



### Senate minutes 12 June 2025

<b>Outcome requested:</b>	Council is asked to <b>note</b> the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 12 June 2025.
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<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"><li>• Schools of History, Geography and SPIR re-alignment proposal [m. 2024.120-125]</li><li>• TNE Opportunity in Indonesia [m. 2024.126-129]</li><li>• Academic Governance Review on Sub-Board Structure (Phase 2) [m.2024.130-133]</li></ul>
<b>QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies [e.g., SA1.1]</b>	N/A
<b>Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:</b>	QMUL Charter and Ordinances Office for Students conditions of registration
<b>Strategic Risks:</b>	N/A
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	N/A
<b>Subject to prior and onward consideration by:</b>	N/A
<b>Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA:</b>	No
<b>Timing:</b>	Minutes of Senate meetings are provided to the following Council meeting.
<b>Author:</b>	Jane Pallant, Director of Governance and Legal Services
<b>Date:</b>	04/07/2025
<b>Senior Management/External Sponsor:</b>	Jonathan Morgan, Chief Governance Officer and University Secretary

## Senate

### Draft Minutes of 12 June 2025

---

#### Present:

Prof Colin Bailey (Chair)	Prof Helen Bailey	Dr Oscar Bandtlow
Dr Georgia Black	Dr Erik Blair	Dr Marie-Luce Bourguet
Prof Christopher Bray	Prof Caroline Brennan	Prof Ian Curran
Prof Kavita Datta	Dr Jayne Dennis	Dr Pedro Elston
Prof James Esson	Dr Timothy Fulton	Prof Elizabeth Gillow
Prof Emma Griffin	Dr Jürgen Groet	Prof Richard Grose
Dr Eleni Hagi-Pavli	Prof Michael Harker	Tahmid Khan
Prof Andrew Livingston	Prof Biagio Lucini	Dr Michaela MacDonald
Prof John Marshall	Prof Stephanie Marshall	Prof Jo Martin
Dr Ali Nankali	Dr Émilie Oléron Evans	Jovani Palnioni
Dr Anthony Phillips	Prof Thomas Prellberg	Prof Nitzan Rosenfeld
Prof Abhishek Saha	Dr Melanie Smuk	Dr James Strong
Prof Elizabeth Tanner	Prof Dan Todman	Prof Wen Wang

#### In attendance:

Prof Alison Blunt	Haylee Fuller	Sophie Harman
Danny Hassell	Simon Hayter	Prof Anthony Michael
Jonathan Morgan	Jane Pallant	Chris Shelley
Christopher Sleeman	Yasmin Smits (Secretary)	Dr Mani Subramanian
Prof Nick Vriend		

#### Apologies:

Prof Amrita Ahluwalia	Prof Alp Atakan	Prof Adrian Bevan
Prof Rob Briner	Prof Liam Campling	Dr Livia A Carvalho
Prof Mark Caulfield	Dr Giorgio Chianello	Prof Mary Collins
Prof Martin Coward	Dr Giulia De Falco	Prof Panos Deloukas
Dr Lei Fang	Dr Abimbola Giwa	Prof Neve Gordon
Rahma Hegy	Prof Martin Knight	Dr Philippa Lloyd
Prof Wayne Morrison	Al-Habib Mraish	Prof Rachael Mulheron KC
Prof Mike Noon	Dr Sharri Plonski	Prof Simon Rawlinson
Prof Kathryn Richardson	Prof Hazel Screen	Prof Galin Tihanov
Prof Christopher Tredwin	Prof Steve Uhlig	Prof Fiona Walter
Prof Tim Warner		

