



ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Date: Tuesday 19th October 2021

Time: 12:15

Room: Teams

Attended – 34 Apologies – 4

Aasiyah Patankar (Student President)

Chair: Sophie Cunningham (Vice President)

Secretary: Sacha Forbes (Dep General Manager, SU)

Speaker: Dawn Martin (Asst Secretary, Governance and Quality Enhancement)

AGENDA

1. WELCOME

Sophie 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. Covid 19 and Vaccine Passport

Current COVID cases on campus are low, Aasiyah thanked the Class Reps for their diligence in ensuring safe ways of working are being followed. The SU are also looking for any feedback that students have regarding the recently introduced Vaccine Passport. The SU have some concerns and are looking to gather as much information as we can. Questions or comments were invited and a class rep did bring up the issue of students who are yet to have their vaccine, or are exempt from having it and where they stood re the passport.

2. Freshers' Survey

The Students' Union would love to hear any feedback the students have regarding how everyone feels about the events we put in place for Freshers'. A survey can be found on our Social Media and the last day it is available is today!

3. Microwave

Confirmation was received this morning that a Microwave will be put in place for students to use. Further details to follow.

4. Exams

Feedback is being sought from Class Reps and their cohorts as to what the general feelings are between in-person exams and online ones. One Class Rep said they had difficulties with their online exams last year due to technical difficulties and while they were fixed fairly quickly and extra time was given to compensate, this still caused great anxiety for the students. More technical support required, if exams are going to be online.

3. GUEST SPEAKER: DAWN MARTIN

Dawn spoke about the senior committees that are held within QMU. These include Senate, SEC (Student Experience Committee) and SAB's (School Academic Board). There are currently vacancies for students within the University committees and the deadline for applying is Wednesday 27th October 2021. Applicants can apply by emailing either/or Sacha Forbes SForbes@qmu.ac.uk or DMartin1@qmu.ac.uk. This is a great opportunity to learn how the University works, be involved in the decision-making process and ultimately shape the student experience into being the best it can be.

4. SENIOR COMMITTEES UPDATE

- Following on from Dawn, Aasiyah reiterated how committees would benefit from Class Rep involvement. SEC is due to meet again in December, Senate is 27th October and the SAB meetings will be published soon.

5. CLASS REP FEEDBACK

- Some new Class Reps have not received training dates. SF to email them.
- A major change has been applied to one CR's course without that particular year being informed of the changes. It would appear that this had been discussed at a previous SSCC, but the information was not passed on. Advised CR to speak to their PL for further advice and to email SF & AP with the details to see if the SU can help at all.
- A class rep described how their course is completely online and while lecturers have 5 days to respond to a query, this can sometimes feel too long, especially as the class are all feeling isolated anyway.
- Another Class Rep said their programme had a discussion board where students could post questions and the lecturer answered. This was thought to be useful in some instances but not all.
- The room booking system in the library can sometimes be confusing, as you are emailed if your booking is confirmed, but no email is received if it is not. This can be confusing for some students as it was mentioned that the booking confirmation you do receive could mean that they have received your request or that your booking is confirmed. Some students have travelled to use a quiet study space to find they have no booking.
- Some of the PC's in some classrooms and in the communal area in the atrium are of poor quality. Some with keyboard pieces missing and others not working at all.
- Accommodation – some reports have been received that Security are just walking into rooms unannounced. While the residents understand the rationale behind checking rooms, they have found security just walking in (no knocking) distressing.
- A new referencing standard has been introduced, but many have no knowledge of how this works. The feeling is that 3rd and 4th Years should have been left with the old system with the new one being phased in.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

November 2021 TBC

Contact Information

Aasiyah Patankar, Student President

Email: Apatankar@qmu.ac.uk

facebook: Aasiyah Qmusu Pres

Sacha Forbes, Deputy General Manager

Email: sforbes@qmu.ac.uk

General Enquiries: union@qmu.ac.uk

Website: www.qmusu.org.uk