



Senate minutes 19 October 2023

Outcome requested:	Council is asked to consider the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 19 October 2023.
Executive Summary:	<p>The minutes of the meeting are provided in full for members. The following key items of business were considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freedom of Speech [m 2023.020-027]• Academic Integrity [m 2023.028-030]• Report from the Education Quality and Standards Board [m 2023.031-038]
QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies [e.g., SA1.1]	N/A
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	QMUL Charter and Ordinances Office for Students conditions of registration
Strategic Risks:	N/A
Equality Impact Assessment:	N/A
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	N/A
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA:	No
Timing:	Minutes of Senate meetings are provided to the following Council meeting.
Author:	Jane Pallant, Director of Governance and Legal Services
Date:	15 November 2023
Senior Management/External Sponsor:	Jonathan Morgan, Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary

Senate

Minutes of 19 October 2023

Present:

Prof Colin Bailey (Chair)
Dr Oscar Bandtlow
Prof Liam Campling
Dr Dianne Cooper
Dr Lei Fang
Prof Boris Khoruzhenko
Dr Philippa Lloyd
Dr Émilie Oléron Evans
Dr Simon Rawlinson
Prof Elizabeth Tanner

Amaan Abbas
Prof Adrian Bevan
Dr Livia A Carvalho
Prof Martin Coward
Prof Neve Gordon
Prof Steffi Krause
Dr Michaela MacDonald
Prof Richard Pickersgill
Prof Kathryn Richardson
Prof Anthony Warrens

Serena-Amani Al Jabbar
Prof Frances Bowen
Dr Giorgio Chianello
Dr Pedro Elston
Prof Emma Griffin
Prof Andrew Livingston
Prof Stephanie Marshall
Aisha Qadi
Dr James Strong
Dr Yannick Wurm

In attendance:

Dr Tamara Atkin
Prof Stefan Krummacker
Prof Anthony Michael
James Patterson
Prof Nick Vriend

Haylee Fuller
Prof David Lee
Jonathan Morgan
Prof Abhishek Saha
Kaya Wiles (Secretary)

Danny Hassell
Prof Rachel Male
Jane Pallant
Dr Prakash Shah

Apologies:

Prof Amrita Ahluwalia
Dr Erik Blair
Dr Lucy Carter
Dr Joseph Cronin
Prof Panos Deloukas
Elizabeth Gillow
Prof Richard Grose
Dr Theo Kreouzis
Prof John Marshall
Prof Rachael Mulheron
Dr Michael Page
Dr Sharri Plonski
Prof Jason Sturgess
Prof Fiona Walter

Prof Adrian Armstrong
Prof Christopher Bray
Prof Sir Mark Caulfield
Prof Kavita Datta
Dr Jayne Dennis
Dr Abimbola Giwa
Prof Martin Knight
Prof Nicholas Lemoine
Prof Scott McCracken
Dr Ali Nankali
Jovani Palnoni
Prof Thomas Prellberg
Prof Christopher Tredwin
Prof Wen Wang

Dr Georgia Black
Prof Rob Briner
Prof Mary Collins
Dr Giulia De Falco
Dr Paula Fonseca
Prof Jonathan Griffiths
Prof Ioannis Kokkoris
Prof Arunthathi Mahendran
Prof Wayne Morrison
Prof Mike Noon
Dr Anthony Phillips
Prof Hazel Screen
Prof Steve Uhlig

Part 1: Preliminary items

Welcome and apologies

2023.001 The Chair welcomed new members to Senate and **noted** the apologies received.

Minutes of the last meeting on 08 June 2023

(SE2023.01)

2023.002 Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 08 June 2023.

