

The Marking & Assessment Boycott aims to get the employers' organisation (UCEA) back to the negotiating table and address the working conditions, pay gaps, and casualisation in Higher Education. UCEA might finally be willing to talk.

At QMUL, the Senior Executive Team's response to the action has not been to push for negotiations and a better sector, but to neutralise the boycott, through both **punitive deductions** and a **bonfire of quality assurances**.

There are some key questions that Council members are duty-bound to ask about the impact of these mitigations on **Quality Assurances and Academic Standards**.

WHAT'S THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THE PRESSURE ON SCHOOLS?

HOW DO THESE MITIGATIONS SERVE STUDENTS?

WHEN WILL SET RESOLVE THE PLETHORA OF UNCERTAINTIES?

The recruitment of 'replacement markers', the 'mitigations' put in place, and the façade created by the exam boards serve SET in the short term, but they are harming QMUL in the medium and long term.

The shortsighted response falls foul of the Office for Students's demands and is not to the benefit of the university and of our students.



DOES QMUL'S MAB RESPONSE DISADVANTAGE STUDENTS?



- Will SET address the **arbitrariness** created by the haphazard application of Quality Assurances?
- How will SET solve the **disparity** between year groups, within cohorts, and even within a single module.
- How will SET resolve the **unequal** levels of expertise, unequal ability to talk to markers, the unequal credibility to their degree?
- What will SET do to protect the '**QMUL Assessment Strategy**' now assessments don't measure students' achievement or support learning?

WAS THE PUSH FOR GRADUATION FOR ACADEMIC REASONS?



- When will SET resolve the **lack of transparency**? Academic procedures need to be clear and communicated. Will they spell out the mitigations?
- How will SET take responsibility for students who are unhappy with with means by which their **graduation has been forced through**?
- How will SET justify to the **Competition & Markets Authority** suspending regulations for the sake of neutralising the boycott, when CMA states Industrial Action is not 'force majeure'?

DO DEGREES AWARDED REFLECT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT?



- How will SET **reassure future employers** that QMUL degrees are valid when they suspended all regulations that generate & guarantee marks?
- How will SET **recruit students** when our current cohort is given a degree certificate without the procedures guaranteeing academic achievement -- essentially an empty piece of paper?
- What will SET tell the **Office for students**? The lack of reliability and credibility (achieved through Quality Assurances) puts QMUL at odds with Condition B4.

full letter

