

Executive Committee Notes

Friday 5th January 2024

Present

Serena Jabbar, President (SJ)
 Aisha Qadi, Vice President Science & Engineering (AQ)
 Matthew Beach, Vice President Communities (MB)
 Amaan Abbas, Vice President Barts and The London (AA)
 Tahmid Khan, Vice President Welfare (TK)

In attendance:

Marianne Melsen, Head of Student Voice and Insights (MM)

Apologies

Jovani Palnoni, Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences (JP)

Notes of the meeting

	Notes	Actions
1	<p>Serena</p> <p>London Student Assembly – launched London Student Assembly with other London Sus. The group is bringing students’ unions together across London universities to represent students on matters that affect students across London such as transport and housing.</p> <p>Prevent – sat on roundtable about the Prevent legislation with Tahmid and Jovani. Gave feedback on how Prevent is affecting the student experience of different demographic groups and raised concerns about the impact it is having on Queen Mary students.</p> <p>NSS taskforce – contributed to the university’ NSS taskforce. Raised points from the submission the Students’ Union did for the Teaching Excellence Framework.</p> <p>Sustainability Committee – working to restart the Sustainability Committee.</p>	
2	<p>Matthew</p> <p>Postgraduate Taught – Before end of term met with Vice Principal for Education to discuss how to better feedback and get involved with shaping postgraduate taught student experience across curriculum and pastoral aspects. Also met with the President and VP Barts and the London to discuss how to better support our intercalating master’s students and prospects for holding events on our other campuses beyond Mile End and Whitechapel. Before term ended also met with the postgraduate engagement assistant to review plans for a postgraduate taught events programme across our Mile End and Whitechapel campuses throughout terms two and three.</p> <p>Postgraduate Research – Before end of term hosted the first International PGR Mixer and QM Meet and Greet in collaboration with one of the Senior International Advisors in the Advice and Counselling Service, which was well attended by students across the faculties. We have subsequently planned a second edition of the event for term two. Also met with the Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary to discuss a teaching policy that will change the structures in which PGRs access teaching opportunities.</p> <p>Sustainability – Before term ended, met with BL Sustainability Officer and Sustainability Coordinator to firm up a timeline for his cigarette and vape disposal, survey and awareness campaign, and working with estates for disposal bins; this will commence from late February into March and beyond. Began planning an event for Climate Action Week over the 3rd week of February.</p>	

	<p>Liberation – Before term ended, chaired our second LGBTQ+ History Month organising committee and discussed plans for a drag show, LGBTQ+ walking tour, among other events. Met with an advisor in the Queen Mary Legal Advice Centre with our Welfare and Liberation Coordinator to discuss the Student Council policy related to free legal advice on name changes for our trans students and discussed potential plans to facilitate a street law workshop on the process during LGBTQ+ History Month.</p> <p>International – Before term ended worked with one of the Senior International Advisors to continue planning events for a first International Student Cafe and session for Refugee Week. Also have continued to work with our VP Science and Engineering to lobby the university for more concrete spaces to raise international student issues such as fees and assessment/resit timeline concerns.</p>	
3	<p>Tahmid</p> <p>Multi-faith spaces – MFC headcount data has been collected, now analysing the data and writing a report.</p> <p>Food pantry – the expanded food pantry opened this week in the reception area in the Students' Union Hub at Mile End. The food pantry has already proven very popular with students, and TK is now starting to consider long-term funding for the project.</p> <p>Study Well – the Study Well campaign is ongoing. Organised hot drinks stall and healthy food packs for students in December. Planning another event for January.</p> <p>Lighting project – project is progressing. Walkaround scheduled to agree the implementation of the project.</p>	
4	<p>Amaan</p> <p>Griff move – has been helping with closure events in the old Griff before the winter break. Now working with the team to get things ready for the launch of the new Griff in the Garrod Building later this month.</p> <p>BLSA branding – provided feedback on updated BLSA branding.</p> <p>Events – worked with the Events Officers to design the events programme for the upcoming term.</p> <p>Education enabling day – attended a one-day workshop with the university to provide student input into the enabling plan for education.</p> <p>Malta visit – planning a knowledge exchange visit to the Malta campus and a return visit for the Malta Co-Presidents to come to London.</p>	
5	<p>Aisha</p> <p>Employability Curriculum Group – successfully initiated the first ECG meeting with great discussions taken place. In the process of sending out invites for the second meeting post winter holiday to further discuss further ways to ensure students get an employable curriculum.</p> <p>Assessment and feedback – lobbied the university to consider assessment improvements in several design work-streams such as lowering weights of assessments and ensuring there is a balance of the value, changing assessments to make it more authentic and relevant, and improving communication of feedback timeline.</p> <p>International students & voice – arranged several meetings with the university alongside Matthew to raise the lack of feedback channels for international students. Chasing up the need to improve international student experience and support.</p>	