Candidate 1: Dr Chris Bray

Election Statement: I have worked at QMUL for 15 years, initially in a T/R role (2007-2018) and more recently as a T/S member of staff. I believe that this wide-ranging experience in my former role writing grants, supervising post-docs/students, publishing papers suitable for REF as well as more recently as a program director, Director of Education and now Deputy Dean means that I have an informed view of the strengths and issues QMUL faces. I currently sit on EQSB and TPB (2 of the 6 University Boards which directly report to Senate), chair the S&E Faculty education operation groups (ESSEG, LEOG and GOOG), serve as an Appeal Chair as well as sit on numerous estates and IT committees. If elected to Senate I would act in the best interests of the University as well as its staff, irrespective of their role or level with a particular emphasis on academic standards.

Candidate 2: Dr Rosemary Clyne

Election Statement: I am motivated to serve and contribute to the decision making relating to academic activity at Queen Mary, for which Senate is responsible. I am qualified because of my experience: now Senior Lecturer, I joined SBBS in 2013 and was the university’s Academic Lead for International Student Experience from 2017-2020, working with colleagues across the faculties, professional services and QMSU on student experience matters in London and overseas. I contributed to faculty and university-wide committees and advisory groups, which familiarised me with our academic framework and the academic activities across the institution. I have also provided expertise in quality assurance through external examining. My commitment to supporting students and colleagues is recognised by Principal Fellowship of the HEA and several educational excellence awards. Election to Senate provides an opportunity for learning more about Queen Mary, offering citizenship, and contributing my experience to our shared mission of teaching and research excellence.

Candidate 3: Dr Sebastian del Bano Rollin

Election Statement: I contribute over 13 years of experience in industry (finance sector) which combined with my research and teaching experience can help the promotion of connectivity with wider society. Having been involved in the hiring or over 100 graduates in industry I can also share know-how to the employability strategy of Queen Mary.
Candidate 4: Dr Jayne Dennis

Election Statement: My focus for Senate is on pragmatic decision making, especially in relation to education and academic standards. I am motivated by enabling the QMUL community to feel proud of an education which takes full advantage of staff expertise and is student-informed but not always student-driven. Over the last two years, colleagues across the university have worked tirelessly to reform and deliver education, despite sometimes being directed into strategies that were neither practical nor efficient for staff and/or students. Whilst leading the cross-faculty delivery of undergraduate programmes, I have witnessed colleagues’ challenges in balancing teaching against world-leading research. Within my power I have worked to mitigate their frustrations; on Senate I will draw on my experiences, pedagogical research, and my previous appointment on Senate at St George’s University of London to shape decision making at University level to achieve QMUL’s ambitions within the realities of the sector.

Candidate 5: Dr Sukhpal Singh Gill

Election Statement: I’m interested in serving on the ARCS committee since I’ve been teaching and supervising MSc students for the past three years, so I’d like to represent them. With our MSc courses being more culturally diverse, my work in EECS may help me make informed judgments on future research plans and policies for the university and other schools, as I have to deal with their requirements and problems frequently. Addressing these issues while making timely decisions can overcome institutional hurdles and promote student progress towards career possibilities. Additionally, I would want to collaborate with the university’s management and students’ union to develop methods that educate students on the need of adhering to the highest ethical standards. It is a great way for me to contribute to the QMUL 2030 strategy and gain a better understanding of our university while serving as a voice for MSc students, which can be helpful in creating a truly inclusive environment.

Candidate 6: Dr Rainer Klages

Election Statement: In joined QMUL in 2004 as a Lecturer. During my time at QMUL I have been teaching at all levels. Likewise, I have performed administrative duties at all levels, from front line careers service for students up to serving as Director of Postgraduate Research Studies for three years. I thus bring in profound experience concerning the structures and the functioning of QMUL, in particular as far as the School of Mathematical Sciences is concerned. Currently our School appears to be a bit underrepresented in higher College administration, hence I am volunteering to make our voice heard in the Senate.
Candidate 7: Dr Yuanwei Liu

**Election Statement:** I have been at QMUL for nearly 5 years and currently a senior lecture in EECS. I am currently organising the bi-weekly CSR research seminars for providing a platform for the group members and all colleagues in EECS to share the research ideas and have brainstorming discussions. I also serve as the chair of Special Interest Group on “Next-Generation Multiple Access (NGMA)” in IEEE ComSoc SPCC Technical Committee and the vice-chair of SIG on “Reconfigurable Intelligent Surfaces for Smart Radio Environment” in IEEE ComSoc Wireless Communications Technical Committee. I am interested in being Senate Member because I feel my experience in academic activities will be useful in the oversight of academic standards, academic freedom and research. Also, serving on the Senate would be a great opportunity for me to work closely with colleagues across the university and to share my perspective for promoting academic interests of the university.

