

Subject: A message to all HSS staff from the Vice-Principal (HSS)
Date: Wednesday, 7 February 2024 at 12:06:37 Greenwich Mean Time
From: hss-staff-request@qmul.ac.uk on behalf of VP-HSS
To: hss-staff
CC: Lucie Langley
Priority: High
Attachments: image001.png

Dear Colleagues,

It has been almost 18 months since I rejoined Queen Mary in September 2022. Having previously spent seven years in our School of Business and Management until my move to the University of East Anglia in 2018, it has been such a joy to return, rekindling old friendships and building relationships with many new colleagues. It has reminded me what a wonderful and unique place Queen Mary and our Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is.

In the University's announcement of my appointment, I explained that I was looking forward to working with all of you to shape the future of humanities and social sciences at Queen Mary. I have kept that thought front of mind since my very first day back, and I thank you all for your engagement over these past 18 months. With the completion of this year's planning round meetings, I am now at the point at which I can share with you the Faculty's proposal for how we make the most of the enormous strengths we have across each and every one of our Schools in the most efficient and effective way in the service of our strategic goals.

This proposal falls into three themes, all of which are in the service of further enhancing our research excellence and revitalising our educational offering across the faculty:

1. **Coherence and consistency in delivery.** Over the coming years, all HSS Schools will need to simplify and focus their activities to protect research capacity and provide excellent student experience and education as efficiently as possible.
1. **Regroup and regenerate the humanities.** Developing a secure and sustainable future for the disciplines in our School of Languages, Linguistics and Film (SLLF) and School of English and Drama (SED), so that we continue to build on their fantastic heritage of research and educational excellence in years to come while weathering the challenges in these subject areas that the whole university sector is facing.
2. **Premium PGT delivery at scale.** Given the fast-moving and highly competitive environment for international students, we will need to invest and innovate to meet our student recruitment ambitions and ensure that students have the outstanding experience they expect when they come to study with us.

These three themes together constitute a significant programme of change, that we anticipate will take two to three years to complete.

I can't emphasise enough that this is a positive, progressive proposal with the goal of ensuring our Faculty continues to go from strength to strength in the coming years. I also know that we will be successful in this aim by working together across the Faculty.

While we are only in the early planning stages, do please get in touch if you have any ideas, suggestions or concerns. We have set up a specific email address for you to do this: hss-future@qmul.ac.uk. Alternatively, you can speak directly to your School Manager or Head of School. There are also FAQs on the intranet:

<https://connected.qmul.ac.uk/faculties/humanities-and-social-sciences/hss-future>.

There will be opportunities to find out more and ask questions during staff briefings we are setting up in the week commencing 12 February. These sessions will be an opportunity for us to share more about the vision for the Faculty, provide some further context to the proposal and to begin to hear from you about how we can best achieve the changes required, together.

Dates below and we'll share full details shortly:

- Wednesday, 14 February: dedicated meetings for SED and SLLF
- Thursday, 15 February: in-person meeting open to all, Peston Lecture Theatre, 11am-12pm
- Friday, 16 February: Teams meeting open to all, 11am-12pm (joining details to follow)

I look forward to working with you all as we progress these plans.

Kind regards,

Frances

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