Election statements – academic staff member (all faculties)

1. **Liam Campling, Professor of International Business and Development, School of Business and Management**

QMUL is only as good as its governance and I would like to join Council to maintain and improve this where possible. If elected as an Academic Staff Member I will provide critical and constructive oversight of the Senior Executive’s key functions in institutional strategy, the use and management of finances, and its statutory obligations as a charity under English law. I’ve been working at the School of Business and Management (SBM) as an academic since 2009, where I started as a lecturer. I am a committed educator and see our work with less advantaged students as central to QMUL’s underlying ethos, not least because I was brought up in a working-class family in nearby Waltham Forest. I was SBM chair of the exam board for three years, where I sought to promote inclusive assessment, maintain academic standards and support our students during the pandemic. I am currently SBM’s research director where we promote research recovery and foster a culture of celebration and trust in colleagues’ wide-ranging research and engagement activities. I would be honoured to represent QMUL academic colleagues at Council.

2. **Jonathan Hays, Professor of Physics, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences**

I have been an academic member of staff at Queen Mary since 2012 when I joined as a lecturer. Having seen over a decade of change at the University I recognise the need for appropriate governance, oversight, and accountability, and believe I have the appropriate experience, skills and abilities to be a valuable member of council.

As Director of Education for 6 years in the School of Physical Sciences (now Physical and Chemical Sciences) I successfully led the School through the introduction of the QM Model, the Teaching Excellence Framework, and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I was a member of the School executive team, making important contributions to the running of the School. I also made key contributions in the development of the Queen Mary Education Strategy that eventually formed part of the 2030 Strategy.

I have strong track record in particle physics and scientific computing, where I have led activities across a range of international experiments over the past 20 years. Most recently, I have held important roles for the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), as a member of the STFC e-Infrastructure advisory group, and external advisor to the UKRI Digital Research Infrastructure Committee, making key contributions to the development of strategy for STFC and UKRI. I am also the Science Director of the STFC IRIS Project.

I confirm I am willing to commit the required time to carry out my duties as a member of council.

3. **Sean McConville, Professor of Law and Public Policy, School of Law**

I have worked at Queen Mary since 1994 and have been an active member of Senate for the maximum permitted terms. During these years I have had innumerable conversations (and benefitted from many contacts and friendships) across the range of faculties and departments and within various specialist groups - academic,
administrative and professional support. I claim a reasonably good insight into many of the institution's problems and opportunities, as well as the weaknesses and strengths. Over the span of what is now a lengthy academic career, I have served on governing bodies and senates at various institutions, here and abroad. This extensive experience would assist with Council service, as would knowledge drawn from many academic and administrative roles. In addition, I have held numerous consultative and advisory positions with various governmental, legislative and deliberative bodies in the UK, the US and Europe. These have given me a sound grounding in the nuances of policy making and implementation - and the gaps that can arise between the two. I have never failed to take an active role within committees, seeking to arrive at informed, data-supported, independent judgements, speaking out when I had something relevant to say.

My commitment to freedom of expression has been and remains complete and unwavering. I am deeply sceptical and worried about much of the convoluted reasoning behind restrictions and censorship and will do all that is necessary to oppose these illiberal currents. The integrity of the University also depends on the quality and soundness of our degrees. Many years of service on academic misconduct panels have reinforced my belief that the various forms of cheating - familiar, emerging and constantly mutating, commercial as well as individual in form, need to be tackled with all available tools, innovation and with unremitting vigilance. We owe it to the vast majority of our rule-abiding students, to the community and to future employers, to do no less.

I am aware that some of the best outcomes arise when we seek consensus and that the constructive, positive approach is almost always to be preferred. There are times, nevertheless, when executive policies and decisions - and a consensus - must be challenged, when questions and counterarguments must be pressed with a full measure of determination. I would bring a record of independence of mind and spirit and a positive approach to Council, commit to attend all meetings and carry out the necessary training and pre-meeting preparation. As an academic member I am aware that a core part of my contribution would be to enable Council discussions to draw upon and give due weight to the experiences, concerns, reflections and suggestions of academic and other colleagues. Where occasion demands, I would initiate ad-hoc consultations, but as a matter of course and would always encourage contact, comment and suggestions - wherein can lie many insights and new perspectives. I have studied the Ordinances and am fully aware of the responsibilities of Council, particularly its role as an authoritative, residually and collectively responsible, questioning and risk-assessing body. These are weighty tasks and duties. I am sure that I can help in their fulfilment, and it is for this reason alone that I put myself forward.

4. Anthony Phillips, Reader in Physics and Chemistry of Materials, School of Physical and Chemical Sciences

I have worked at QMUL for the past twelve years, and am currently a Reader in the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences. Over this time I have held a variety of leadership roles in both teaching and research, and I currently serve on Senate. Outside the university I serve on advisory panels including for RCUK and, previously, the Institute of Physics.
I will bring to Council both an excellent working knowledge of day-to-day university operations and an understanding of the pressures currently facing the higher education sector.