### Part 1: Preliminary items

#### Welcome and apologies

2024.119      The Chair welcomed the members and **noted** the apologies received.

**Schools of History, Geography and SPIR re-alignment proposal (SE2024.46)**

- 2024.120 Senate **considered** the Schools of History, Geography and SPIR re-alignment proposal.
- 2024.121 Senate **noted** that the proposal was to bring together the disciplines currently within the Schools of History, of Politics and International Relations and of Geography into a single School. The proposal aligned with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) Enabling Plan which supported the delivery of Queen Mary's Strategy 2030 by pursuing three priorities: coherence and consistency, regroup and reimagine, and premium postgraduate taught provision delivered at scale. It was also recognised that there were significant challenges facing arts and humanities within UK Higher Education; the proposed change to the current alignment would enable the Faculty to better meet its strategic objectives in the context of an increasingly unstable environment affecting the entire sector.
- 2024.122 Senate **noted** that the three identified schools had shared alignment of mission and values, and synergies offered by the proposal had the potential to enhance the student experience and increase student recruitment. Members further noted that the proposed title for the new school was School of Society and Environment. Members discussed the opportunities that would arise from the proposal including costs saved from the modernisation of the school structures, and the interdisciplinary flexibility offered to students, a cost-saving measure peer institutions had been undertaking in recent months.
- 2024.123 Senate members **noted** the following in relation to the proposal:
- i. Staff members from the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) highlighted a potential risk to student recruitment, considering that SPIR was a very strong school within Queen Mary. Further, the changes presented a challenge for staff in terms of their time and resource, further impacted by the loss of some professional services (PS) staff through the voluntary severance scheme offered as part of the Professional Services (PS) Operating Model work. It was recognised that there were areas of overlap between the schools and while there were risks in terms of direct and indirect costs, there was also an inherent risk in not taking the opportunity to align the three schools at this time.
  - ii. Some members were of the view that the proposals should be considered over a longer period of time, while others recognised that the discussions had been taking place for some time and that the risks of the external environment were real; further that it was important to implement the proposed structures in order to realise the true interdisciplinarity between the subject areas.
  - iii. The Students' Union (QMSU) noted that they would have preferred to have been engaged earlier in the consultation process. 81.8 percent of students surveyed about the proposal had expressed

concern regarding the level of student engagement with the proposals. It was recognised that the Faculty had prioritised the engagement of staff in relation to the proposal in order that a more developed and comprehensive proposal could be put to QMSU and that this had prevented earlier engagement with students; nonetheless, the Faculty hoped that there would still be time to undertake further engagement to understand students concerns.

- 2024.124 Senate **noted** that further engagement and consultation would be carried out with affected schools regarding the identification of a suitable space for the proposed new school. It was acknowledged that relocating the school would have implications for other schools, and therefore a comprehensive risk assessment of the associated costs and benefits would be required. Additional feedback from ongoing school engagement had been requested to inform this process.
- 2024.125 Senate **noted** the next steps for the consideration of the proposal. The Vice-Principal (HSS) would bring an updated proposal to the Senior Executive Team (SET) alongside a record of Senate's and QMSU's feedback. SET would then make recommendations to Council which would also consider the minutes of the Senate discussion.

*Action: Professor Dan Todman, Acting Vice-Principal (Humanities and Social Sciences)*

#### **TNE Opportunity in Indonesia (SE2024.47)**

- 2024.126 Senate **received** and **considered** an update on a Transnational Education (TNE) opportunity in Indonesia
- 2024.127 Senate **noted** that the opportunity had the potential to contribute to the University's academic, financial, and reputational objectives through the expansion of its global footprint in light of the limitations imposed by the UK government in relation to international student recruitment.
- 2024.128 Senate **noted** a not-for-profit foundation in Indonesia would need to be established, with involvement from local UK staff to support its development and operations. Members were keen to attend upcoming academic workshops in which staff would be able to contribute to the project.
- 2024.129 Senate **noted** and **endorsed** the direction of travel of the TNE Opportunity in Indonesia.