Chair's actions

(SE2023.02)

- 2023.003 Senate **noted** amendments made to the Academic Regulations for 2023–24. The phrasing of the award rules linked to EngC accreditation requirements had been amended to replace 'condoned' with 'compensated pass'. The progression threshold for programmes with compulsory years abroad had reverted to 60.0.
- 2023.004 Senate **noted** the addition of a penalty to the Academic Misconduct Policy. The amended policy meant that students could receive a penalty for a first offence that required them to resubmit the element of assessment in which misconduct occurred without capping the mark or counting the resubmission as an additional attempt.
- 2023.005 Senate **noted** the appointment of a Senate-appointed member to the Professional Capability Committee.
- 2023.006 Senate **noted** the appointment of three new Complaints Assessors.

Senate terms of reference and membership 2023–24

(SE2023.03)

- 2023.007 Members **received** Senate's terms of reference and membership for 2023–24.
- 2023.008 Members **noted** minor changes to terminology. A correction had been made to paragraph 'M' reflecting the existing practice of advising Council on the award of honorary degrees and fellowships. Council had overall authority to award honorary degrees and fellowships, as set out in the Ordinances.
- 2023.009 Members **noted** that the reference in paragraph 'C' to awards of "QMUL and the University" was a historic reference to the awarding of University of London degrees.
- 2023.010 Members **noted** that the Senate effectiveness survey had recently closed, and that an analysis would be brought to a future meeting. There was a discussion about whether a move from in-person to online or hybrid meetings would increase attendance. The President and Principal stated that online and hybrid meetings offered flexibility, but did not generate the type of debate that arose in in-person meetings and was an important factor in the overall effectiveness of Senate. The size of Senate also presented significant practical challenges in relation to hybrid meetings.
- 2023.011 Senate **noted** its terms of reference and **approved** its membership for 2023–24.

President and Principal's report

(SE2023.04)

- 2023.012 Senate **received** the President and Principal's report. The following points were **noted**:
- (i) It was anticipated that there would be a financial shortfall of approximately £20–25 million as student recruitment had been below target this year. Possible cost savings in Faculties were being identified to mitigate the loss. It would continue to be important to support student retention across the University.

- (ii) In September 2023, the Government confirmed the UK's association to Horizon Europe and Copernicus programmes. Although Queen Mary had done well to secure underwritten grants, the news was welcomed.
- (iii) Two academics from Queen Mary had been awarded recent European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grants for their groundbreaking, ambitious research. Congratulations were sent to Dr Wei Tan, Senior Lecture in Mechanics of Materials (School of Engineering and Materials Science) and Dr Edward Gillen, Lecturer in Observations of Exoplanets (School of Physical and Chemical Sciences).
- (iv) Research England had published initial decisions for the design of the 2028 Research Excellence Framework (REF). A key proposal was to increase the weightings of the People, Culture and Environment element (up to 50% cumulatively), with a decrease to the weighting for research quality.
- (v) Colleagues across the University were working hard to improve National Student Survey (NSS) results, which also had strong implications for Queen Mary's standing in league tables. Members highlighted some of the maintenance issues in classrooms that could be impacting the student experience and noted that these would be investigated further.

Vice-Principals' reports

(SE2023.05a-f)

- 2023.013 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Health) (SE2023.05a). The following points were **noted**:
- (i) The Faculty was in the advanced planning stages of increasing medical and dental student places. Work was underway to increase placement opportunities across East London and Essex to facilitate the increase in student numbers.
 - (ii) The Faculty was undertaking detailed reviews of the NSS 2023 results. Action planning to address the identified areas for improvement was underway.
 - (iii) Research income was looking promising with 2022–23 having shown an increase in the number of new research awards and the number of bids submitted. There were also several major research proposals in progress for 2023–24.
 - (iv) The Garrod Building refurbishment had been delayed by a few weeks but would offer a staff-student hub for teaching and for the Barts and The London Student Association once launched.
- 2023.014 Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Humanities and Social Sciences) (SE2023.05b). The following points were **noted**:
- (i) The Faculty had successfully recruited to four roles within the Faculty Leadership Team:

