**Academic Council**
Tuesday 26th February 2019

1.15-2.15pm
Room 3090

Chair: Stewart Sands – Student President
Secretary: Cecile Guilloteau – Student Representation and Support Co-ordinator

7 Class Reps were in attendance.

1. **Welcome**

Stewart Sands (SS) welcome everyone to the last academic council of the year.

1. **Student President Update**

Question of the Month

SS presented to CR results from January Question of the Month (See slide 3).

February Question of the Month is now live and open until Tuesday 4th March. Students are asked whether they have class on Wednesday Afternoon and what they do/would do on a Wednesday Afternoon. The University is keen to protect Wednesday Afternoon however some students still have classes then. Results from February Question of the Month will be used to continue lobbying the University on protecting this time.

STaR Awards

The Students’ Union received many nominations to both staff and student categories. More nominations to the categories of Programme of the Year and Engaging Assessment and Feedback would be welcome. Nominations close on 1st March and the Ceremony will take place on 19th March 5.00pm in Maggie’s following the Students’ Union AGM (start at 4.15pm).

NSS

*Please refer to slides 6 and 7.*

1. **UniHub**

Colin Duffus and Charlotte Beck, Student Services Careers Advisors, presented Uni Hub (www.unihub.qmu.ac.uk), a new online platform which allows students to interact with advisors and provide them with resources.

Through Uni Hub students can:

* Book an appointment with their chosen advisor and cancel it if needed;
* Access resources and Q&A;
* Look for vacancies for Part-Time jobs, volunteering opportunities, internships;
* Sign Up for events;
* Ask questions online.

Colin Duffus and Charlotte Beck showed CR functionalities on the platform and advised them that they are welcome to give feedback on what they would like it to look like.

A naming competition will take place week of the 4th March 2019. Students will be invited to give name suggestions to the software and will then vote on the best name. Voting will be through UniHub.

1. **SU Elections**

Nominations have now closed. Candidates are:

Full-time Officer Candidates

President: Chiara Menozzi

Vice-President: Rebecca Kinghorn; Andy White

Part-time Officer Candidates

Communities: Aasiyah Patankar

Events: Holly Green

Welfare: Mhairi Menzies

Equality & Diversity: Emily Frood

Post-graduate: Vacant

Sports: Inga Krohberger

Societies: Ricarda Fillhardt

Student Engagement: Olivia Gibson

Voting will take place Monday 4th March to Thursday 7th March and Question Time is on Monday 4th March. Results will be published on Friday 8th March.

1. **NUS Referendum**

Stewart Sands announced that the Officers’ Committee agreed to run a Referendum on QMUSU affiliation to NUS.

The National Union of Students has been existing for many years and acts to represent students’ interests. Most Students’ Unions in the UK are members of NUS, but not all.

NUS is currently facing a deficit and working towards addressing it through a major turnaround on its activities.

The current Officers’ Committee feels that NUS is not relevant to students anymore and students are disengaged with it. It decided to call a referendum to disaffiliate from NUS.

Students will be asked “Should QMUSU disaffiliate from the National Union of Students?”

Students are welcome to run a campaign to remain members of NUS and are invited to submit campaign material (manifesto) by Monday 4th March.

Question time will be on Monday 4th March 1.30pm in Maggie’s and voting will take place from 12th March to 14th March.

Students can access information on NUS from their [website](https://www.nus.org.uk/) . Stewart Sands encouraged students to do a bit of research on NUS and recent controversies around the organisation.

The Students’ Union is still looking for two Class Reps to join the Referendum Complaints Committee.

1. **Save the date**

Please refer to slide 20.

1. **Class Reps Feedback**

Microwave

Stewart Sands advised that the University refused to implement microwaves in the University due to health and safety and cross contamination concerns.

Other Universities have addressed these challenges and Stewart Sands is not satisfied with the answer provided by the University. He will continue the investigation and contact other Universities directly.

The University is looking at other alternatives such as vending machines; however, this would not provide hot food.

Catering price charge

Some CR raised concerned over being charged the wrong price when they buy food. Stewart advised students to challenge the staff what they charge customers. Any catering issue should be addressed to Baxter Storey.

Annual General Meeting

Stewart Sands explained that the AGM is a charity obligation. It is the opportunity for Sabbatical Officers to provide students with an annual report on their activities and on the Students’ Union finance.

Students are welcome to bring any item for discussion to the AGM.

Lockers on campus

The only lockers available to students on campus are those in the Sport Centre. However, they are reserved to members of the sport centre. Students in Costume Design and Construction programme often have plenty material to carry with them and would find having access to lockers helpful.

Stewart Sands advised he will take this to the University

Write and Cite

Students advised Stewart that the Write and Cite platform is out dated and not fit for purpose for some subject.

Minutes Written

27th February 2019

Cecile Guilloteau

Student Representation and Support Co-ordinator