



ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Date: Monday 3rd February 2020

Time: 12:15

Room: 2092

Attended – 20 Apologies - 24

AGENDA

1. WELCOME

Chiara welcomed everyone to the Academic Council and briefly went through the purpose of the meeting for those who had not attended before.

2. STUDENT PRESIDENT UPDATE

1. Question of the Semester

This semester's question deals with timetabling for students and the results will directly affect their timetables for the next academic year. Reps were encouraged to pass on the link to their class so we can gather as much information as possible.

2. NSS & QSS

NSS (National Student Survey) is completed annually and is for 4th year students. It covers all aspects of University life and the anonymised results are passed to the University. The NSS will start contacting students from 10th February to participate. QSS (Queen Margaret University Student Survey) is very similar to the NSS survey but is available to all the students who at the moment cannot participate in the NSS survey.

3. Assessment Regulations

Previously a student would have four attempts at sitting an assessment component. This has now been changed to THREE attempts i.e. First attempt and another 2 re-sits. This information must be passed on to your class.

4. Bystander Training

Bystander training is ongoing and you/your class/ your sport or society are encouraged to take part. Please email Kirsten Baird kbaird@qmu.ac.uk for more information or to make a booking.

5. Student Elections 2020

Election time is here! Nominations open Friday 7th February and close on 27th February. Please go to qmusu.org.uk for information on the candidates.

3. VACANCIES FOR STUDENTS

There are currently two vacancies for students to participate in.

- IT Students Forum – for students to work closely with the IT department.
- Feedforward working group – volunteers needed to take part in this group which will have a great impact on students, their studies and progression. Please contact Chiara to book a place or for more information. cmenozzi@qmu.ac.uk

4. CLASS REP FEEDBACK

- There were discussions surrounding how feedback can vary from course to course etc. some only received their mark where others had full and constructive feedback. Others found that receiving their marks had been delayed and that the reason for this was down to staff shortages within the School Office.
- QMU Strike – Many were affected by the strike action in December with some classes being informed that their lecturers would be striking and plans were put in place to ease the extra pressure this would place on students while others received no notification at all and were left with upcoming deadlines and without the support they would normally have. Some were concerned that this would have an implication when it came to their grades. *(I have emailed the Vice Principal relating the concerns to him and he is in discussions with regard to this. SF)* – Please click the link below for future strike dates.
<https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/10621/UCU-announces-14-strike-days-at-74-UK-universities-in-February-and-March?list=1676&fbclid=IwAR1TuODQIFvvqnbr4nhNm-cI4zLRuIWcsw286Qbg2AvcFv7m3kTBihOGVk>
- Inconsistent or poor feedback – some feedback is left for the student on the Rubric but often not. Feedback from Class Reps was that staff blamed time constraints for this. It was suggested that this should be brought at up at their SSCC meetings, or in the short term, discuss with whoever set the assessment and/or the module coordinator. In one case a student had their appendices criticised even though there had not been one attached.
- Following on from the ‘Doggy Day Care’ suggestion given on the Your Ideas section of the QMUSU website, some students felt that there should also be childcare facilities on campus. Most agreed that logistically this would not be possible however the timetabling of some classes could be looked at. Students encouraged to fill out the Question of the Semester regarding timetabling. www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B9M5SHC

5. SAVE THE DATES

Feel Good Fashion Show Tuesday 3rd March @ 5pm in 1875

AGM on Tuesday 24th March @ 4.15pm followed by the STaR Awards @ 5pm.

Pop up Union, every Tuesday 12.15 – 1.15 in the Atrium

6. STUDIOSTY

Currently being trialled for First Years to help them in with academic writing. There they can upload their work and get assistance with grammar/structure etc. they will not look or comment on the content. See presentation slides for more detail.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 12th March 2020 @ 12.15 – 1.15 in Room 3092

Contact Information

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