Candidate 8: Dr Michaela MacDonald

**Election Statement:** I am applying for the position in the Senate to represent the varied experience of EECS members of staff, both academic and professional, and to continue my existing work as one of the co-leads for the Equalities Committee. My focus has been on the strengthening of communication channels for a meaningful dialogue between colleagues, students, and the senior management team that results in a stronger community and open and inclusive culture across the department.

I would like to actively contribute to a workplace that is built on mutual respect and collegiality and voice any concerns, staff feedback, and leverage a greater impact on the shaping of the institutional culture, policymaking, and implementation, and career development and progression structures for academic and/or PTO staff.

Candidate 9: Dr Anthony Phillips

**Election Statement:** I have been employed in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at QMUL since 2011. Over this time I’ve been involved in almost every aspect of the university’s academic affairs, including teaching, curriculum development, research (including use of local and central experimental and computational facilities), impact, and outreach.

I believe that QMUL’s most important asset is its staff, and that the university’s interests are best served by ensuring that this is an attractive and supportive place to work for new and long-serving colleagues alike.

I have a good understanding of the challenges facing the university and sector at present. My range of experience and strong connection to QMUL will serve me well to represent colleagues across the university, helping Senate to guide the university through these challenges without sacrificing our values.

I’d be happy to answer any questions: please do get in touch.
Candidate 10: Professor Thomas Prellberg

Election Statement: Thomas Prellberg is an applied mathematician who has been at Queen Mary since 2004. He is currently a member of Senate, and has previously served on the Academic Board. He has previously served in the School of Mathematical Sciences as Director of Taught Programmes and subsequently as Director of Learning Environment.

Thomas Prellberg received his PhD in Mathematical Physics from Virginia Tech. Before coming to Queen Mary, Dr Prellberg has held positions at the Weizmann Institute, The University of Melbourne, The University of Oslo, The University of Manchester, Syracuse University, and Clausthal Institute of Technology.

Candidate 11: Professor Abhishek Saha

Election Statement: I would like to stand for election as a member of Senate so that I can contribute to the decisions and policies governing the academic activity of Queen Mary. I am a Professor of Mathematics with experience in research, teaching and administration at Queen Mary as well as previously at other universities around the world. I will be well-placed to advise on the research strategy, the teaching, learning and assessment strategy, and the academic quality of programmes.

As a member of senate, I will strongly support academic freedom at Queen Mary. One of my core beliefs is that academic staff and students should be free to ask any question, to doubt any assertion, and to put forward controversial and unpopular opinions, without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their positions or facing disciplinary action.

Candidate 12: Professor Elizabeth Tanner

Election Statement: I have an unusual profile as I joined Queen Mary as a Post Doc progressed up to Professor of Biomedical Materials, Dean of Engineering and Deputy Director of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Biomedical Materials and then I went to the University of Glasgow for 11 years. At Glasgow I started the first undergraduate degree in Biomedical Materials in Scotland, building on what I had learnt at QMUL. I returned to QMUL in 2018. I have seen QMUL grow from just QMC in Mile End Road to today’s multi-site QMUL. I was a Trustee of the Royal Academy of Engineering 2016-2020. I co-hosted the 2020 World Biomaterials Congress officially in Glasgow, but on-line.

I therefore bring leadership experience in both Research and Teaching in two different universities in England and Scotland and in a national learned society. I will balance the requirements and loads of staff and students.
**Candidate 13: Dr Elisabetta Versace**

**Election Statement:** As members of the Queen Mary University of London community, we can make a positive contribution to the present and future development of the society at large. Cultural, technological, socio-economic opportunities of development and innovation are in our reach as academics, students and professional service staff. Embracing and promoting diversity in teaching, research and personal interactions will be fundamental to empower human society and address global and local challenges. As a member of the Senate, I would like to support our role in the transition to a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous society via higher education, focusing on fostering academic freedom in teaching and research, sustainable strategies for research and cultural development in line with personal growth, and life fulfilment of all staff and students. I believe in communication, and I wish to give my advice in promoting a university closer to each of us and to the next generations.

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**Candidate 14: Dr Yannick Wurm**

**Election Statement:** I will improve Senate- and Council-level decisions by being a pragmatic voice for academics. I want better staff morale and success for us individuals and the institution.

I understand how the UK’s fast-moving Higher Education context creates many pressures and opportunities.

I came to the UK and joined QM Biology/SBCS as a Lecturer before its 2013 restructuring. I have taught classes of 300 first-year students, led the creation of computationally-oriented MSc programmes, and contributed to many committees and processes. I am now Reader in Evolutionary Genomics & Bioinformatics, a fellow of DERI, and the Alan Turing Institute. I have held substantial research grants and regularly sit on funding panels. I do curiosity-driven research on ants and impactful work (e.g., a recent genome analysis spin-out company). I have two (adorable) young children.

I care about the future of QM and think that investing my time in Senate is important and worthwhile.