːft]). This is a potentially problematic word as its connotations could cause offense to people with mental health conditions or learning differences.

What impact will this have?

Replacing Disability Awareness Fortnight with Disability History Month will enable students to have more flexibility with both organising and attending events related to disability awareness and acceptance. As disabled students have varying levels of capacity and academic/personal commitments, it will enable more participation and more outreach to the community. Having events more spread out throughout a month rather than a fortnight will make them more accessible and less overwhelming.

Having a month feels more inclusive and equal with the other liberation months. There is no true liberation without all liberation, so having an active Disability History Month promotes the intersectionality within and between the liberations.

As Disability History Month is also a national campaign ran by UKDHM, QMSU would be able to tap into national themes, resources, and opportunities for collaborations with external organisations.

Many other Universities (even QMUL already does holds Disability History Month events in their staff networks) and Students’ Unions (KCL, UCL, Greenwich, SOAS, Birkbeck et al) follow the Disability History Month model. QMSU following suite can enable more flexibility and legitimacy for potential collaborations with other Students’ Unions.

*In this motion, the terms disability and disabled are used in an inclusive manner which incorporates all aspects of disability which includes, but is not limited to, mental health, neurodivergence, learning difference, and chronic illness.

Should the Students' Union lobby the university to install bidet attachments to at least one male, one female, one male accessible, one female accessible, one gender neutral, and one gender neutral accessible toilet in all student-facing university buildings where applicable?

Proposed by: Matthew Beach

Seconded by: Aisha Qadi

What do you want?

We would like the Students' Union to lobby Estates and Facilities to install bidet attachments to at least one male, one female, one male accessible, one female accessible, one gender neutral, and one gender neutral accessible toilet in all student-facing university buildings.

Why do you want it?

Bidets are very commonly used by many cultural and religious student groups across Queen Mary campuses and there is currently very little to no provision for these arguably necessary facilities. One of our Part-Time Representatives last year used their officer budget to provision appropriate vessels. While this has had excellent uptake, the initiative can and should be taken further.

Many students are still either bringing their own resources or resorting to creating the necessary provision through upcycling large water bottles or other materials. At worst, some students may be uncomfortable or hesitant using the toilets in Queen Mary buildings, and some even plan their day around not having to use toilets in our university spaces.

Moreover, some students fear for urinary tract infections due to lack of proper water supply for hygiene; or are using wet wipes, which are not sustainable.

What impact will this have?

Installing bidet attachments across student-facing university buildings will provide comfort to many of our student groups on campus, including international students who may not be used to Western cultural hygiene facility conventions. It will provide peace of mind to these student groups helping them feel more at ease in their spaces for the duration of study. It may also encourage students who are not used to bidets to experience them and their benefits.

Should the Students' Union lobby the University to have a mandatory minimum number of occupants in a bookable group meeting room to supplement the maximum occupancy?

Proposed by: Ishan Sarkar

Seconded by: Yajat Mahalingam

What do you want?

To have a mandatory minimum number of occupants in a bookable group meeting room to supplement the maximum occupancy.

Why do you want it?

To be able to have convenient + unhindered full group meetings of 4-10 people in designated bookable group meeting room spaces (in our libraries, and other learning spaces) designed for larger groups of people, otherwise occasionally occupied by one or two individuals only. Perhaps prioritising larger groups first compared to smaller groups during initial booking and confirmation would help too. And to help facilitate presentation work (e.g., with MBBS PBL presentation rehearsal) and make it easier to find free group spaces that are sometimes occupied by one or two individuals.

What impact will this have?

Make group studying and meetings easier for student groups (especially commuters)

Should the Students' Union lobby QMUL to introduce weekly consultation hours to enable students to book one-to-one consultations with their teachers?

Proposer: Alexander Kasabov

Seconded: Dorotea Nikolova, Joana Gueorguieva

What do you want?

That professors hold consultation hours weekly so students can reach out with any questions related to the module they teach. Those consultations would be in our best interest if offered online. This versatility will allow every student to benefit from connecting with their teacher individually from any location and time of convenience for both parties. Students can book the hours through Calendly, where each tutor can set their availability, and students can book one-to-one consultations on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Why do you want it?

From my short yet edifying experience at QMUL, the contact between the student body and the teachers often seems ostracised after our weekly lectures. When I have a question or a few and wish to contact any tutor, I am compelled to do so right before/after a lecture or during our designated breaks.

During these times, lecturers are often preoccupied with delivering their lectures and materials effectively rather than devoting their time to answering inquiries or engaging in conversation. They frequently suggest that the students contact them via email. Although a great communication tool, emailing is often time-consuming and hinders the natural flow of thought a live communication maintains.

What impact would it have?

Our tutors may immensely benefit from applying this opportunity to our teaching style as it will build an individualistic and joint connection between students and professors, making it stronger and more valuable. This motion is a chance for cognitive liberty many have been and will desire.