



Senate

Paper Title	SU President Report
Outcome requested	Senate to note the report. This report is an update from the start of Semester 2 on Education and Student Representation related activity within the Students' Union. A broader report will be compiled for University Council in March.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	N/A
Questions for Senate to consider	N/A
Regulatory/statutory reference points	N/A
Strategy and risk	N/A
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	N/A
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Sponsor	

President's Senate Report

February 2025

www.qmsu.org



President's Report

Education & Student Voice

Students' Union Elections

The Students' Union Elections are currently taking place, and more than 60 students have nominated themselves for the 6 Executive Officer roles and 4 Student Trustee roles. Voting is taking place 24th - 27th February, and all Queen Mary students can vote. The results will be announced in the Lounge at the Mile End Campus on 27th February at 7.30pm, and the winners will take office on 1st August 2025.

Delivering the QMSU Democracy Review

Tahmid Khan, Students' Union President, presented the findings of the Students' Union's Democracy Review at Student Council on the 4th of February 2025. The Democracy Review was conducted independently by an external consultant, CounterCulture, who are highly experienced in reviewing SU democratic structures, and have worked with a variety of Universities and WONKHE.

The proposed reforms will aim to improve engagement with the Students' Union across all faculties and communities. The current structure, which was introduced in 2019/20, has seen declining participation from students and elected part-time officers alike. The reforms would introduce more direct democracy into the heart of the Union's policymaking structure whilst also expanding devolved arrangements for the various student groups that exist at the University. The proposed system would also look to increase the number of pathways for students to engage with the Students' Union via a greater number of devolved sub-committees rather than just elected roles. This will provide greater flexibility for often time-poor students, especially with the backdrop of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

The reforms will be voted on at the next meeting of Student Council on the 4th of March 2025. The full proposal can be found here: <https://www.qmsu.org/yourvoice/change/studentcouncil/>.

Supporting the National Student Survey (NSS)

Tahmid has been working with the University's Communications Team to support the promotion of the National Student Survey (NSS). This has involved a series of joint communications with Stephanie Marshall, Vice Principal Education.

The Students' Union has chosen three charities to be supported this year as part of efforts to encourage students to fill in the NSS. These are:

- Bow Foodbank
- Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)
- Shelter

More information can be found here: <https://www.qmsu.org/nss-charities/>.

QMSU-SET Joint Session

The Students' Union's Executive Officer Team and the University's Senior Executive Team met in a joint session on the 18th of February 2025.

The aim of the session was to review progress made between the two organisations on representing student interests: to see what has been achieved and what remains for improvement. There has been significant progress in establishing communication chains on matters such as module experience, TEF, and ethical investments. However, Tahmid expressed that he would like to see further engagement in improving estates and facilities, tackling Islamophobia, and generally moving towards a more actions-based way of working.

The Students' Union was pleased to see engagement from the University and hopes that this dialogue will continue. By increasing dialogue between the University and the Students' Union, we hope that there can be a stronger and more effective relationship that can deliver for students in a more timely and productive manner.

Students Who Work Survey

One of Jovani Palnoni's, Vice President Humanities & Social Sciences, priority projects for the year focuses on students who balance work with their studies. We've recently closed the survey after reaching our target of 500 responses. Jovani, Al-Habib Mraish, Vice President Science & Engineering, and our staff team are now going through the data and hope to use it to create helpful resources that will provide support and information on managing work while studying. Unsurprisingly, the data so far indicates some students are struggling to balance work with studies and due to their financial circumstances need to work.

S&E Advisor Scheme Review

Last semester, Al-Habib and Nabihah Ali, Vice President Welfare, launched focus groups to engage the student voice on advisor schemes, and asked students questions around their understandings of the role of an advisor, the type of support they receive, how engaged they are with their advisors/advisors with them, what they think is lacking, and more. Focus groups ran across all schools in S&E only. Data is currently being analysed, and findings will be circulated to those interested.

SBM Student Focus Group

Jovani recently ran a Focus Group for students in the School of Business and Management (SBM), which was a highly valuable and insightful session. During the Focus Group, we received feedback on several key areas, including the quality of teaching, the learning opportunities available in their courses, marking and assessment processes, as well as students' views on careers and employability support. We are excited to work with the school to see how we can use the data to improve the student experience and ensure that students' voices are heard in shaping their education.

Jewish Heritage Fortnight

We have had a successful Jewish Heritage Fortnight, with society events such as a Lunch and Learn about Novo Cemetery, Holocaust Memorial Day film screening, and Hebrew calligraphy workshop. Our community organiser ran a series of Jewish Snack giveaways, which were very well-received by our student body. We have received comments from our Jewish community about how these events and the fortnight improved their sense of community and connection.

LGBTQ+ History Month

Although LGBTQ+ history month continues through the end of the month, we have already had great success, with our community organiser leading on creating the first ever Tower Hamlets Trans Pride. Due to its significance, items from this event have been donated to Tower Hamlets archives and the Museum of Transology. The month continues with large scale events include 10th Anniversary of BL Drag Extravaganza and our 2nd annual queer ball.

Islamophobia

Jovani has been collaborating with Rahma and other student representatives on tackling Islamophobia. In response to student concerns, there has been a proposal to introduce staff training on identifying and avoiding Islamophobia. Additionally, Jovani and the team are working on developing a clear definition of Islamophobia.

Tahmid Khan
Students' Union President
25th February 2025