Candidate election statements

Shahrar Ali

I would love to be entrusted to serve on the Council. As a manager of quality assurance and research in the medical school, I’d relish to bring my considerable experience of successfully working as part of a team to help steer the strategic direction of the University, too.

With respect to some headline expectations of the role:

1. I’ve ample experience of contributing to collectively responsible decision-making and its implementation in the faculty and wider university. My standing disposition is to help establish rational consensus through persuasion, empathy and data analysis.
2. I’m conversant in Equalities legislation with reference to EDI matters. As Co-Lead for EDI in my institute and an active representative of the Race Equality Action Group, I think you’ll find me attuned to our public sector duties and proactive in anticipating best practice.
3. I’d be honoured to represent us externally as necessary. As Co-chair of Understanding and Celebrating Race and Ethnicity working group, I put together a series of external speakers for QM Black History Month 2021. You can playback the seminars I facilitated here https://www.qmul.ac.uk/blackhistorymonth/events-programme-2021/.
4. As a member of the QM Research Ethics Committee, I understand the importance of stewarding ethics across governance.
5. I strongly support the principle of academic freedom and freedom of speech and understand the time commitment.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me on shahrar.ali@qmul.ac.uk if you have questions. Should you choose to entrust me with your first, or next best, preference vote, I would be humbled to serve you.

Martin Donkin

I am invested in QMUL as an institution. I studied here and I was a sabbatical officer in the Students’ Union. In 2009 I returned to QMUL to work as the International Student Advisor in our Advice and Counselling Service. In 2016 I moved into my current role in the Academic Registry as the Immigration Compliance Officer.

Aside from my work commitments, I try my best to contribute to the QMUL community – I coordinate the bicycle user group and co-chair the staff LGBTQ+ network.

I’m a local resident and, outside of the university, I am heavily involved with the local community. I am a friend of and beekeeper at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.

This position is important to me. Council is the ultimate authority at the university and has a principal role in setting the character and direction of the institution. While academic colleagues are often the first group of staff to come to mind, professional services and academic-related colleagues are vital to maintaining the proper functioning of the university and its success.

My long history with the university, experience in welfare rights, understanding of law and connections with the community the university is situated in make me an ideal person to take up this role. I would be very grateful for your support.
Natalie McCloskey

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement and for voting in the Council elections. I would be very proud to be a representative member of non-academic staff on Council. If elected I will contribute to the membership of council by ensuring that the University’s governance is upheld at all times while being developed for the benefit of all staff and students. I would act to ensure that public money is used as effectively as possible in achieving the best development of the University with the voice of non-academic staff being a key contributor. I have a breadth of knowledge in both research, administration and management. I am well versed in University policy having been part of the Queen Mary community for 14 years, my current position is as the Blizard Institute Manager which I have held for 8 years. I am deeply committed to Queen Mary, its staff, its students and its history. I am also deputy chair of the School of Medicine Athena SWAN SAT and a member of the Professional Services EDI Committee. I have a very strong commitment to enacting the EDI strategy and will press the University to continually improve. The next few years will be a particularly challenging time for the University and the sector as a whole. Council will have a pivotal role to play in ensuring a successful future and I am more than willing to commit the time required. If elected I will devote myself wholeheartedly to this endeavour.

Nadia Rahman

I would be grateful to be considered as a candidate for the election of a Council non-academic staff member as I believe I am eligible as a Full time professional QMUL member based in QMUL charterhouse Square campus.
I can confirm that I am a fit and proper person.
I read with care and attention the Council mission statement which among other things emphasize the goal to educate many regardless to their backgrounds, embracing diversity. It will be a challenging task for me as I have little experience other than being a former parent school governor, but achievable through commitment, dedication and good character.
I am willing to meet the required time commitment by attending all 5 scheduled meeting per year as well as training sessions and other relevant events throughout the duration of the tenure as a Council member.