

VP Education - Graduate School Committee Report | June 2017

City University London Students' Union (the Union) has a strategic plan that is complimentary to that of City, University of London. The following report provides an update on the work the Union has carried out to further the priorities of its strategic plan, which can be found at: www.citystudents.co.uk/about-us/strategy.

Priority 1: Experts in the student experience

Learning at City Conference 2017

The Union's VP Education will deliver a Keynote at this year's Learning at City Conference 2017. The keynote will cover why it is so important for students to be involved in extra and co-curricular activities, the opportunities City Students' Union provides and how City staff can become involved in the Union's Vision 2020.

There will also be an exciting activity, putting City staff in the shoes of a Programme Representative and a Society Leader.

Priority 2: Academic Experience Impact

Programme Representatives

The Union is currently conducting a review of the year through a short survey to students, programme reps and staff who support reps. Recommendations and actions will come out of the review and the Union will meet with Schools and key stakeholders for support with implementing changes to improve the programme representative system.

Learning Enhancement Awards 2017

The Union, supported by LEaD, hosted a successful Learning Enhancement Awards on Monday 20th March 2017. Over 250 nominations were received from students for Teaching in Schools, Personal Tutoring, Research Supervision, Professional Services and Assessment & Feedback. The ceremony was attended by over 100 students and staff.

Research Students Who Teach

The Union has been working with Student & Academic Services and the Graduate School on issues that were originally reported by the Union in 2016 through a report to Senate. At the most recent Senate meeting, several actions were agreed following discussion around training, support and policy compliance. The Union will continue to seek student views on these areas going forward.

Discussions around contractual & pay issues and managing the employment status for Research Students Who Teach have been ongoing and an Implementation Steering Group has been formed with colleagues from HR, Unitemps, Student & Academic Services, the Students' Union and UCU, and discussions will continue with the aim of implementing solutions by or on 1st August 2017.

Priority 3: Developing Communities

Societies

The Union has held society elections for the next academic year. There were 34 societies that have held successful election with 47 societies going to by-elections. This will significantly impact societies next year in helping them kick off their activities. The Union has also created a new Societies Board, creating a new democratic structure for societies to operate within. This Board will empower students to lead and help societies to develop.

Priority 4: Students' next steps

Brexit Essay Competition (VP Education Award)

The Union ran an essay competition asking City students 'What should a pro-Brexit Britain look like?' and we received 20 submissions from students across all School's at City. All submissions were reviewed and the top 3 were awarded at the Learning Enhancement Awards 2017. Prizes included 3 days' legal work experience, £100 cash, limited edition pens and City merchandise.

Priority 5: Supporting students

Study Well Campaign

The Union ran its new 'Study Well' campaign to further support students in the recent exam period. Each of the 4 weeks of the campaign focussed on Study Skills (in collaboration with Learning Success), Getting Active (in collaboration with CitySport), Mind Body & Spirit (in collaboration with Sodexo and Sustainability) and Timeout which included our popular annual Petting Zoo in Northampton Square. There was be activities and events throughout the month including:

- Learn to juggle
- Gaming zones
- Healthy eating workshops
- How to make lip & beard balm workshops
- Pop-up badminton
- Local walks
- Recipe of the week
- Complement cards
- Freebies and much more!

Prevent

The Union has been working to ensure students interests are put at the forefront of the Prevent Implementation Steering Group. The Union has been ensuring students will not be proportionately affected or discriminated against as the Prevent strategy is implemented at City, University of London.

Enablers

Office Move

The Union has now moved to its new permanent offices in the Tait Building, near the Courtyard area.