**Part 1**

**Student President’s Council Updates**

*VP Barts & VP London* – Preparing for all the end of year events as well as halfway dinner with the committee for halfway dinner having started planning for the dinner. If anybody has any ideas please let them know and they will pass it on to the committee. Association dinner is on the 3rd of April in the Great Hall, last year’s wine problem will be addressed. The new website has been launched, any comments or suggestion please pass them on to VP London.

*Welfare Officer* – Working on Sexual Health Awareness & Guidance (SHAG) week which is 7th-11th January with various classes and these will be put online next week. Other welfare issues will be addressed throughout the meeting. Don’t forget to order SHAG calendars.

*Allied Courses* – Working on end of year dinner with the committee in place and will be open to undergraduate, intercalating and masters students. Chaired the recent SSLC, highlighted various issues including card access problems which were preventing students accessing lectures. Discussions about welfare and careers fair with more events to come.

**Officer Updates**

*Clinical* – Working on SSLCs and communicating who course reps are in each year. Communicating point of JISC surveys and curriculum review.

*Preclinical* – Chaired JSSLC meetings. working on feedback from problems with ICAs. GMC coming in January to discuss the UKMLA.

*Postgraduate Taught* – Research on PG student support, sending out surveys in the New Year to PG students to work on getting more support. New handbook for new PG students in September, linking up PG students with intercalated students.

*Societies* – Affiliated 18 new BL societies, check website for more info on them. Also working on guidance form for funding etc.

*Sports* – Funding passed for first round. Merger theme is disabilities and widening access. First round of UH for hockey this weekend, come and support.

*RAG* - £480 raised so far this year, don’t forget to order SHAG calendars. Wine and cheese event in New Year. Planning RAG week in February and in Easter, Sky Dive with Refugee Crisis Charity.

*International* – Meeting with Colin Bailey about freezing international fees. Organising cultural fayre for BL week. Working with Tom to create an online platform for international students.

*LGBT* – Organised World Aids Day and involved Positive East for STI testing. Planning for pride week in February including headline talk with James Barret amongst other events. Will be getting rainbow lanyards for people to wear on placement.

*Women* – Working on sexual harassment policies and hoping to change 2 bye-laws regarding this. Working with report and support for the reporting procedure. Started organising women’s week including charity, volunteering and academic talks.

*ENTs* – Just finished Pre-Christmas events including Sports Christmas Dinners’ afterparty. Poundstretcher in December was very well attended, will try to push more independent events. Griffmas dinner sold 50 tickets. Next year have events including SHAG quiz, brunch, movie night and Poundstretcher for refreshers. Organising events in BL week including student-staff quiz.

*Alumni* – Organising 5 year reunions as well as funding schemes. Looking into some issues with junior alumni association donations. Hoping to set up a bursary for international students. Societies who would like to get involved with Jen’s networking efforts please let her know.

*Volunteering* – Working with volunteering groups to increase intake. Want a big event in January called the 24 hour volunteerathon and a volunteer fair for refreshers.

**President’s Update**

Set up new mentoring scheme for those who don’t get involved in the union as much and feel mummies and daddies isn’t enough. Scheme so far rolled out for first years, Ceritificate of Clinical Foundation Studies (CCFS) and Second Year Students in Malta.

Looking at postgraduate support, BLSA Board has 2 postgrad reps which hasn’t happened in a few years so great opportunity to look at how we support PG students. Events so far include the Postgraduate Welcome Fayre, BBQ and Inter-Institute Quiz.

We have been looking a lot at how we engage students and use social media to celebrate student achievements etc. Also we have been looking a lot at how market events, working with QMSU marketing a lot on this. VP London has re-launched website & new engagement Officer role has been looking at consistency in social media activity.

Working on Going for Gold Project as part of raising to gold standard for TEF. I’m leading a workstream on campus space, safety and social space.

Looking at resists and appeals process and how to improve the process. Statement written and given to QMUL senior management team. Met with Vice-Principal Education who has shared concern about the process and is looking into the issues.

