

Executive Committee Notes

Friday 19th January 2024

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)
 Charlotte Kendrick, Deputy Managing Director (CK)

Apologies

Notes of the meeting

	Notes	Actions
1	<p>Matt</p> <p>Liberation – Met with Head of Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) to discuss taking forward of the Decolonising campaign and the university’s perspective on decolonising discourse and practice. Also discussed policy updates around free menstrual products, sanitary bins, and the introduction of bidets; as well as the university’s forthcoming student-staff EDI forums. Attended Race Equality Action Group and fed back on the university’s plans to run Race Equality Charter Workshops with students to disseminate the university’s data on race equality and converse about actions going forward. Chaired the LGBTQ+ History Month Social Media Meeting as well as Welfare and Communities Board. In Welfare and Communities Board spoke with attending Part-Time Officers about various issues such as trans inclusive language in taught programmes and tailgating in buildings. Also relayed to the board a document that outlines all the meetings this role regularly attends alongside the role titles of other attendees to further empower their work.</p> <p>Postgraduate Research Students – Working on scheduling visits to PGR spaces and cohorts with current dates to visit the Mile End Law PGRs, William Harvey Research Institute, Blizzard Institute, and Electronic Engineering and Computer Science Music cluster. Delivered an induction presentation to the January starts with the Doctoral College, attended the in-person Doctoral College session, and gave closing remarks. Discussed with staff how else we can increase our offering and support for PGRs over the next couple of years, including around sport, student media, and professional practice. Contacted convenors of the QMOut and Parents and Carers Network about featuring queer PGR parents and/or carers as part of LGBTQ+ History Month. Continued working on a PGR Subject Rep governance document that outlines how Schools/Institutes should interact with the rep structure.</p> <p>Postgraduate Taught Students – Convened initial meeting with Deputy Vice Principal for Education around people responsible for PGT experience and spaces to raise PGT feedback. Focused a lot on the postgraduate taught experience survey and how to increase the response rate, spaces to discuss PGT experience using current data and report summaries such as Directors of Education Action Group, as well as how to better empower PGT Course Representatives to communicate with their cohorts around gathering feedback and reporting back. Also contacted academics in Dentistry to further query feedback spaces for both PGT and PGR students.</p> <p>Sustainability – Continued working on project for Climate Action Week with the Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences Environmental Futures Programme Director. Confirmed that The Old Library is available as a space to expand an existing project called Cabinet Cultures with</p>	

confirmed involvement from two students involved in Sustainability in the Curriculum Network, our BL Sustainability Officer and a PGR in Computer Science. Queried with the Director of Student Experience whether funding might be available from the Student Experience budget to support the project and will produce an itemised budget and more expansive project outline. Currently confirming events to take place launching the project on the 19th of February, the first day of Climate Action Week, as well as how an events programme can develop over terms two and three. Also attended third Sustainability in the Curriculum Network event where plans were discussed to take further the online optional module teaching students about sustainability from a variety of disciplines and practices. Also currently reviewing sustainability policies assigned to this role with the view of consolidating and proposing policy revisions at a forthcoming Student Council

Aisha

Degree Apprentice Engagement – drafted bye-law change for Student Council. If passed a cross faculty rep will be in the Spring Elections. Will be required to attend Council and overarching board, but faculty specific will be optional as to not overwhelm this role.

2

Grammarly – working with IT about acquiring a license for this. Working on a survey to consult students. Survey won't be specific to Grammarly, but a software like it.

Welcome – welcomed new students with an SU intro presentation and Q&A.

Amaan

MBBS Curriculum Review have actively participated in workshops, ensuring the inclusion of the student voice. Organised focus groups through the BLSA representative structure, where staff can engage with a diverse range of students. I've attended regular meetings of the MBBS Curriculum Working Group, contributing to the ongoing conversations and facilitating connections between specific departments and student cohorts.

Garrod Building Impact Survey - Leading a survey to gauge the impacts of construction work on students' studies. This initiative aims to collect valuable information that can be used for the current projects at Mile End. Also conducting surveys to gather feedback on the new facilities in Garrod Building, focusing on understanding how these amenities contribute to students' effective study practices and downtime.