- a. Professor Dan Todman, Professor of Modern History, had been appointed Deputy Vice-Principal,
 - b. Professor Galin Tihanov, Professor of Comparative Literature, would take up the role of Dean for Research in January 2024,
 - c. Professor Kate Spencer, Professor of Environmental Geochemistry, had been appointed as the Deputy Dean for Research Impact.
 - d. Professor Michael Harker would begin his term as the Head of the Department of Law on 01 November 2023.
- (ii) The Faculty was making good progress towards its research income target of £10 million in 2027–28. The awards for 2022–23 were the highest on record; £12.1 million compared to a historic average of £9.4 million.
 - (iii) The Faculty experienced a challenging admissions round for September 2023 entry. Work was underway to improve admissions for next year and review targets over the next five years. A task and finish group had been established and made recommendations to address home undergraduate recruitment in the four most affected Schools.
 - (iv) The Faculty was undertaking a full review of the NSS results for 2023 with Schools working to update their action plans. There had been some significant improvements in rank scores in some areas. Drama had ranked top in the country for ‘Organisation and Management’ and Human Geography had achieved 11th for ‘Teaching on my Course’, up from 42nd last year. Marketing had entered the top 20 for ‘Learning Opportunities’ and English Language had performed very well in ‘Organisation and Management’, ‘Teaching on my Course’ and ‘Learning Opportunities’.

2023.015

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Science and Engineering) (SE2023.05c). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) There had been changes in the Faculty Executive Team:
 - a. Professor Chris Bray, Professor of Sciences Education, had been appointed as the Dean for Education,
 - b. Professor Alex Clark, Professor of Mathematics, had been appointed as the Dean for International,
 - c. Rachel Appleton had recently returned to Queen Mary and been appointed as the Deputy Dean for Education (Programs and Portfolio).
- (ii) The Faculty had won over £15 million in new awards, with the Faculty’s total research funding reaching a record high of £43.8 million. Several significant grants had been awarded including Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funding, a joint Wellcome Trust bid with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMD) colleagues and a Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) standard grant. As reported above, two significant and prestigious European ERC Starting Grant awards had also been made to Dr Edward Gillen,

Lecturer in Observations of Exoplanets, and Dr Wei Tan, Senior Lecturer in Mechanics of Materials.

- (iii) The Faculty had made progress in flexing its size and shape to reduce reliance on home undergraduate students and increase the number of postgraduate taught students. The Faculty had recently launched a new MSc Psychology conversion programme and would be launching several more postgraduate taught programmes in September 2024.
- (iv) Thanks were sent to colleagues who worked hard to ensure Welcome Week was a success.
- (v) Schools had been working hard to develop and implement NSS action plans. There were a significant number of high positivity scores in the Faculty's NSS 2023 results. The Faculty achieved positivity scores greater than 85% in the theme area 'Teaching on my Course' by students in Biosciences, Chemistry, Materials and Technology, and Physics and Astronomy, whereas 'Learning Resources' were rated particularly positively by students in Mathematics and Bioscience. Work to continue to improve student experience was ongoing. Part of the long-term strategy to improve undergraduate student satisfaction was to move towards programme-level assessment. This would be implemented in the School of Engineering and Materials Science and the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences in 2024.
- (vi) The Faculty achieved a 1% improvement in overall satisfaction in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), with Computing improving by 13% and engineering improving by 9%. Biosciences and Maths also improved by 4% and 2% respectively.

2023.016

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Education) (SE2023.05d). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) NSS workshops had taken place between April and June 2023. The three workshops covered 'academic support' and 'student voice', 'teaching', 'assessment and feedback' and 'learning resources'. An analysis of the NSS 2023 results had been presented to the Senior Executive Team and Faculty Leadership teams. Action plans were being updated accordingly.
- (ii) Sector data for the PTES 2022–23 had been released. Overall satisfaction for Queen Mary was 79% in 2022–23. This was 4% below the sector score of 83%. The five-year trend showed that Queen Mary was heading in a positive direction and had narrowed the gap on the sector.
- (iii) Professor Arunthathi Mahendran, Professor of Education and Director of the Institute of Health Sciences Education had been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship from Advance HE. The awards celebrated and recognised academics who had made an outstanding impact on student outcomes, student experience and the teaching profession.

