



## ACADEMIC COUNCIL

**Date:** Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**Time:** 12:30

**Room:** Zoom

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Attended – 13 Apologies – ?

Aasiyah Patankar (Student President)

Chair: Sophie Cunningham (Vice President)

Secretary: Emma Lean (Union Affairs Assistant, SU)

Speaker: Lisa Cruden

## AGENDA

### 1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

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

#### Feedback from last meeting

- Room Booking System – Aasiyah received a few more emails regarding this after the last meeting. After booking a room on campus you should receive confirmation, but understaffing is making it hard to send out confirmation emails. A solution to this is to email room bookings ([RoomBookings@qmu.ac.uk](mailto:RoomBookings@qmu.ac.uk)) after you've booked a room to get confirmation. Allow more than 24 hours for a reply. If you're using the room booking system for the first time your account may not work properly, and if that happens just email Room Bookings and they will resolve the issue.
- PC's not working/keys missing – Aasiyah did a walk around campus last week and checked all computers. There were only a few with keys missing, and any computers not working were taken away. In a discussion with IT she was told that not many computers are being used on campus, so some will be taken away. IT data records show that only 14 computers were being used at any time last week. Less PC's will result in more laptop usage which may make things easier.
- Referencing Standard – a new referencing standard is being phased in and will work parallel to the old Harvard Referencing Standard. The SEC confirmed there will be a transition period.

#### Student Experience Strategy

- The next Focus Group will be Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, online/in-person. Please email Aasiyah if attending ([APatankar@qmu.ac.uk](mailto:APatankar@qmu.ac.uk))

### 3. GUEST SPEAKER: LISA CRUDEN (PALS – Peer Assisted Learning Scheme)

Lisa ([LCruden@gmu.ac.uk](mailto:LCruden@gmu.ac.uk)) gave an in depth breakdown of what PALS is, what it does and how it's expanded over the last five years at QMU. She spoke of the importance of the scheme and the opportunities it presents for personal and professional development. It's being requested by more students and divisions, although 1<sup>st</sup> years haven't engaged with it as much as previous years. She urged Class Reps to promote it to their peers to make sure they're aware of the extra support it provides, and to think about becoming a PALS leader. She also presented a graph that showed students who partook in the scheme performed better than students who didn't. It was mentioned that there is a chance to intern for PALS, which will be paid work, and perfect for those graduating. The next training date to be a PALS Leader will be 6<sup>th</sup> December, and you can contact Lisa or [PALS@gmu.ac.uk](mailto:PALS@gmu.ac.uk). There is also a dedicated PALS page on the QMU website with more information.

### 4. SENIOR COMMITTEES UPDATE

Aasiyah gave a quick update regarding the completion of the recent elections, and thanked everyone.

### 5. CLASS REPS FEEDBACK

- Timetabling – Timetables are untrustworthy and keep changing. Classes appear on timetables yet students aren't made aware of them. *Aasiyah will email timetabling, ensuring that lecturers can be fully informed of classes and able to confidently inform their students.*
- Staffing levels – staffing levels are poor, and this is having a negative effect on students learning experience. *Aasiyah will speak with Fiona Coutts and David Stevenson to see if anything can be flagged up. Angus and Fay will bring it up at the next ASSAM meeting. Aasiyah will also discuss this with the SU team.*
- Extenuating Circumstances/Library Account/Smartcard link not working – *Aasiyah will send an email to IT to enquire if they know about this and if they can look into it.*
- Supervisors – there is a large gap between hands on, active supervisors, and those who are not. There needs to be a standardised approach. *Aasiyah acknowledged that students shouldn't be chasing up their supervisors, and that if they're having individual issues to contact their PAT, or if it's more generalised to contact the SU.*
- Gender Pronouns – you can't add your gender pronoun on Collaborate or Blackboard. *Aasiyah will contact IT.*

**6. AOB**

- Question Of The Semester – today is the last day. Class Reps encouraged to show the QR code to their class mates.
- Do Class Reps want a social event? (This wasn't confirmed.)

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**2022 TBC**

**Contact Information:**

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