



Students' Union Standing Report

Summary

Representation

Programme Representation

Elections

Student Opportunities

Society Engagement

Student Media

Changes in the Students' Union

One action are required.



Programme Representatives

Programme Representatives in the past have sometimes been left with a lack of support. However, these students are on the frontline, experiencing real issues that other students face. They are the first point of call for many students within their class and thus should feel that they are supported to the point they feel comfortable in receiving and providing feedback in the necessary way to instigate positive changes within the University and their Programme.

In December, the Students' Union (SU) held an informal session, open to all Programme Representatives (Rep) to discuss what support they would like to receive from the SU. This event was very successful and provided a great insight into things the Union were unaware of. We collected feedback via flip chart paper to identify the gaps in support - such as staff being unaware of certain roles within the Programme Rep remit, lack of liberation training and a requirement of in depth feedback training. To address some of these issues, we have preliminary dates for a pilot Staff Briefing Session within the Health School, which will aim to help brief staff on the role of the Programme Rep. We have also proposed a liberation training session for Programme Reps, which will help them provide greater support for students who fall in the liberation groups of LGBT, women, BME and disabled students.

Postgraduate Engagement

For various reasons, the SU has in the past struggled to engage with postgraduate students. We are now working to engage these students more directly and so the SU held a Postgraduate Forum in mid-January. This event was well attended with ten PhD students from various schools. The Dean and Head of the Graduate School were available to answer any questions that came up in the discussion. Topics around funding, training, conference budgets and University of London affiliation were discussed. It was identified that students found there was a severe lack of training and teaching support provided to those who are undergoing a PhD. It was also found that over the five Schools, there is a great deal of variance between expense budgets for students who want to attend conferences and continuous professional development courses. Many students found it difficult securing money for CPD training, citing they have been told there is a lack of resources to help facilitate this. We found this event to be very successful and hope to provide further Postgraduate Forums later this year, as well as working on the issues that our members raised. We will also follow up on the issues raised, and a number of the students later proposed a policy of 'Fairness and Transparency for Research Postgraduate Teachers' which will be discussed at our General Meeting on the 4th February.

Learning Enhancement Awards (Formerly the Student Voice Awards)

Working closely with LEaD, the SU decided to rebrand the Awards. Now with a clean, crisp look, we have found that students seem to be engaging more with the awards. Currently we have 113 nominations (and counting) of academic and professional staff. Each nominee will receive a Learning Enhancement Award badge. Umar will be personally handing out a badge to each nominee within the next few weeks. The date for the Awards celebration will be the 17th March where the winners will be announced.

Rainbow Laces Campaign

It has been agreed between CitySport and the Students' Union that 100 pairs of Rainbow Laces would be purchased for use by the sports clubs in their matches in a show of support for LGBT equality that the sports teams share. There will also be a plaque displayed in CitySport stating this campaign and its values and will be signed by any willing captains, the Vice President of Activities and Development, relevant members of the Students' Union, and relevant members of the Sports Department. This is an event for LGBT History month, and was organised by the LGBT Officer, the Sports Department and the Students' Union.

Back to Uni week

This was a week with some events to welcome students back to the university after their exams and included a New Societies Fair over two days which showcased some of our new societies on offer and was aimed at raising society membership numbers for these societies. There was a Superhero themed party in CityBar which had a high turnout and was enjoyed by most students. There also was a Meat Free Mondays stall outside of the canteen which aimed at boosting awareness around environmental impact.

One World Week/RAG Week

These two themed weeks are in conjunction this year and both from the 8-12th February. They are being led on by our International Students Officer, our RAG Officer, the Vice President of Activities and Development and the Student Opportunities Co-ordinator from the SU. It is a week comprising of international events, parties, food, culture and other things like bake sales. Many of the events have a charity fundraising element, with the showcase event being a RAG Bollywood night organised by the committee of the Hindu Society.

Issy Cooke – SU President

Umar Chaudhery – Vice President Education

Yusuf Ahmad – Vice President Activities and Development

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