

Executive Committee Notes

Friday 1 April 2022

Present

Robert Leo Tucker, Vice President Barts and The London (RLT)
 Muneer Hussain, Vice President Welfare (MH)
 Bilge Kacmaz, Vice President Science & Engineering (BK)
 Saynab Shariff, Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences (SS)
 Radhika Thiagarajan, Vice President Communities (RT)
 Adi Sawalha, President (AS) – *From 10:30am*

In attendance

Bronwen Eastaugh, Student Engagement and Partnerships Manager (BE)

Notes of the meeting

	Notes	Actions
1	<p>Bilge</p> <p>Estates Strat Board- Attended the meeting this week. EQSB (Equality Standards Board)- Raised the Mentoring Scheme and the Hub for PHD and Masters students. Pushed for more to be done and to get the scheme launched. Global Social Media Content- Met with Isha, Student Voice Administrator at the Students' Union, to discuss. Internship Project- Met with Careers and Enterprise about this. The website should launch soon and will include guides, tips and external links to make applying for internships easier. Study Well- Will be writing some helpful tips on studying smart.</p>	
2	<p>Muneer</p> <p>NUS Conference- Was an NUS Conference this week. Exam Feedback- Met with the Head of Innovation and Learning at the University to discuss the Exam Survey Project. Likely that there will be a pilot with a specific groups of students over the summer. The focus is likely to be on gathering qualitative data from focus groups. The project will aim to gather feedback from students on online exams, particularly from a welfare point of view. Housing- Met with Housing Services to talk about how things are going in halls of residence- nothing significant to report. The Housing Fair went well- about 300 attended and positive feedback was received. It would be good for the Students' Union to consider having a stall next time. Diversity and inclusion- Met with Vice-Principal, People, Culture and Inclusion, to discuss diversity in academic staff (sought clarity on some things the University include in their reporting, for example on things like defining junior, middle and senior staff). Also discussed concerns raised by student representatives about how behavioral misconducted cases are handled. Study Well- Dates are pretty much confirmed. Have a meeting today to proceed with planning the campaign. Multi-Faith Centre- The multi-faith centre in the Students' Union Hub will have extended opening hours (until 11pm for night prayers). MH proposed that the cost comes out of the Executive Officer budget (£480 total, £52 per day). Will need to review if the extended hours can remain after term ends- as usually the Hub is usually close, remaining open until late would cost significantly more as would need to keep the building open all day. All agreed for the cost to come from the Executive Officer budget.</p>	
3	<p>Radhika</p> <p>Liberation Conference- Attended this conference this week. There are lots of things from the conference that RT would like to discuss with the other Executive Officers.</p>	

	<p>BAME counsellor- A BAME counsellor was recruited into the Advice and Counselling Service a while ago whose contract is coming to an end. Will be aiming to find out what future funding is secured for this/similar role(s) and if terms of the role can be changed to ensure the role(s) attracts the best talent. RT would like to get input from the other Executive Officers about if recruiting BAME counsellors is the best way to go, or if there more effective alternatives, and would like to share some of the discussion with the Executive Officers from the Liberation Conference on this.</p>	
4	<p>Rob</p> <p>SMD faculty staff meeting- Projects RLT is co-working on with VP Health were presented. One of RLT's main aims is to work more on student-staff communications, so there is more interaction between staff and students e.g. for events and EDI work where we have proved it to work successfully (for example, with the Anti-Racism Steering Group).</p> <p>Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)- Attended the panel meeting which is supported by a new external University Council member. It was a positive meeting discussing some follow-up of block grant conditions and how we can be more inclusive.</p> <p>Doctors Day 2022 - Organised Doctors Day this year, alongside VPs. Finalists now turned doctors loved the event (despite a bit of snow!). The event was done across Charterhouse Square Lawn and The Shield bar.</p>	
5	<p>Saynab</p> <p>NUS Conference- Attended this week. Will be some summary bullet points to SU Staff.</p> <p>EQSB (Equality Standards Board)- There was a proposal from EQSB that some issues would go to Schools to handle (in relation to behavioral misconduct) and suggested that Executive Officers meet to discuss this in more detail.</p> <p>Industrial Action Contingency Group- No significant updates. CCLS has been fixed as a priority as they need to graduate in April.</p> <p>External speakers & security: Meeting with Head of Security and Emergency Planning, along with Union staff, today to discuss approach to security for high risk speaker events.</p>	
6	<p>Adi</p> <p>NUS Conference- Attended this week.</p> <p>Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)- See update from RLT.</p> <p>University Council- Attended the meeting yesterday. Industrial action and reports from sub-committees were covered in this meeting. AS would like to prioritise improving the relationship with council for the long-term. Executive Officers agree to support with other work to allow AS to focus on this</p> <p>Students' Union Strategic Plan- Attended a workshop with part-time officers to collect data for developing the new strategy, lots of useful data was collected.</p> <p>QMSU/QMUL Update Meeting- AS met with the Executive Officer for Education at QMUL about reshaping update meetings. From an admin perspective, AS requested that reminders of actions and calls for agenda points should be sent out earlier. Queen Mary have proposed send 4 members of staff each week. Other University members of staff would be invited based on the agenda. Executive Officers would all still be expected to attend. RLT, RT and SS spoke up against the change citing that it would remove opportunities to have conversations with the right members of staff, including Colin Baily (who would no longer need to attend weekly). Also, Executive Officers already speak to key members of staff on the proposed required attendance list regularly/as and when needed. AS would raise these concerns with Colin Bailey in a schedule meeting today and will update the Executive Officers accordingly. SS suggested that, if needed, cancelling the meeting on Monday until structure and format that worked for the Students' Union and University can be agreed. RT suggested for AS to make it clear how the Students' Union democratic processes work. It was also discussed that there is a need to educate University Council better on how the Students' Union operates.</p>	
7	<p>Education Awards- Executive Officers discussed what need to done regarding planning for the Education Awards. Some detail on this needs to be clarify with Student Voice Team.</p>	

QM Plus Consultation- SS was asked to provide student input into a consultation on QM Plus. SS has gone back to ask for more information on the timeline as not much advance notice was given for arranging this. RLT suggested 1 person take over the QM Plus work to tie different elements in together (different Executive Officers have been involved in different meetings/conversations previously). SS requested that RLT send over papers/work from previous meetings/work on this).

NUS Conference- Executive Officers have agreed to meet to discuss our relationship with NUS with the Deputy CEO.

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