**Part 2**

1. Board Member of the Month - TL

November given to Alice Scholfield (BL Women’s Rep) for Women in Medicine event and all round great work done in the month. September was Tilly and Laurence (ENTs Officers), October was Giulia (BL BME Rep).

1. BLSA Building Works - TL

Works going on in the basement which will include space for fitness, prayer and storage for societies. Fitness space has been expanded and will include storage space for equipment and classes. Extra faith room both of which are gender neutral but one only accessible via female toilet (due to layout of basement). Toilets have been swapped as well as ablution rooms. Society store room will move into the basement and locked by lock and key, not enough funding for electronic locks. Will all be ready for New Year and signs will be up by then too. Grand reopening in January.

*Comments from Students (names not recorded):*

* Will the society store room be key code access?

TL: The Society Store Room will be lock & key, unfortunately there wasn’t funding for a more sophisticated locking system. The same applies for the fitness room.

* Will both MFRs be gender neutral?

TL: Yes although one of them can only be accessed via the female toilets. Unfortunately the layout of the basement is somewhat awkward and so we have done the best we can with the space available.

* Sophie Hoque (Welfare Rep) pointed out that legally anyone can access any toilet and so this shouldn’t be a problem.

1. QMUL Rebranding - TL

*Introduction from TL:*

QMUL have just done a rebrand and as part of it they have created new logos for the faculties. Each logo contains the main Queen Mary logo above with the aim of creating more of a centralised approach. I raised my concerns over this new rebrand (as did numerous members of staff) when it was first bought to the School Executive Board (SEB) meeting and also met with Maggie Leggett (Director of Comms & Marketing) and raised concerns with Colin Bailey. The response I received was that this new rebrand is necessary to make clear that Barts and The London is a part of Queen Mary. Various students (and indeed staff) have raised concerns to me since then and so I decided to raise this at this meeting. It should be noted that this rebrand has already been launched.

*Comments from Students (names not recorded):*

* The new logo has BL faded on purpose so it can be seen less easily than the Queen Mary logo.
* The logo doesn’t look particularly attractive or professional. Why has ‘&’ been replaced with ‘and’? It doesn’t even look like the text has been put in-line.
* It doesn’t even say ‘School of Medicine and Dentistry’ which is what Barts and The London is. The whole name should be in the logo.

TL: I raised this & was told it could be re-included below ‘Barts & The London’ however this made it look even more complicated and almost unreadable on a powerpoint footer.

* This looks like a blatant middle step to getting rid of the ‘Barts and The London’ name entirely. This is not acceptable.
* Why were students not consulted on this? If their way of ‘consulting with students’ was showing TL at one meeting then that is not right.

TL: I’m unsure of the extent of consultation that went on during the rebranding process. I first came across this in the SEB meeting & gave my views there and in writing following the meeting.

* How on earth can something be taken to a meeting, receive a lot of negative feedback, and just go ahead anyway?
* Note that Cambridge & Oxford colleges place the university brand under their own in small font. Why can’t QMUL do the same?

TL: This was raised at SEB & I raised also. The response was that if Queen Mary were below ‘Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry’ then it would look as though Queen Mary were part of Barts and The London. Personally, I don’t agree with this and I think that the Queen Mary name underneath Barts and The London would make it look more professional. I would also add that numerous times I’ve heard this point made a few times. I hope you would all agree that none of us are arguing about Barts and The London being a part of Queen Mary. We have been part of Queen Mary since 1995. We are well-integrated into the wider university and many students engage in activities in Mile End and not just within BL. However, the identity and uniqueness that Barts and The London has within Queen Mary is special and important and this is what should not be lost or faded.

* Possible lobbying methods include petition, letter or statement to SMT. We need to let the university know that students are not happy about this.
* TL should ask Colin Bailey to come down to the Perrin to have a big discussion and discuss with students why changes are being made.
* Would people be this unhappy if it said ‘Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry’ as well as the full QMUL logo?

There was a general consensus that people would still be unhappy as the logo would still not look very appealing and that the principle still would remain of the QMUL logo being forced on top of the BLSMD logo in a particularly blatant way.

TL stated that all comments had been noted and that this would go to SPC for further discussion. Actions from this would be passed on to the student body.

