



## **QMSU President's Report**

<b>Outcome requested:</b>	Council is asked to <b>note</b> the QMSU President's report.
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<p>The report is an update from May and June on activity within the Students' Union. It includes the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Key Updates</li><li>Student Opportunities</li><li>Education and Student Voice</li><li>Welfare and Liberation</li></ul>
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# President's University Council Report

June 2022

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# President's Report

## Key Updates

### Directors of Education (DoE) Away Day

Adi Sawalha, (President), Rob Tucker, (Vice President Barts & The London), Saynab Shariff, (Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences), Bilge Kacmaz, (Vice President Science & Engineering), and our Education Coordinator attended the recent Directors of Education Away Day, taking the opportunity to meet face to face with directors from each of the faculties and schools to discuss educational priorities for the upcoming academic year. The day was a positive experience and an excellent way to promote collaboration between the University and Students' Union on the education strategy.

Adi and our Education Coordinator jointly presented a workshop titled: '*A roadmap for effective co-creation with our students and Queen Mary Students' Union*'. Through this workshop, they explained the current size and shape of the Course and School Rep system, presented the expectations for feedback escalation and quality, and discussed engaging and enabling representatives to co-create educational change. As a result of the presentation, the President and Education Coordinator will be attending an upcoming sitting of the DoE Forums to discuss these topics in further detail.

### Enhanced Programme Review (EPR)

Saynab, Bilge and Rob have worked to support the Enhanced Programme Review in CCLS, SBBS and the Wolfson Institute of Population Health. The EPR was piloted to improve QMUL's approach to reviewing degree programmes and ensuring quality of all programmes. For each panel, supportive evidence and written submissions were reviewed and questions were raised to the staff responsible for the programmes on areas such as the student experience on taught programmes, views expressed by students on local and national surveys (i.e., NSS, PTES) and at SSLC meetings, as well as identifying and disseminating good practice at School, Institute and Faculty level. The Faculty Exec on the panel offered both commendations for certain areas and recommendations to incorporate improvements.

### International Students

Radhika Thiagarajan, (Vice President Communities), and Bilge are continuing work on improving loans and bursaries offered to International students in UGT, PGT and PGR.

Furthermore, there were continuing issues with international students who have failed their assessments. Delays with resits, which led to late results, meant these students could have lost their student permission, making them ineligible to apply for the 2-year Post Study Work permit. Many students have committed to financing their education in London solely because of the availability of the 2-year Post Study Work permit. Accordingly, Radhika and the Global Engagement Team are currently working together to make sustainable arrangements so that these students do not lose their 2-year Post Study Work opportunity.

### Club Sport

The pandemic stunted the Club Sport offer, but this year has been an extremely busy and positive year of growth and development. Memberships in Club Sport were at 2,891 at the end of Semester two, 169 members higher than the end of 19/20 year. There have been 3 new clubs affiliated to the programme, 253 students entered into 10 events for BUCS events/nationals and 12 teams winning their league with multiple others winning additional competitions/events.

An incredible amount of campaign work has been completed from both clubs and our Club Sport Board and funds such as the Financial Support Fund and Club Sport Development Fund have meant that many who could not participate before have been able to and projects and resources are available to aid in club's growth and development.

Merger Cup also returned this year with 60 teams entered with 35 fixtures over 5 days, as well as Sports Awards that were hosted in person for the first time in 3 years with over 150 attendees. The engagement in the programme this year has been incredible and seeing Club Sport reach new potential after 2 difficult years is a sign of the positive trajectory of the programme.

## **Student Groups**

One of our student led societies, Queen Mary Theatre Company, were shortlisted for an 'Opportunities for All' award at the National Societies and Volunteering Awards. This was in recognition of their work on inclusion. QMTC's BAME Fest, dedicated to BAME students and stories, gave BAME students who are interested in theatre the chance to act, direct, tech, stage manage and write their own shows. To enhance their member's knowledge of practising theatre on a professional level, they invited a theatre practitioner from a BAME background to talk about their experience and ran a workshop in collaboration with The Pappy Show who are led by a black theatre-maker. Committed to making a difference in an industry considered to not be inclusive, QMTC advocate for blind casting in their productions and measure their process. For example, their annual musical was directed by 2 black women with 70% of the cast identifying as an ethnic minority.

