

# Executive Committee Notes

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## Present

Shamima Akter, President (SA)  
 Tiana Dinard-Samuel, Vice President Communities (TDS)  
 Jack Juckes, Vice President Welfare (JJ)  
 Cameron Storey, Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences (CS)  
 Aphrodite Liddington, Vice President Science & Engineering (AL) (had to leave at 10am)

## In attendance:

Alvin Ramsamy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (AR)  
 Mike Wojcik, Chief Executive Officer (MW) (had to leave at 10.30am)  
 Charlotte Kendrick, Deputy Managing Director (CK) (had to leave at 10.30am)

## Apologies

Mat Robathan, Vice President Barts and The London (MR)

## Notes of the meeting

	Notes	Actions
1	<b>Influencing the Curriculum</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WONKHE are doing a research project on student experiences for their academic curriculum and the executive officers discussed participation. Sounds like a valuable and useful piece of work, however internal challenges with executive officers and staff capacity. Cameron suggested asking staff in HSS if they are interested and able, however this may not include a Queen Mary wide view.</li> </ul>	CS
2	<b>QMUL Commercial Board</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First meeting of this new board in April. Executive officers agreed for Jack to be a member, due to his cross campus experience and having been a member of the Students' Union Services Board. Shamima will speak to Mat about this and if he wants the second space on the Board.</li> </ul>	
3	<b>Halls</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evictions statement – Rent Strike Campaign would like the Students' Union to co-sign a statement. The Students' Union have asked them to change the wording around opposition to evictions to state that they are permissible where student safety has been endangered. The statement also Includes health and safety issues/allegations that the Students' Union must raise with the University first, before making a public statement. Therefore, will not co-sign the statement and continue to meet weekly with the campaign, lobby the University for their demands and raise welfare issues around students being evicted. Will lobby for more support for these students, especially international students or those who have issues with guarantor, as well as an anonymized summary of the evictions that are taking place each month.</li> <li>£1000 rebate – rent strike have rejected this new offer after putting it to a vote. Following feedback to the University, the FAQ's sent along with them were not entirely reflecting of our understanding of the condition around the offer, Tiana, Jack and Shamima following up on this. Will continue to lobby the University to improve the offer.</li> <li>Will write an update to students on the rent issues in the next two weeks.</li> </ul>	TDS/JJ
4	<b>Drink Spiking Campaign</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jack received an email from the Report and Support team, who have had multiple academics approach speak to them about drink spiking, following students speaking to them. Discussed framing e.g. aimed at preparators to think twice, rather than to victims to be aware. Wording around this would need to be considered. Meetings taking place</li> </ul>	

	internally and the Students' Union to discuss. Suggested doing through the Act campaign and empowering reps.	
5	<b>University Council</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have been asked how council members could be introduced to students outside of Exec. Most students won't know of Councils existence and purpose, so that should be something to be tackled. Also rest of executive officer team don't have much interaction with council. Suggested the Chair being more known to students. Focus groups might be useful in terms of students talking about their experiences and Council hearing that first hand and/or a Q&amp;A like the one done with the Principal last year. Will suggest a phased approach, starting with communications, so students know about the, then smaller focus groups, meeting the executive officer team and a Q&amp;A.</li> </ul>	SA
6	<b>Highlights of the Week</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employable Me – Cameron hosted an event last night on female empowerment in the workplace. Panelists were excellent and the event was the last one. Will work with staff and alumni team to see how it could be continued.</li> <li>Ethical Investment – met with University and students to discuss the recent policy passed, will be meeting again in April. In-between this the University will do some research and look at what is practical. Receptive to the need of transparency and showing which sectors the investments are in.</li> <li>Alcohol &amp; Drugs – Jack attended a conference on this aimed at supporting students. Some sessions were useful and to hear from other Universities, Students' Unions and NGOs about what they are doing. Wanting to use this to update QMUL's policies and procedures.</li> <li>Student Experience – new sub group of the Race Equality Action Group met this week.</li> </ul>	

To find out more about any of the above contact a member of the Executive Committee - [www.qmsu.org/reps/exec](http://www.qmsu.org/reps/exec)