Queen Mary
University of London

Minutes of the SEMS Industrial Advisory Board Meeting of 5/11/2025

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Meeting details and attendance

Date: 5/11/2025
Time: 11:00 – 13.00
Location: GC601 Graduate Centre
Link to recording: [Recording not available]

Chair: Martin Muir (Airbus)

In-person attendees:

Keizo Akutagama	Aston Martin F1
Hamid Soolghali	Elethron
Nike Folayan	AFBE / WSP
Richard Tuley	European Thermodynamics Ltd.
Nikita Chebotarevskiy	AECOM
Salma Steadman	AWE
Ali Tehrani	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Alok Gupta	ITP Aero
Martin Muir	Airbus
Zion Tse	QMUL Academic
Sergey Karabasov	QMUL Academic
Vassili Toropov	QMUL Academic
Oliver Fenwick	QMUL Academic
Sara Hajikazemi	QMUL Academic
Stefaan Verbruggen	QMUL Academic
Shade Akinmolayan	QMUL Academic
Yu-An Yu	QMUL SVC
Nduka Amakine	QMUL SVC
Faina Frederick	QMUL SVC
Christo Damai	QMUL SVC
Riley Griffin	QMUL SVC
Yamin Hussein	QMUL SVC
Hassnain Muraj	QMUL SVC
Ahmed Elsayed	QMUL SVC
Martin Thomas	AWE

Online Attendees:

Gunny Dhadyalla	Techworks
Mark Jiskoot	Ex-SLB
Richard Smith	Winchester Consulting
Sharokh Sharpar	Rolls Royce
Hadi Ali	Tfl
Florence Huynh	Polymateria
Kshitij Sabnis	QMUL Academic

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Minutes of meeting

1. Introduction (MT)

MM asked new members to introduce themselves.

2. Review of last meeting (Olly Fenwick)

Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and accepted without changes.

3. Employability & Skills Framework (Olly Fenwick)

OF presented an outline of the QM Skills & Employability Framework.

A point was raised that the framework should consider differing skills requirements of large vs. small employers.

There was discussion about the relevance/salience of the GOS survey data.

There was discussion around the relevance of specific engineering skills rather than the broader skills of critical analysis and self-learning – thought that it may be a messaging problem considering the name of the framework.

There was discussion about the use of formal exams in later modules – approval from employers that assessment via research presentations, report-writing is more authentic and useful for generating skills.

4. Presentation of the MSc in Organ-on-Chip Technologies (Stefaan Verbruggen)

SV presented the structure and aims of the new MSC in Organ-on-Chip Technologies.

5. Student voice (Student Staff Liasion Committee Members)

- Student Introductions and summary of their thoughts on the course.
    - Y1 – enjoying teamwork (noting it is different from learning at school).
    - Y2 – second year harder and more technical content-heavy but overall happy
    - Y3 – Happy with the design project, but a lot of coursework. Nonetheless, they felt they had learned to manage time better by this stage. Peer review brought up for discussion. Request for training in peer review marking. Robotics students: overview of the programme needed, and felt there wasn't enough robotics in Robotics Engineering. Mid-semester assessments are helpful, if summative. Better to have skills stuff more intra-curricular. Current set-up for career opportunities benefits the more proactive students. More real-world context could be built into the programme.
    - Y4 – More planned activities for the masters students – better support for MSc students within SkEmp week. More interactive/industry-related skills for MSc students are desirable. Need to make it easier to navigate. Maybe make the careers portal emails mandatory. Low awareness of QMPlus Progamme pages (only 50% of student attendees had heard of them), potential to use them as a landing pad.
- Students noted that SEMS Student News was not widely read. MM: Suggested to use LinkedIn communities to push information.
- Suggestion to include "active engagement" as a sort of learning objective
- Discussion point to have real-world research and projects within each module

6. Any other business

There was no AOB

7. MM closed the meeting

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