

Attending: Jay Brown, Student President- Academic Life (JB), Julie Read, Student Support Coordinator (JR) + 61 reps

Apologies received: 55

1. Student President (AL) Update

- STaR Awards Nominations are now OPEN! These are the annual Student, teaching and representation awards where students can nominate staff or fellow students to recognise their efforts. Nominations are open until 17th February. All reps are to share this information with their cohorts and encourage engagement. It's important to check the criteria and eligibility first. The link to nominations can be found on the QMUSU website. [STaR Awards 2025 @ QMUSU](#) JB also asked for volunteers to join the STaR panel who will review the nominations and agree on the winners. The panel will meet on 27th February from 1-4pm. Please contact Jay or Julie if you wish to be considered for this role.
- Student Elections are also now open. Students can stand for full or part-time roles. The positions of Student President, Academic Life and Student President, Student Activities are full-time paid positions suitable for anyone about to graduate or taking a gap year. The part-time, unpaid positions are Black Minority Ethnic Officer, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Officer, International Officer, Post-graduate Officer, Societies Officer, Sports Officer, Student Voice Officer and Wellbeing Officer. Again, more information can be found on the QMUSU website [Student Elections 2025 @ QMUSU](#)
- BSL Taster Sessions update – these have now been organised and students will have the opportunity to learn some basic British Sign Language (BSL) which will help communication with our hearing-impaired students. The first session will be on 17th February and can be booked through [Eventbrite](#).
- Student Experience Forum update – Sadly, due to staff illness, this did not take place on 30th January. It will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

2. Question of the Semester

- The question was “Does the newly refurbished LRC meet your needs as a student?”
- 198 responses!
- 52.02% of students voted 'YES'
- 47.47% voted 'NO'

Common themes in comment responses:

- Lack of doors on communal spaces
- Fewer physical books and computer terminals
- Less desk space and charging facilities
- Enjoying the new collaboration spaces

If reps/students have anything to add to this, please contact Jay Brown.

3. Class Rep Feedback

Laura (Paramedic Science) reported difficulties with placements. These start next week but some students have still not been informed of their shifts or mentors. This has an impact on those who need to arrange childcare, work shifts etc. This has been raised with the Dean but still needs a push. In addition there is an issue with placement expenses. Some students had booked non-refundable accommodation for their placements only to have the locations changed at the last minute. SAAS will not issue refunds and these students are now out of pocket.

Stephen (Ed Studies, Primary) stated they are also having placement issues. In some cases students were not informed of their locations until days before starting, causing concerns over how students will travel to these placements. There is a new system in place this year which is not working. There needs to be transparency from the placement team in communicating with students.

In addition, Stephen mentioned concerns over timetabling. Last year students were expected to be on campus for too many days, often for just one class. Now they are in for fewer days but it might be one session one week and many more the following week. Lack of consistency and transparency.

Amy (Ed Studies Primary) agreed there are placement issues and seemingly a lack of communication between Placement Educators and university mentors resulting in different expectations and some students being required to do much more than their peers.

Joe (International Hospitality, Tourism & Events Management) reported that communications regarding opportunities outside of the course are very poor. There is an opportunity for a semester abroad but students were only told about this the day before the deadline for applications with no information to help them make a decision.

Stephen (Ed Studies, Primary) observed that staff worry about sending out too many emails, but it is better to have more, with more information. If students choose to ignore these that is on them but at least the information would be more readily available.

Katie (Music Therapy) wanted to back up the comments regarding placements where expectations from placement providers can be at odds with what the students have been told to expect, with some students being expected to practise independently from the first day.

Katie also raised the issue of not water no longer being available in Guthries. JB said he would raise this at an upcoming meeting with Baxter Storey (Caterers)

Travis (Political Communication) reported that dissertation students are experiencing difficulties with the new Ethics platform. It was launched on a Friday with submission deadlines being the following Monday. Deadlines for Ethics approval have been pushed back because of this, but this also has a knock-on effect on the time available for completion of the dissertations.

Hannah (Speech & Language Therapy) also highlighted placement problems and differing expectations between the university and the placement providers. Some students have been given caseloads from day one whilst others have been given time to observe and get to know the organisation and clients first.

JB said he would create an area for Placement feedback and streamline it into three sections. He will send out a template soon.

Rebecca (Occupational Therapy) stated that students have been expected to conduct a research project at the same time as being on placement. There has been little contact with staff during this period with the first meeting being held on 13 Jan and the deadline had been 20 Jan. As this is a self-directed study, she questioned whether this could be undertaken at a different time in the semester.

Elektra (Drama Therapy) raised another issue with placements. Whilst there are enough placement locations, there is a variation in the quality of the Practice Educators (due to the limited number of drama therapists in Scotland). There is no transparency over what has been agreed between the university and the provider, what will be discussed or the length of meetings. This is leading to different expectations from all.

Marcus (Paramedic Science) again highlighted placement issues where it is unclear what is allowed or not allowed. In some cases, students have felt they needed to push back against nurses who were giving them too much responsibility too soon.

Olivia (Education Studies) reported there are some students following the same course who are not all getting the same information about which classes they need to attend. As a result, some are missing lessons and Education Studies students are having to ask the Primary students if a class is on. This varies from week to week.

Anthony (Radiography) questioned if any action has been taken regarding timetabling issues as this seems to be ongoing. JR explained this, sadly, has definitely been an ongoing issue with numerous people attempting to fix it. No clue as to why it has been so difficult. JB stated that the Student Experience Forum will be a good opportunity to raise with the Senior Leadership Team and the more students who highlight this concern the better the chances of something being done about it.

Meeting closed 12.45pm. Next meeting 11th March 2-3pm.