I am passionate about upholding the good reputation of QMUL, ensuring that it reflects the extremely high quality of our education and research. I will work with other Council members to ensure that governance is effective, transparent, accountable, and in accordance with the standards expected of a leading university.

I work closely and effectively with students, alumni, and colleagues, and am committed to ensuring that the views of all of these stakeholders are represented at the governance and management level.

I have served on the EDI committee of my school for many years, and will bring a good working knowledge of relevant issues and legislation and a firm commitment to uphold a fair and inclusive culture.

I confirm that, if elected, I will be pleased to dedicate the time needed to contribute effectively to Council and its activities.

5. Richard Pickersgill, Professor of Structural Biology, School of Biological and Behavioural Sciences

I will work as a member of council to ensure Queen Mary University of London provides a supportive and well-resourced environment where all our talented staff can thrive. I shall promote collaboration and interdisciplinary work across Schools, Institutes, and Faculties which is key to Queen Mary’s success and being recognised as one of the best universities in the world.

I am a research scientist and lecturer. Discovery in the field of protein structure-function has been a big part of my life for many years. I joined Queen Mary Medical School in 1999, have been Head of Chemistry, and I am currently Head of Biological and Behavioural Sciences. I am therefore well-versed in the challenging, nuanced, and ever-changing environment in which university research and education operate and believe I can bring insights to council.

I am committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion. Back in 2012, my colleagues and I were recognised for our work promoting gender quality in Biological and Chemical Sciences with the first Silver Athena Swan Award in the university. I continue to be involved in EDI at School and Faculty level where I am currently the Academic Lead for EDI in Science and Engineering.

I am always looking for creative solutions for complex problems. In this role I shall continue to be an enthusiastic and relentless supporter of Queen Mary and our staff.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to this opportunity to contribute to the future success of Queen Mary University of London.

6. Rehan Shah, Lecturer in Mathematics and Engineering Education, School of Engineering and Materials Science
I can make meaningful contributions to the Council committee as I have an extremely avid interest in university strategy, governance, higher education policy and administration and am keen to explore future career pathways in leadership roles. Having been involved in several staff committees at universities such as UCL and Oxford, as well as at various prestigious secondary schools I have formerly taught at, I am well versed with the key performance indicators that are vital for the success of educational institutions.

As a member of Council, I will be committed to fostering inclusivity and diversity, upholding academic freedom, and ensuring that decisions made by the Senior Executive Team are in accordance with best practices for higher education corporate governance, as stated in QMUL’s Ordinance A3. As School Lead for QMUL’s Centre for Academic Inclusion in Science and Engineering, I am also leading large-scale inclusive education projects such as diversification of university mathematics curricula as well as promotion of community-based learning and teaching. Moreover, my past experiences of serving as team lead for various strategy consulting projects for organisations across different sectors, will prove particularly useful within this role.

Additionally, as a recently joined permanent academic lecturer on the new Teaching and Scholarship route, I am also excited to contribute and participate actively by bringing in a fresh perspective for the implementation of the core values embodied within QMUL’s Strategy 2030. Since I live locally in London, in addition to meeting all the required time commitments expected of Council members for this role, I will also be able to engage with local communities and external partners to foster and improve their relationships with QMUL. As a person, I am meticulous and this is what motivates me to strive for excellence in whatever task I engage in. I have often been described as a "people's" person and communication skills have always been my forte. I am therefore confident that my personal qualities such as integrity, responsibility, dedication, humility and optimism will prove to be valuable assets to the Council.

7. Tim Warner, Dean for Postgraduate Research and Director of the Doctoral College, Blizard Institute

I believe that I can fully meet the duties of office required as a member of Council at Queen Mary. I have been a member of academic staff at QM for more than thirty years and have fulfilled many roles. I am currently Dean for Postgraduate Research and Director of the Doctoral College, which is a role that acts across the whole of QM, and I am a member of multiple QM boards. I have previously been Director of the Blizard Institute, which is one of the larger schools/institutes within QM, as well as deputy Dean for Research within FMD and deputy director (research) of the life sciences initiative across QM. I am strongly committed to QM’s EDI principles and have been a member of FMD’s Athena SWAN committee and provided career mentoring to many academic and professional staff. Outside of QM, I have been and remain a member of various scientific societies and editorial boards and have served in many different roles. I am also a very experienced school governor and have been chair of a large community school in south-east London and lead governor for safeguarding. I am currently chair of the resources committee as well as lead governor for safeguarding at a secondary school for students with severe learning difficulties. If elected, I would bring all my experiences working within QM and the diverse external community to be an active and committed member of QM Council and fulfil the primary responsibilities of the role.