- (iv) Colleagues had been working hard to mitigate the impact of the marking and assessment boycott on students.
- (v) Congratulations were sent to recipients of the new President and Principal's Fund for Educational Excellence. A member of the Queen Mary Academy team would be assigned to support each of the winning projects.
- (vi) The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) 2023 ratings had been published on the Office for Students website. The Office for Students was now publishing separate ratings for Student Experience and Outcomes along with an overall rating. Queen Mary had been rated Bronze for Student Experience, Silver for Student Outcomes and an overall rating of Silver. The Vice-Principal (Education) would be meeting with Heads of Schools and Directors of Institutes to discuss the TEF 2023 and NSS 2023 results in more detail, along with the approach to driving up both NSS scores and focusing on improvements to succeed in TEF 2027. In preparation of this exercise, detailed reports of the NSS and TEF results had been shared with Faculties and Schools.

2023.017

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships) (SE2023.05e). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) Work on the London City Institute of Technology (IoT) had concluded with all eight floors of the facility now open to students and staff.
- (ii) An apprenticeship management system, SMART assessor, was being developed and was in the testing phase of implementation. Staff training had taken place and new processes were being developed.
- (iii) There were approximately 200 new apprentices joining the University in September 2023 at undergraduate and postgraduate level with all apprentices expected to be fully inducted by mid-October 2023.
- (iv) Sarah Gifford, Community Engagement Manager at the Centre for Public Engagement, would take up the role of Civic Engagement Lead on 06 November 2023. Key priorities around civic impact for the coming academic year included launching a Civic Champions network, developing and delivering a communications and engagement plan internally and externally, reviewing the availability of space on campus, and finalising a monitoring and evaluation framework.
- (v) In October 2023, Arts and Culture would be relaunching as the Centre for Creative Collaboration. This reflected the interdisciplinary nature of Queen Mary's mission to work with colleagues across all Faculties to support research impact through creative collaborations with the cultural sector.
- (vi) Queen Mary had secured funding from Research England for three years to recruit a Participatory Research Manager to the

Centre for Public Engagement, to administer our Participatory Research funding scheme which provides grants of up to £10,000 to Queen Mary staff to undertake Participatory Research projects. Queen Mary was also collaborating with the Young Foundation to develop a bespoke Participatory Research training offer for Queen Mary staff and students, which would launch in 2024.

- (vii) The sustainability team had been reviewing existing activity and progress against the 2020–23 Environmental Sustainability Action Plan to inform the interim 2023–24 action plan and longer-term sustainability strategy, targets, and action plan. The team were working with colleagues around the University to develop and take forward initiatives that support the delivery of sustainability objectives across research, education, operations and external partnerships.

2023.018

Senate **received** a report from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) (SE2023.05f). The following points were **noted**:

- (i) The second Research and Innovation Awards would take place on 02 May 2024. Members were invited to save the date.
- (ii) Queen Mary had submitted its response to the Future Research Assessment Process (FRAP); the consultation on the shape of the next Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise. Thanks were expressed to all who fed into the response. The new REF proposed a number of changes, under two main headings. First, it aimed to shift the level of assessment from the individual to the institution and secondly, it included a measure of research culture, which Research England viewed as essential to research excellence.
- (iii) The team had undertaken a redesign of the Queen Mary Impact Fund (QMIF). The redesign put researchers at the heart of the work, while also considering the needs of professional service teams and expert external reviewers.
- (iv) The new Research Culture team was now fully staffed and based in the Research Services Directorate. The Research and Innovation Board (RIB) would consider the first draft of the Research Culture Strategy in November 2023.
- (v) Business Development continued to support a variety of funding applications, including UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Innovate UK (IUK) funded grants. Working closely with researchers and company partners, the team had established some highly innovative research collaborations, and contract research with both large and small businesses alike.
- (vi) The Doctoral College was continuing its work to develop a comprehensive overview of postgraduate research student data within the institution. The current data report had been presented to the RIB in July 2023 and suggested Queen Mary undertake a comprehensive review of programmes and fees, in order to develop a more considered approach to cost recovery and to

consider the attractiveness of fee packages in an internationally competitive market. The Doctoral College had also taken on responsibility for training and development of postgraduate research students and was working on a comprehensive review and audit to support this.