#### **Academic Governance Review on Sub-Board Structure (Phase 2) (SE2024.48)**

- 2024.130 Senate **received** and **considered** the report on Phase 2 of the Academic Governance Review and **noted** the recommendations provided in the report, following Phase 1 of the Academic Governance Review which had been presented and approved by Senate in October 2024 [see minute.2024.02-2024.07].
- 2024.131 Senate **noted** the proposed direction of travel in relation to Senate and the sub-board structures, including the interim suspension of Senate elections for the academic year 2025-26 and revised structures for sub-

boards which would continue to include student engagement. Overall, members were appreciative of the significant work undertaken in the review, including the extensive consultations and engagement with staff and QMSU.

- 2024.132 Senate **noted** that there would be a minor amendment in section 6.4. The revised section 6.4 would state: *The Education and Research Boards would be chaired by the respective **Vice Principals** and both Boards would be accountable to Senate.* The term *Deputy* preceding *Vice Principals* would be removed.
- 2024.133 Senate **endorsed** the proposed direction of travel for the Academic Governance Review on Sub-Board Structure. The updated memberships and terms of reference for Senate and the sub-boards would be presented at the following October Senate for the academic session 2025-26.

### Part 3: Matters for Approval

#### Education Quality and Standards Board\* (SE2024.49)

- 2024.134 Senate **noted** the executive summary of minutes from Education Quality and Standards Board (EQSB) meeting held on 23 April 2025.

#### Academic Regulations 2025-26 (SE2024.49a)

- 2024.135 Senate **received** the Academic Regulations 2025-26 as part of the annual review.
- 2024.136 Senate **noted** the primary changes included new categories of assessment, dividing examinations into multiple categories, removal of regulations on extenuating circumstances and on late submission penalties as these had been re-formulated into the Extenuating Circumstances policy and the Marking policy, which were part of the Assessment Handbook.
- 2024.137 Members requested further information in relation to the application of resit examinations for undergraduate students under section 2.49 (page 87). Members agreed that the Education Quality and Standards Board would review the wording in relation to this section of the regulations.

#### Action: Education Quality and Standards Board

- 2024.138 Senate **approved** the Academic Regulations 2025-26.

#### Assessment Handbook 2025-26 (SE2024.49b)

- 2024.139 Senate **received** and **considered** the Assessment Handbook 2025-26.
- 2024.140 Senate **noted** the Marking policy had been reviewed and revised in relation to marking turnaround times as part of ongoing work over the past academic year, following Senate's consideration of the handbook in June

2024 [see minute 2023.209-11]. The final draft had been approved by email circulation and Chair's action, following additional review by EQSB.

- 2024.141 Members **noted** that the 15 day marking turnaround time contained in 5.9a-b had been challenging for both academics and professional services staff. However, this change had been made in response to concerns regarding the inconsistent practice of marking turnarounds across the University. A 15-day deadline had been proposed as a way of achieving a more uniform approach thereby improving the student experience. Further discussions had been resolved to be had at the next Heads of Institutes meeting.

*Action: Vice-Principal (Education)*

- 2024.142 Senate **noted** that there was some conflict between the Assessment Handbook and the QMPlus system in providing clear and accurate marking results against assessments that had not been submitted within the deadline. The need for alignment with the recently approved Principles of Assessment Design in the previous academic session had also been noted by members [see minute.2024.98]. Senate resolved for Education Quality and Standards Board (EQSB) to have further discussions, which would be presented to Senate at a future meeting.

*Action: Education Quality and Standards Board*

- 2024.143 Senate noted the allocation of oversight had not been rectified in section 2.53. Senate had resolved to have further discussions at a future meeting.

*Action: Directorate of Governance and Legal Services*

- 2024.144 Members noted that Chapter 9 of the Handbook capturing Extenuating Circumstances would be deleted and replaced in full by the Extenuating Circumstances policy, subject to approval by Senate [SE2024.49d].

- 2024.145 Senate **approved** the Assessment Handbook 2026-27.