1. Barts and The London Week - TL

Successor to last year’s BL Day. Various events across the last week of January including dental taster event, in conversation with Dr Gareth Grier in conjunction with PCP, cultural fayre, centre of the cell experience, heritage tours, final whistle, student-staff quiz, Barts talks and evening reception. VP London working on virtual aspects to the week.

1. BL Campus Developments - TL

Life Sciences campus in WC happening in the not-so-distant-future which will include changes to various buildings and spaces around the campus. BLSA is one of those and looking at replacement which won’t be for a few years, uncertain of timescale. Floyer house is likely to undergo refurbishment soon and looking at how this will be done. CHSQ looking at expanding research space including assimilation of Dawson Hall. Opportunity to obtain better space.

*Comments from Students (names not recorded):*

* Potential problems for societies putting on shows at Laird Hall if changes happen to Floyer.

TL: I have recent sent a Statement of Need to senior management at the unviersity outlining needs of students in Whitechapel and what BLSA does for them particularly in terms of spaces available. Laird Hall was absolutely included in this and I emphasised how many students benefit from this space.

* If the like for like replacement does happen, what’s to stop the uni from putting BLSA away from the campus?

TL: Social space for students is a real priority at the moment within the university and I am workling closely with them on this through the Going for Gold project. As such, the BLSA Building serves a real purpose on campus in terms of social space, study space, prayer space, event space etc and so the university seem to share this understanding that proximity to campus is essential. Note that the BLSA Building is leased from Barts NHS Trust and so like-for-like conversations happening with them

1. Safety on WC Campus - TL

Tom leading on GfG workstream that looks at space and safety. With help from reps created letter outlining concerns of students in regards to safety. Trying to improve lighting in Whitechape; estates will be putting lighting themselves on university owned land. Level and visibility of security currently hidden behind a wall and hard to access. Also looking at cycle safety and security. Current CCTV is not good enough for the campus. Looking at changing exit push button to using card to exit so that thieves can’t just jump over fence and then exit out door with bike.

* Alice Scholfield (Women’s Rep): There is a “Get to know your security” post online, should be wearing high vis. Can put signs outside assumed areas of safety about areas not being 100% safe?
* TL: we are looking to launch a safety campaign in Jan to raise awareness about safety issues.

1. Refreshers - HN

Groups want to get new sign ups plus new students such as Physician’s Associates to join. Previous refreshers fairs don’t attract these people. Replace fair instead with taster events and advertising such as a taster sessions page. Creating a virtual refreshers fair. Page will have events as well as links to groups at bottom. All groups need to ensure their page is up to date. Next year can also have virtual fair running in adjunct during main freshers fair.

1. MBBS Curriculum Review - NM

Went to meeting with Tom for the Curriculum Review group. They will be opening up the meeting to students.

*Comments from Students (names not recorded):*

* Intercalating students have not received emails sent to the medics.
* Suggestion to add in about global health to statement.
* Use of the word unstable paints a negative statement, needs to be changed.
* The word scientific is too positivistic, cover other types of methodology too.
* Possibly flip the statement the other way around and cover social issues first then scientific.
* Also include general prose/bullet points about the full vision.

1. Stats Support for Institute of Dentistry - AN

Not present so not discussed.

1. International Student Clinical Placement Fees - JL

Currently pay a lot more than before. Before 2015 were paying different rates between pre-clin and clin year but after 2015 pre-clin rate brought up to same rate as clin. From 2019 will also have to pay for clinical placements, currently partly subsidised. Will be a problem attracting international student to BL as they can’t apply for a lot of bursaries. Not a lot of financial support for international students currently exists. Quality of placements can be quite bad so is it worth international students paying those fees for poor quality experience? I seems there is pushback from medical schools on this as it’s a government initiative and may affect recruitment. Uncertainty when this will start, probably not 2019. Came about due to the number of medical school places expanding as well as lifting cap on number of international medical students so bursary would be spread thin between all students. Future concerns will be that only rich students will be able to attend and make the UK less competitive. Note current students shouldn’t be affected. Discuss at UH MedGroup.

1. AOB

None