- (vii) The past academic year had seen a significant expansion in Queen Mary Innovation (QMI), to enable the team to provide enhanced coverage to all faculties. This would enable QMI to respond to increased demand from Medicine and Dentistry and to provide dedicated support for the first time to Humanities and Social Sciences.

Students' Union President's report

(SE2023.06)

2023.019 Senate **received** the Students' Union President's report. The following points were **noted**:

- (i) QMSU was reviewing processes for students to report extenuating circumstances and would like consideration to be given to a dedicated process for students with ongoing health conditions or impairments, recognising the additional barriers they often face.
- (ii) Aisha Qadi, QMSU Vice-President (Science and Engineering) was working to embed employability principles into the curriculum within the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The aim of the project was to ensure all undergraduate and postgraduate students were able to gain relevant experience during their programme, with criteria for graduate attributes and outcomes.
- (iii) The cost-of-living crisis continued to be a key area of work for QMSU given the impact on student engagement. QMSU were working with John Iveson, Director of Campus and Commercial Services, to consider options around setting up a food bank.

Part 2: Matters for Discussion

Freedom of Speech

(SE2023.07,
SE2023.08)

2023.020 Senate **considered** the draft Code of Practice on Free Speech that was intended to replace the existing Freedom of Speech Policy.

2023.021 Senate **noted** that the draft Code would be presented to Council for approval after consulting Senate. Under the University Charter and the Higher Education Code of Governance, Council had overall responsibility for approval and oversight of the Code and for delegating its implementation to the President and Principal.

2023.022 Senate **noted** that the draft Code had been developed to reflect new duties specified by the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023. A working group had been established by Senate in January 2022 to consider drafting and implementation. Feedback from the working group recommended that the language used in the Code should mirror relevant legislation as far as

possible to avoid adding any unintended limitations on free speech. Thanks were sent to those who had contributed to the working group.

- 2023.023 Senate **noted** that the expression of unpopular, controversial or provocative views within the law would continue to be permitted under the draft Code. Other policies and procedures at the University would be reviewed to ensure they aligned with the requirements and expectations therein.
- 2023.024 Senate **endorsed** the draft Code for approval by Council.
- 2023.025 Senate **noted** that consideration was being given to implementation of the draft Code. A plan would be developed as and when the Office for Students clarified its regulatory expectations. It would be especially important for individuals with key responsibilities under the Code, including Heads of Schools and Directors of Institutes, to receive dedicated training and support. Senate asked how appeals against decisions of the Designated Officer would be handled. The President and Principal stated that his usual approach was to appoint an independent member of staff to investigate the matter and present findings to him as a basis for a decision on the appeal.
- 2023.026 Senate **considered** an additional paper from Professor Abhishek Saha and Dr Prakash Shah, who both contributed to the development of the draft Code, with their proposals on implementation. The President and Principal said the proposals on handling complaints, providing training for staff and students, and reviewing other policies to ensure they reflect the commitment to free speech, were aligned with the wording and intent of the draft Code. There was a difference of views, however, on the proposal to create a new Vice-Principal role to oversee and promote free speech. The intention behind the proposal was to reflect the significance given to free speech in the new legislation and the additional duty to foster a culture of free speech, to mitigate compliance risks as the Office for Students assumed its regulatory role, and to demonstrate leadership on free speech in the wider higher education sector. The draft Code instead emphasised the collective responsibilities of academic leaders at all levels to promote and defend free speech. Senate suggested this approach could be reinforced by adding responsibilities to the role descriptions of Vice-Principals, Heads of Schools and Directors of Institutes.
- 2023.027 Senate **agreed** the University's current duties in relation to free speech could be fulfilled through existing leadership structures. The implementation of the internal complaints scheme, training for staff and students, and the review of other policies, would be taken forward as and when the Office for Students clarified its regulatory expectations. Senate suggested the Code and the implementation of the University's wider duties in relation to free speech should be reviewed after 12–18 months when the detailed regulatory expectations were known. Senate thanked Professor Saha and Dr Shah for their input into the working group and their work on the proposals.