### **Admissions Policy 2026-27**

**(SE2024.49c)**

- 2024.146 Senate **received** the Admissions Policy 2026-27 and **noted** the minor textual revisions that had been made to enhance clarity and the appended Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) statement.

- 2024.147 Senate **noted** there would be a minor amendment to section 5.4 which would include both the Director of Admissions and the Dean for Education to be in mutual agreement to agree regarding the admission of undergraduate or taught postgraduate applicants who had not met the general entry requirements. This amendment would be completed outside of the meeting.

- 2024.148 Senate **approved** the Admissions Policy 2026-27.

## **Extenuating Circumstances Policy** (SE2024.49d)

- 2024.149 Senate **received** the Extenuating Circumstances policy and **noted** the primary changes, including availability of self-certification, more consistent deadlines, and the establishment of a cross-university Extenuating Circumstances oversight panel.
- 2024.150 Senate **approved** the Extenuating Circumstances Policy.

## **Student Learning Engagement Policy** (SE2024.49e)

- 2024.151 Senate **received** the Student Learning Engagement policy and **noted** the policy had been revised since it had been presented to Senate in June 2024. Following approval by email circulation and Chair's action, it had been agreed that the policy would be reviewed by Senate in June 2025 [see minute 2023.214].
- 2024.152 Senate **noted** the revisions included clearer roles and responsibilities, additional definitions, and the creation of an Engagement Support Panel to support consistent decision making for disengaged students.
- 2024.153 Senate **approved** the Student Learning Engagement Policy.

## **Student Discipline Policy** (SE2024.49f)

- 2024.154 Senate **received** the Student Discipline policy and **noted** the changes had been driven by the compliance for the new Office for Students (OfS) E6 condition on sexual misconduct and harassment.
- 2024.155 Senate **approved** the Student Discipline Policy.

## **Student Complaints Policy** (SE2024.49g)

- 2024.156 Senate **received** the Student Complaints policy and **noted** minor amendments had been made to the policy in light of the OfS E6 condition and the training requirements for investigators and decision-makers. Additional alignment had been made with the AskQM project, relating to the submission process for complaints and the associated complaint forms.
- 2024.157 Senate **approved** the Student Complaints Policy.

## **Professional Capability and Fitness to Practice Regulations** (SE2024.49h)

- 2024.158 Senate **received** the Professional Capability and Fitness to Practice Regulations and noted the minor amendments had been made, prompted by changes in the General Medical Council (GMC) guidance since the policy's last review.
- 2024.159 Senate **approved** the Professional Capability and Fitness to Practice Regulations.

2024.160 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (RDPEB) between March 2025 to May 2025.

2024.161 Senate **approved** the Academic regulations and code of practice for research degree programmes: proposed changes for 2025-26.

**Minutes of the last meeting** (SE2024.51)

2024.162 Senate **confirmed** the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2025.

2024.163 Senate **noted** the proposals relating to programmes and module academic developments by Taught Programmes Board (TPB) that had taken place between 26 February 2025 and 23 May 2025.

2024.164 Senate **noted** the executive summary of business considered by the Partnerships Board (PB) from 28 January 2025 to 12 May 2025.

2024.165 Senate **noted** the executive summary report of the Ethics of Research Committee (QMERC) meeting on 02 April 2025 and action taken since.

2024.166 Senate **noted** the minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 March 2025.

2024.167 Senate **noted** the detail of Chair's actions and matters arising since the last meeting of Senate. '

2024.168 Senate **noted** the President and Principal's report.



## **Students' Union President's report\***

**(SE2024.58)**

2024.169      Senate **noted** the Students' Union President's report.

### **Part 5: Other matters**

#### **Dates of future meetings**

2024.170      Senate **noted** the upcoming Senate meetings for 2025-26:

- 16 October 2025, 15:00-17:00
- 11 December 2025, 15:00-17:00
- 12 March 2026, 15:00-17:00
- 11 June 2026, 15:00-17:00

#### **Any Other Business**

2024.171      No other business was raised.