Inductions for 2022-23 committee members for Volunteering Groups, Societies and Student Media Outlets have started and will continue over the summer and into September, focusing on empowering new leaders to run outstanding activities for students next year.

## **Student Opportunities**

### **Sustainability**

As part of the Reuse campaign, a shipping container full of household items has been collected from departing students which may otherwise have gone to waste. These items will be offered out to new students in September at the Reuse Fair. Since 2017-18 the campaign has saved several tons of items from landfill. In addition, we are exploring possibilities with the University to donate unwanted institution IT equipment to students as part of Reuse.

### **Festival of Communities and University Open Day**

Several of our Student Groups took part in the June Open Days, showcasing to new students the exciting things on offer at Queen Mary. We also had 2 Student Groups run interactive activities as part of the Festival of Communities - Barts Community Smiles, who promote good oral health in Tower Hamlets, and Formula Student, who create opportunities for those interested in motor sport and getting involved in car building.

### **Community Foundation**

This year has seen over 1000 hours of sport outreach logged by Community Foundation Leaders. The number of active leaders, logged hours and training engagements have all significantly increased from 2020/21. We also supported the Festival of Communities in June with the delivery of activities, provision of freebies and promotion of our Sports Camp. The QMSU Sports Camp returns this summer with a 4-week camp for the first time since 2019.

### **Skills Award**

Of the 295 registrants, 75 students have met the requirements to receive the bronze, silver or gold award. 31 of these students have completed the Skills Award and will receive recognition on their HEAR transcript. So far, our feedback survey has received a 24% response rate with 100% of those respondents agreeing that the Skills Award has helped them to both recognise and develop their skills.

## **Education & Student Voice**

### **Industrial Action Strategic Contingency Group**

The Industrial Action Strategic Contingency Group, which meets on a weekly basis, has been established to investigate the effects of the strike on student experience, teaching and assessment, academic progression, and award outcomes. Saynab continues to provide feedback from students that have strong concerns about the impact of strikes on these areas. Saynab has raised the need for improved communication with students from staff regarding marking and assessment, as well as how to support students throughout this challenging time.

Following the announcement of Queen Mary specific strikes by QM UCU, we have updated our FAQs for students.

## **MBBS Course Representative Elections**

The annual election of Course Representatives took place from the 14<sup>th</sup> June until the 27<sup>th</sup> June, due to the non-standard semester start for the MBBS Years 2, 3, 4 and 5. In addition, this academic year, Global Public Health (Distance Learning) Postgraduates are able to elect their Course Representatives for the most recent intake and the MBBS in Malta is being run concurrently too – with an extended timeline.

Following the conclusion of the elections, training will be organised with the elected Reps via the Students' Union and they will begin representing their cohorts.

## **QM Academy**

Saynab is working with QM Academy within the Inclusive Curriculum workstream. Work has already started on the principles of the inclusive curriculum framework. Saynab has supported the development of a workshop that focused on the incorporation of inclusivity within teaching and learning. The workshop took place on 6<sup>th</sup> June with support of faculty members and covered several aspects such as curriculum content, pedagogy, accessibility etc. The workshop was valuable as it prompted staff to think about creating an inclusive curriculum for students.

## **Welfare & Liberation**

### **Graduation Fund**

This terms graduation fund applications closed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. We had 436 responses. These were monitored by a panel of our Exec Officers, who approved 216 individuals for the graduation fund.

We have had positive responses about the graduation fund scheme and with continued funding aim to keep running the scheme.

### **Postgraduate Fortnight**

Radhika and the Students' Union team helped PGR reps organise PG Fortnight which took place 6<sup>th</sup> June – 17<sup>th</sup> June. As a part of the Fortnight, Grad Fest was organised in collaboration with Doctoral College and a PGR mixer was also organised.

### **Nightline**

Radhika is continuing work on the drop-in service, QM Nightline project, to promote peer-to-peer listening services on campus. Radhika is engaging in conversations with Nightline Association who are supporting this project. Currently, Radhika is in the process of putting together the governance documents and service level agreements for the Nightline. She will also put together a proposal for funding and present the findings, with the aim of gaining support, to members of the Senior Executive Team.

### **BL Families**

This summer we have begun planning for the BL Families scheme which is set to launch in August and September. We have started these important initial discussions now in order to best prepare for the upcoming launch of the scheme.

**Adi Sawalha**  
**Students' Union President**  
**28<sup>th</sup> June 2022**