Academic integrity

(SE2022.09)

- 2023.028 Senate **received** a paper outlining academic integrity principles and plans for 2023–24.
- 2023.029 Senate **noted** the draft principles for academic integrity and misconduct had been designed to help ensure that educational and remedial actions were

paramount, without compromising academic quality and community expectations.

2023.030 Senate **noted** that a task and finish group would be established to review the Academic Misconduct Policy for 2024–25. The group’s recommendations would be considered in detail by the Education Quality and Standards Board before bringing proposals to Senate in June 2024.

Education Quality and Standards Board report

(SE2023.10-13)

2023.031 Senate **received** the executive summary of business considered by the EQSB at the meetings on 24 May, 26 July and 06 September 2023. Members **noted** that EQSB had considered the draft Mixed-Mode Education Policy at its meeting in July 2023. The policy would be refined before being brought to Senate for approval.

2023.032 Senate **received** the draft Peer Observation Policy and **noted** that it had been developed to align with best practice in the sector and Strategy 2030.

2023.033 Senate **agreed** that paragraph 4 of the Peer Observation Policy should be amended to state that observers should have, or be working towards, teaching accreditation at Advance HE Fellowship level. It was noted that Schools and Institutes should consider how to resource peer observation as part of workload planning.

2023.034 Senate **approved** the Peer Observation Policy, subject to the amendment to paragraph 4.

2023.035 Senate **received** a paper outlining draft Principles of Programme Design. Members **noted** that a related policy would be brought to Senate in due course. The principles would be applied initially to new programmes and then to existing programmes as they were identified for review.

2023.036 Senate **approved** the Principles of Programme Design.

2023.037 Senate **received** a proposal to amend the Academic Regulations for the MBBS and BDS to introduce a standard third attempt for all students who require it. The change would take effect from 2023–24 entry. Members **noted** that permitting a third sit for MBBS and BDS student aligned with the direction of travel across the sector and that the General Medical Council (GMC) permitted four attempts at the Medical Licencing Assessment.

2023.038 Senate **approved** the proposal to amend the Academic Regulations for 2023–24 onwards, to permit third attempts to MBBS and BDS students.

Wolfson Institute of Population Health new centre structure

(SE2023.14)

2023.039 Senate **received** a proposal to create a sixth centre and rename an existing centre within the Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH).

2023.040 Senate **noted** that WIPH had recently appointed a renowned expert in cancer screening, prevention and clinical trials and their 50 members of staff. The appointment offered the opportunity to create a globally leading centre for early cancer detection and diagnosis. To accommodate the growth in

headcount, WIPH proposed establishing a new Centre for Preventive Neurology and renaming the Centre for Prevention, Detection and Diagnosis to form the Centre for Cancer Screening, Prevention and Early Diagnosis.

2023.041 Senate **approved** the proposal to create a sixth centre and rename an existing centre within the Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH).

Research Integrity Policy (SE2023.15)

2023.042 Senate **considered** the revised Research Integrity Policy and **noted** that the most significant amendment was the acknowledgement of the Research Integrity Committee having responsibility for the policy and research integrity strategy within the University. The authority had previously resided with the Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee. The policy aligned with the commitments of the Universities UK (UUK) Concordat to Support Research Integrity.

2023.043 Senate **approved** the Research Integrity Policy.

Professional Doctorate award title of Clinical Doctorate (DClin) (SE2023.16)

2023.044 Senate **received** a proposal to introduce a new award of Clinical Doctorate (DClin).

2023.045 Senate **noted** that the programmes were designed for practicing clinicians and would be delivered through the Queen Mary International Clinical Academy (QMICA). The vision for the Academy was to establish a first-in-UK world-class International Clinical Academy specialising in clinical postgraduate education for international students. International clinicians would see value in the opportunity to gain experience within the NHS. The proposal had been discussed with NHS Partner Trusts to affirm the mutual benefits of the proposal.

