



Students' Union Standing Report

Summary

Representation

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Elections

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Student Media

Changes in the Students' Union

One action is required.

Representation

Programme Representation

The Students' Union has been collating Programme Rep details from across the Schools, and providing initial training. We currently have details for approximately 500 Programme Reps, compared to 600 last year. We are still awaiting a number of Programme Reps from the City Law School and SMCSE. In order to accommodate late notification of reps to the SU, we will be holding some additional training sessions in the next few weeks. However, we have trained approximately 200 reps over the last 2 weeks.

Bi Elections

The Students' Union By-elections were held to recruit student officers for a number of SU Executive positions, including School Representative Officers for 4 of the 5 Schools, a Black and Ethnic Students' Officer and an Ethics and Environment Officer. Elections were also held for the Students' Union Council and NUS Delegate.

We received candidates for every Executive position except SRO of SMCSE. We are currently discussing how to make sure that the student voice will be represented in SMCSE in the absence of an Officer. In the past, where a School fails to elect an SRO, the VP Education has taken on the responsibilities of the SRO in that School.

All but 1 of the Executive positions were contested and 785 votes were cast, which was more than triple the voter turnout for the previous by-election.

Student Opportunities

Society Engagement

The 2015/16 academic year has seen further burst of activity and strong student engagement from societies. The year commenced with 48 established societies. During the new society application period, we received 44 applications. 43 applications were approved and only 1 rejected. The Students' Union now has at present 91 societies. A significant trend was for cultural, faith and departmental societies e.g. Indonesian, Madinah and Psychology.

For the month October there have been 154 events run by societies. External speakers have proved popular with societies with 31 requests being received in October.

Following training for committee members, some societies have taken our recommendations to have a regular events schedule to maintain their members' interest. The Chinese Society who had low activity and membership last academic year. This year they have held regular workshops and debates at the university, invited external speaker and paid for use of CitySport facilities.

A select number of society activities worth highlighted have been noted below to give you an example of activities:

Our Somali society has held a debate on what it means to black for Black History Month.

The Law Society has managed to secure sponsorship of £500 from Freshfields law firm.

The university has allowed the Computer & Games society to use the labs in the Drysdale Building and they are now holding regular computer sessions for their members.

The Feminist society has held a film showing on surviving sexual assault and invited a film director to discuss the film.

The Jewish Society for the first time at university was able to have a Succah tent (religious tent for eating during their holy festival) in the Drysdale Garden for Jewish students to use. The society was extremely grateful for the support from the Students' Union in organising this important experience.

An increasing amount of societies are holding events to support numerous charities. The Islamic Society is holding its annual charity week that started on the 26 October. That involves various events e.g. games night, stall collection, charity dinner and mountain climbs. The AhlulBayt Society is doing its annual Food collection charity week on the 16 November during Interfaith week.

Optometry and Radiography held a joint Halloween themed event to raise money for Health Poverty Action. The Treble Clef society also is raising money for the same charity at an event in CityBar in November.

Student Media

The Students' Union has relaunched Student Media with our Media and Communications Coordinator taking the lead on the work. From November we will be running a Magazine, a broadcasting show and a Radio Station. Santander has given £5000 for portable Radio Station equipment which will allow more flexible schedule for our contributors and allow live broadcasting from our events.

Issy Cooke

SU President

October 2015