

Executive Committee Notes

Friday 10th November 2023

Present

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

In attendance:

Alvin Ramsamy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (AR)

Apologies

Notes of the meeting

	Notes	Actions
1	<p>Matt</p> <p>Sustainability – Presented Sustainability Week event with Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences Environmental Futures Programme Director facilitated by Sustainable Darkroom and documented photographic prints created by participants for subsequent Queen Mary webpage on creatively engaging with biodiversity. Attended Action for Sustainability in the Curriculum event with VP HSS and fed back importance of thinking about from whose disciplinary perspective sustainability is taught in the curriculum.</p> <p>Postgrads – Facilitated first Postgraduate Consultation Group (PGCG) with help of the Postgraduate Research Representation Assistant (PGRRA) on the theme of PGR Communities. PGCG was well attended, and engagement was strong around themes of School/Institute events and PGR spaces. Met with PGRRA and Postgraduate Engagement Assistant to discuss how we might work together this year and discussed plans for disseminating information about our roles through the Doctoral College. Set up meeting with the Dental President and Dental Vice Presidents to discuss PGT engagement and feedback.</p> <p>International Students – Met with BL International Representative, Aisha, and the International Student Advisors to discuss shared student concerns in absence of higher management meeting to feed issues into. Discussed ways in which the Students' Union might take a more active approach to supporting international students beyond continued work lobbying for fee reductions. Subsequently learned the S&E International Representative is trying to meet with his other faculty counterparts and asked to attend for collective organising.</p> <p>Liberation – Asked the Head of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) to meet with him, and the Mile End BAME Representative to discuss how to feed into the Race Equality Action Group and raised ongoing Student Council policies around free menstrual products on campus as well as QM acknowledging its institutional racism more actively. Now setting up subsequent meetings with the Head of EDI and Gender EDI Manager to take these motions forward. Worked with Disability Awareness Fortnight student organising committee members on getting PGR students engaged with an event focusing on disability research at QM.</p>	
2	<p>Serena</p> <p>Infrastructure – sat on boards with QMUL and agreed mitigations to ensure student spaces are protected when future building works take place. This is following the planned ITL works that will impact Godward square for over a year.</p>	

	<p>Cost of Living – Tahmid and Serena discussed with the University this generally and specifically on how to financially support students food costs beyond the financial assistance fund.</p> <p>Principal - Met with the Principal to discuss the universities response to the crisis in Palestine and Israel, and communicated some students dissatisfaction with the response - and how imperative it is that welfare support is reiterated to students.</p>	
	<p>Jovani</p> <p>Sustainability – attended a working group on sustainability in the curriculum, there were presentations on best practice this. Jovani presented on this as well.</p> <p>3 Engagement Policy – raised issues with this and now working on amendments to the proposed QMUL policy.</p> <p>Course Rep engagement – hosting events with them and discussing module evaluations and comms to encourage students to fill these in.</p>	
	<p>Aisha</p> <p>Extenuating Circumstances – sat on a review and gave feedback on what should be changed, discussed immediate things that could be changed such as improvements for specific student demographics. Working on progressing this.</p> <p>4 Senior S&E Staff – met with the Vice Principal, discussed projects, student voice and how to progress issues.</p> <p>Women's only space – progressing a proposal about this and a space on campus this and will be taking to the QMUL sticky campus group</p>	
	<p>Tahmid</p> <p>Welfare & Communities Board – chaired this last night, approved applications for the liberation fund. This was well attended.</p> <p>5 Cost Of Living – discussed the financial assistance fund, ran through the policy of it with staff from QMUL. Continued work on the food pantry and liaising with QMUL as well as planning the launch.</p> <p>Multi Faith Centre – began collating project to take an in depth look at how the MFC is being used to inform future faith provision proposal. This will continue for the next few weeks.</p>	
	<p>Amman</p> <p>6 Garrod Building -open some more student facing spaces, students being updated today. Continuing working on furniture provision and other spaces to be completed.</p> <p>MBBS Curriculum review – communicating between students, school and senior staff about improvements to the curriculum.</p>	
	<p>Advocacy</p> <p>7 The Advocacy Manager joined for this specific discussion and updated about International Postgraduate Visa issues due to the re-sit timing not working alongside visa deadlines. There is an inconsistent approach across departments, some are able to be flexible. The impact on students affected is severe. Has been raised with the University, Executive Officers will follow up on this.</p> <p>Also updated on cases generally. AR will set up the termly meeting with ACCO so these can be raised and discussed.</p>	

To find out more about any of the above contact a member of the Executive Committee -

www.qmsu.org/repsexec