

To the Joint Chairs of QMUCU

8 March 2018

Dear Darryn and Paul,

The QMUCU Branch Committee posted an open letter on 28 February 2018 claiming that the Council rubber-stamped QMSE's position on proposed changes to the USS without any scrutiny or debate. Your letter goes on to describe this as a serious failure of governance at the university that has contributed to a crisis in workplace relations. I would therefore like to rebut these serious claims by setting out the clear and appropriate governance process that was followed.

a) There was a special briefing meeting for Council members on 21 September 2017 to discuss the USS pension issue and QMSE's proposed response. This set out the positions currently held by UUK, the UCU, the Pensions Regulator and QMSE, and papers on the projected funding shortfall and technical provisions were circulated in advance. Council members at the briefing supported QMSE's response to the consultation.

b) The Finance and Investment Committee, a committee of Council, subsequently discussed papers on QMUL's pension liabilities and the proposed changes to the USS pension. The report from this discussion and a summary of the briefing meeting held on 21 September were considered by Council on 19 October 2017.

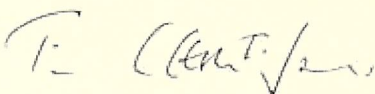
Our fundamental responsibility as Council members, including the elected staff members, is to act in the best interests of QMUL. This means always doing what we, as trustees, believe will best enable the university to promote education, research and scholarship for the public benefit, both now and in the future. We therefore regularly challenge the senior executive team on the balance between meeting current needs, and planning and managing the university so that it remains sustainable and financially viable.

It is in this context, drawing on members' own experience and expertise, that Council has supported QMSE's position on employee benefits and the affordability of increased contributions for employers and individuals.

As you can see, there was a very considered process of scrutiny of QMSE's response to the UUK consultation on proposed changes to the USS. The Vice-Chair of Council and I are more than willing to meet with you, the Joint Chairs of QMUCU, to discuss this and to demonstrate that there has been no failure of governance. We are also more than happy at the same time to demonstrate the true position on the other claims in your letter about the university's finances.

Please post a copy of this letter on the QMUCU website alongside your own.

Yours sincerely,



Tim Clement-Jones CBE