Candidate 1: Dr Erik Blair

Election Statement: I intend to contribute to the work of the Senate by offering a critical eye and asking good questions. I am particularly interested in how QMUL supports staff and students to feel a sense of belonging. This means looking at how QMUL supports equality and diversity in everything that it does and working to create a healthy and ethical environment. I also want to ensure transparency and a sense of openness – working to use regulation and oversight as a means of making the institution feel more joined-up. I am very keen on developing straight-forward processes and developing an environment where things make sense and where everyone knows who to turn to when they have a query. Students and staff are busy people, they don’t need extra barriers in their way. The job of regulation at QMUL should be to make everyone’s life better – and that is my goal.

Candidate 2: Dr Lucy Carter

Election Statement: My name is Dr Lucy Carter and I am a lecturer on the Physician Associate MSc programme within Queen Mary university.

As a biracial female academic there is a need for greater representation at the highest levels of Queen Mary and I ask for your support to sit on the Senate in 2022.

I commit to positive change as demonstrated by co-chairing the antiracism steering committee in IHSE, working collaboratively with staff and students. As the IHSE Academic EDI rep, working with the Senate will be the next step in making sure that Equality Diversity and Inclusivity opinions are central to the decisions about the future of Queen Mary Students and Staff. I can demonstrate a wealth of experience of collaboration working as a GP partner in Hackney, a local medical representative (LMC) on CCG boards and I also sit as a Trustee of a local charity in Hackney.

Candidate 3: Dr Pedro Elston

Election Statement: I joined Queen Mary only last year, and even though starting in a pandemic, I have assimilated and feel part of a nurturing community. I come with the background of a researcher, and as a teacher through primary, secondary, and higher education. My role at QMUL is to advance our use of pedagogic driven technology to benefit our students, and support our staff in its development. I want to take up this role to be able to represent the interests of colleagues and students across the university by constructively tackling the issues that face us all, advise the senate where possible with my experience, and contribute to our community.
Candidate 4: Dr Jonathan Kennedy

Election Statement: I would like to join the Senate in order ensure that the interests and welfare of staff and students are at the core of the university's strategy and policies for putting its strategic plan into action.

Candidate 5: Professor John Marshall

Election Statement: I am very keen to continue my support for improving the academic excellence and academic experience in QMUL. In my 20 years at QMUL I bring broad experience of research and teaching to the Senate. Currently I am Centre Lead, run a research team, sit on the BCI and FMD Executive Boards and am QMUL Academic Lead for our MRC Doctoral Training Partnership. QMUL is very dear to me and I want it to assume its rightful place as being internationally recognized as one of the best universities in the world. This requires significant investment for improved infrastructure and research and I hope I can recognise and support ventures that come before senate to achieve this. For example I believe we need to invest more in the support of the novel ideas of our academic staff that should attract investors money for spin-outs that hopefully will ultimately result in lucrative businesses adopted by larger companies that can translate our ideas to the clinic or into business. Thus I wish to be an active voice on Senate.

Candidate 6: Dr Saroash Shahid

Election Statement: I have been associated with QMUL since 2004. I initially started here as an MSc student and then gradually progressed into an academic role. This transition has helped me gain close insight into the needs of our staff and students. If elected as a member of the Senate, I aim to actively support and promote an inclusive environment at QMUL that encourages our staff and students in achieving excellence in scholarship and research.