Postgraduate Representation - Collaborating with Matt, to enhance the representation of postgraduate students at BL across all sites. This initiative seeks to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for postgraduate students through improved representation. A key focus area is the enhancement of study and social spaces at Charterhouse Square, where we have surveyed the facilities available for students, especially postgraduate students, to relax between labs or teaching.

3

Diversity and Inclusion in IHSE - Collaborating with staff at IHSE, Amaan is committed to improving the representation of minority groups within the MBBS curriculum review and IHSE in general. These groups that have been created aim to create a more diverse and inclusive academic environment, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered. Currently working on integrating these newer groups into the current governance structure while still maintaining their ability to act as a safe space for those who need them.

Quality Assurance Visits for Placements - Working with the team during visits for placements, focusing on ensuring that the student perspective is considered when evaluating the quality and effectiveness of these placements. This involves active engagement during visits and advocating for student needs and concerns, as well as working with my team of part time officers to improve on asynchronous feedback collection mechanisms.

Malta Student Experience Enhancement - In collaboration with part-time officers and QMUL staff in Malta, actively working to enhance the educational and pastoral aspects of the student experience. This includes addressing concerns and advocating for changes at meetings in London that directly impact Malta. A key focus right now is improving spaces for students to self-organise events.

Events at Whitechapel - Working alongside the Entertainments Officers, Faculty Staff and QMSU to put together a series of welcome events to usher in the opening of the new spaces at the

	Garrod Building, including inviting alumni back, a student-staff event and the first sports night of the new space.	
4	<p>Jovani</p> <p>Sustainability in the curriculum network - Discussing and planning for a new module that we are hoping to have in the works on sustainability. Was productive and discussed logistics and how we can engage students to co-create it with the intention the module allows students to learn about how green skills apply to their everyday lives, whether that's at school, their job etc.</p> <p>HSS Sub board Meeting- Meeting quorate and many issues picked up on within HSS, progress being made with geography with some of the accessibility issues faced by students within their building. As well as in works with PTOs on communicating with their schools on improving their recognition and visibility from the lens of students, with the intention of allowing students to know who their PTOs are, what they do and what they are working on from the start of their studies.</p> <p>Islamophobia Awareness Month – worked with the committee to analyse the results and came to the conclusion that IAM would receive a rebrand to Islamic Heritage Month, with the hopes of increasing student engagement and allowing students to be able to connect to the month in the best possible way which makes them feel proud. The rebrand will be completed towards the later part of the academic year before the next time the month comes around.</p>	
5	<p>Tahmid</p> <p>Study Well – two events took place this week, Tea and Talk and Paint and Plant today. Tea and talk was well attended.</p> <p>Cost of Living – discussed food pantry communications, and how to better signpost to it from the University. Also discussed ideas such as more heating and eating spaces, so students can microwave their own food.</p> <p>Financial Assistance Fund – review has begun, have spoken to the lead for the review. Hoping for positive change from the review.</p> <p>Lighting – walked around with estates and engineers at Mile End and Whitechapel, identified where new and better lighting is needed.</p> <p>Multi Faith Centre – met with Isoc about the report, will be consulting other faith groups.</p>	
6	<p>Serena</p> <p>Principal – met and discussed how to bridge the gap between him/Senior staff and students.</p> <p>Cost of Living – working on ways students can communicate to students about different provision the Uni have, so that it is student led and not comms let. Looking to recruit soon.</p> <p>Engagement Monitoring – discussed this with the Uni, pushed the need to consider student wellbeing in those conversations.</p>	
7	<p>Graduation</p> <p>Mixed feedback, positive from parents about the student ambassadors, but multiple issues with Tobacco Dock security which will be raised with QMUL.</p> <p>Technical and logistical issues around the briefing being late, one robe for all exec, the speed of process (when graduates are walking) and the phonetic pronunciation of names not being used. As well as combining the mace bearer role with a speech giver, due to potential religious connotations with it.</p>	

To find out more about any of the above contact a member of the Executive Committee - www.qmsu.org/reps/exec