2023.046 Senate **noted** that the programme would incorporate taught modules, clinical experience and research.

2023.047 Senate **endorsed** the proposal to introduce the award of Clinical Doctorate (DClin) for addition to the Ordinances by Council.

Approval of membership and terms of reference for sub-boards of Senate for 2023-2024 (SE2023.17)

2023.048 Senate **received** the 2023–24 membership and terms of reference for the Education Quality and Standards Board, Taught Programmes Board, and the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board. Members **noted** that the 2023–24 membership and terms of reference for the Ethics of Research Committee and Partnerships Board would be considered at a future meeting of Senate.

2023.049 Senate **approved** the membership and terms of reference for sub-boards of Senate for 2023–24.

Indicative annual business plan for 2023–24 (SE2023.18)

2023.050 Senate **considered** the indicative annual plan for 2023–24.

- 2023.051 There was a discussion about whether there was enough time in meetings to discuss all the agenda items in sufficient detail. The President and Principal said he would continue to prompt Senate members for feedback on how to prioritise items on the agenda. It was also noted that formal items were often discussed in detail by one of the Boards, which include faculty members, before being brought to Senate. Senate **noted** that consideration would be given to the size of agendas and the number of meetings going forward.
- 2023.052 Senate **approved** the indicative annual plan for 2023–24 subject to the aforementioned review.

Presentation from the Deputy Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)

- 2023.053 Senate **received** a presentation from the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) on research culture.
- 2023.054 Senate **noted** the internal and external factors that were increasing the focus on research culture. A key external factor was the increase in the people, culture and environment weightings for REF 2028 from the current 15% to 25%. It would be essential to begin capturing examples of excellent research culture at Queen Mary now that can feed into the next assessment exercise.
- 2023.055 Senate **noted** that the Research and Innovation Cultures Fund would launch in October 2023. £250,000 of funding from Research England’s Enhancing Research Cultures fund would be allocated to grass roots grants and project grants. All researchers, technical staff and research-enabling professional services staff were entitled to apply to one of the grants.
- 2023.056 Senate **noted** that over 100 researchers had attended the last Researcher’s Forum. The aim of the forum was to give researchers the opportunity to feed into the development and delivery of research strategy and to promote discussion and the sharing of best practice between researchers and the Research and Innovation Board. At the next forum, attendees would be discussing progress on the Professional Services Transformation.

Part 3: Matters for Report

Council Report (SE2023.19)

- 2023.057 Senate **noted** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 06 July 2023.

Taught Programmes Board (SE2023.20)

- 2023.058 Senate **noted** proposals relating to programme and module developments considered between 27 April and 13 September 2023.

Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (SE2023.21)

- 2023.059 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board at meetings held between June 2023 and September 2023.

Ethics of Research Committee (SE2023.22)

2023.060 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Ethics of Research Committee at the meeting on 21 June 2023.

Partnerships Board

(SE2023.23)

2023.061 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Partnerships Board between 10 May and 27 June 2023.

Part 4: Other matters

Any other business

2023.062 Senate **noted** that while recruitment for the Vice-Principal (International) role was ongoing, Dr Philippa Lloyd, Vice-Principal (Policy and Strategic Partnerships), would be considering how to bring parts of the international remit into other forums.

2023.063 Senate **noted** that communications had been circulated by email providing information on the support available for all staff and students in relation to events in the Middle East, including the terrorist attacks on Israel, the taking of civilian hostages, the military response by Israeli forces, the airstrikes and siege of Gaza, and the resulting humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Dates of future meetings

2023.064 Senate **noted** the upcoming Senate meetings for 2023–24:

- Thursday 14th December 2023
- Thursday 14th March 2024
- Thursday 13th June 2024