City University London Students’ Union Standing Report

Summary

This paper is a summary of the Students’ Union’s current activity. The following areas are covered:

- Examination Period
- UCU Strike Impact
- Academic Impact Awards
- Programme Representative Training

Recommended Action

Education Quality Committee is asked to:
- Note and discuss the report.
Ramadan 2018

Ramadan this year falls on the 15th of May till the 14th of June (this is open to change), this falls at the same time at the release of the Exam timetable, and many students will be forced to choose between doing the very best in their exams and their faith a position no student should be put in. Ramadan see students fasting from dusk till dawn, lasting almost 17 hours of the day. To try to offset the risk to progression and doing their very best, the Union believes there should not be exams beyond 4pm, as otherwise we risk student's progression. Further, upon consultation with around a hundred students' they along with the Students' Union believed that there should be university-wide guidance allowing students to re-sit without their exams being capped if they believe that fasting in the Ramadan period detrimentally effect their exams, this would be similar to guidance given by the University of Reading and University of Warwick.

6pm Exams

Currently, the VP Education is working to try and ensure that there are no examinations beyond 6pm as if they take place this year it may affect the overall progression and retention of many students across City.

UCU Strike Impact

The VP Education and the Students' Union President are working with Schools to try to minimise the effect of the industrial action taken over the past few weeks on students across schools, by taking with the Deanery and appropriate channels.

Academic Impact Awards

On May 24th, we are hosting the Academic Impact Awards, in partnership with Learning Enhancement and Development (LEaD). This is the chance for students to nominate the staff and students who have enhanced their academic experience at City – from teaching, feedback and support to Programme Reps. A separate paper has been put forward to further explain the categories. Nominations are open from 8th January until 16th April, and can be completed via: www.citystudents.co.uk/student-voice/academicimpactawards
We would encourage staff to participate in promoting the awards, but also to consider nominating the students who have made a difference for both ceremonies.
Endorsements from our Senior University Executive Team:

“Of all of the awards that our staff might receive, the Academic Impact Awards are the ones that are most coveted and live longest in their memory. Being recognised by your students as having encouraged, supported and above all transformed their education and experience is the proudest achievement. And for student representatives, there are few better feelings than being recognised by your fellow students as having improved their experience and lives at university and beyond. So, make sure you nominate – let’s recognise exceptional service and make sure those who deserve it most get these Awards!”
Professor David Bolton, Deputy President and Pro-vost.

“City is a University of London institution that attracts and develops outstanding students from around the world. Our staff work hard, day-in, day-out, ensuring that you will have a great educational experience, stay with us until graduation and use your time with us as a springboard to a future successful career. Now is the time to acknowledge the support you have received and nominate a member of academic or professional service staff who have really made a difference. There are around two and a half thousand City staff to choose from, eleven nomination categories, a simple form and a deadline of 16th April. Every nomination is important to my colleagues, so please do take this opportunity to say ‘thank you’.”

Professor Sir Paul Curran, President

Programme Representative Training

From the beginning of the year it was the priority from the Union to get the Programme Representatives adequately trained, so that they can report as and when they arrive on behalf of students. As such we organised more in person training sessions than ever before, that have proved to be beneficial for the quality of feedback given by Programme Representatives.

Further we have seen notable rises in the number of Programme Representatives in the School of Arts and Social Science and the Law School, but also a substantial decline in the number of Programme Representatives in the School of Mathematics, Computer Science and Engineering, something we are working with the School to improve.

Programme Representative Training stats:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Number of Reps</th>
<th>Number Trained In Person</th>
<th>Number Trained Online</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cass Business School</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>127</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Arts &amp; Social Sciences</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>108</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Health Sciences</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Mathematics, Computer Science &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>The City Law School</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>711</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>55%</td>
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