City, University of London Students’ Union is an independent charity that works in partnership with City. The Union is student led, by both sabbatical and part-time elected student officers, with the support of a professional staff team to ensure we are positively impacting on the student experience. The following report outlines the Unions progress and priorities over the recent period with a particular focus on education.

### Sabbatical Officer Key Highlights/Priorities

The elected sabbatical officers, Kristina, Tuna and Nazia, have action plans that further their manifestos and student priorities, these can be seen at: [www.citystudents.co.uk/student-voice/studentofficers](http://www.citystudents.co.uk/student-voice/studentofficers). Below are some of the sabbatical officer’s highlights and priorities.

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| 1 Stronger community at City (Strategic Priority 2) | To build a stronger community at City:  
- Two events have been organised in order to support the BME community and International student community on campus to improve the career perspective of these groups and also create a platform for communication.  
- The SU President with the Postgraduate Taught Officer has launched the PostGradUp project to build relationships with the postgraduate community.  
There are further plans to organise a chain of events for the three remaining liberation groups on campus to improve their career perspectives. |
| 2 Reducing stress levels during the assessment periods (Strategic Priority 3) | - The Union was very pleased and thankful to have received the full support of DARO in term one. The DARO team committed £6,000 funding for Study Well, which could potentially rise to £7,000. The funding contributed to term one’s Study Well programme of events that took place from 7th -18th January and a month of activities have been planned for the May assessment period.  
- The VP Activities and Development Officer is currently working on mental health pocket guides that will be given out during Study Well. |
| 3 Programme rep system development (Strategic Priority 3 and 5) | - The Union released its first Programme Representative Handbook in January and the take up has been good. The handbook is a guide for Programme Reps of all schools and provides useful details and contacts to help Programme Reps in their role.  
- The Union are also looking into Programme Rep attendance and engagement at Student Experience Committees  
- Two surveys, one for Programme Reps and one for non-Programme Reps, to explore the experience of Programme Reps has recently closed and we are in the process of analysing the results. |
| 4 Lecture capture (Strategic Priority 3)      | - The Union continue to meet with senior colleagues in City to discuss the Union’s ambitions for Lecture Capture. The Union is also continually trying to assess the perceived barriers presented by academic staff and then how City and the Union can overcome these. There is widespread acknowledgement across City that students want to see Lecture Capture used across... |
the institution. Work is in progress to make 40+ rooms lecture capture enabled.
- The VP Education launched a survey to understand student views on Lecture capture and presented the results at the most recent ESC. They are also developing a guide to help students with tips on how to revise from lecture capture to be out during Study Well.
- Moving forward, the VP Education would like to request more funding for more Lecture Capture enabled rooms.

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<th>5</th>
<th>Free printing (Strategic Priority 3)</th>
<th>-  Progress is being made into looking at what models are currently being used in the sector.</th>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Developing academic societies and student media (Strategic Priority 1)</td>
<td>-  The Students’ Union has been conducting research into the habits and hobbies of the students on campus, in order to build a better picture of the type of service that these students would like from the SU and its co-curricular activities. Further information can be found in the report below.</td>
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**Vision 2020 Implementation**

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](http://www.citystudents.co.uk/about-us/strategy).

**Priority 1: Experts in the student experience**

**Student Members Meeting (Annual General Meeting –AGM)**

On Tuesday 12th February the Union held its annual **Student Members Meeting**. 121 students from across the five schools attended to pass policy, hear updates from the elected officers, and hold the Union to account on a range of topics. Policy passed at the meeting included motions to **tackle sexual harassment on campus**, **keep the provision of Friday Prayers**, and **increase participation in sports by insuring Students’ Union Societies to access City Sport facilities.**
Union Elections

The Union’s Spring Elections concluded on the 14th of March. 3299 students cast a total of 21103 votes, electing 19 new full and part-time officers for the year. The election was a big success, reflected by the number of students who engaged with our democracy by voting. Staff spent much of the week facilitating ballot boxes on all three campuses, and we employed five part-time student staff to assist them. We had 53 candidates who ran some excellent campaigns, engaging with students face to face, creating videos and graphics, taking part in our Candidate Debate and even dancing their way to votes. We also ran an election Fun Day on the Tuesday of voting week, where students who had voted could enjoy arcade style games in the Pavilion of the University Building.

The full-time sabbatical officers for 2019/20 are:
- President: Tuna Kunt
- VP Education: Saqlain Riaz
- VP Communities and Wellbeing: Rania Salim

The School Representative Officer for 2019/20 are:
- Raha Ghadaksaz: SRO: Law Officer
- Danya Amir: SRO: Cass Officer
- Dean Rowe: SRO: Arts and Social Sciences Officer
- Aaron Carey: SRO: Maths, Computer Science and Engineering Officer
- Maleeha Koreshi: SRO: Health Sciences

Details of all part-time officers and the manifestos of the sabbatical officers can be found on our website.

Societies Research

The Students’ Union has been conducting research into the habits and hobbies of the students on campus, in order to build a better picture of the type of service that these students would like from the SU and its co-curricular activities. The aims were to provide the SU with a list of key activities not currently provided that we should endeavour to provide, identify where students congregate on campus to better establish our presence, and promote the new society and society election process.
To incentivise students to give this research, promotional items such as branded phone and card holders, lip balms, stress balls, power banks, and yo-yos were provided to all respondents, with multiple items given to students who answered multiple questions. This project had a target of 300 respondents.

On Monday, team members were sent out with a spinning wheel that had seven possible questions on it:

- Are you in a society?
- What’s your favourite society?
- What societies would you like to join?
- If you could start a brand new society, what would it be?
- If you could run one event at City, what would it be?
- What activities do you do outside of class?
- Where do you spend most of your time on campus?

Respondents would get to spin the wheel, answer the question they landed on, and then receive their free item. Team members would also provide the list of current affiliated societies to provide inspiration, and had blank society application forms on hand to anyone expressing interesting in forming their own society. This task drew 157 individual responses.

On Tuesday, team members had six clear boxes labelled as follows:

- Socialising and having fun
- Networking and making contacts
- Improving my grades
- Learning new skills
- Employment opportunities
- Pursuing my hobbies

Respondents were given five tokens and asked “What’s most important to you?” They then were able to split these tokens between each box depending on their priorities. This task drew 232 individual responses.

On Thursday, team members had flip chart paper asking the following questions:

- If you could start any society, what would it be?
- What would you like the SU do for you?
- What society would you like to see at City?
- What activities do you do outside of class?

This task drew 318 individual responses, giving a total for the week of 707 individual responses.

**Strategic Review and Survey**

The Union is currently undertaking a strategy review, conducted by Social Engine. As part of this review, a survey has gone out to all students seeking to help us understand who they are as people and both how satisfied they are with the Union currently and what they would like from us in future. To incentivise this survey there are a number of prizes on offer for students who complete it, including tickets to Creamfields Festival and a cash prize of £250.
Union on Tour
Union on Tour is a regular event which includes a series of activities that promote the Union but also create opportunities for officers to have meaningful conversations with students. In term two the officers have used the Tour events to collect feedback from student groups it has previously found it difficult to engage with. The Vice President Education has used the Tour to talk to students about Lecture Capture, Student Representation and the general academic experience.

Priority 2: Developing Communities

Community Fund:
On 13th February a panel convened to award the remainder of the Community Project Fund to students. The fund consists of £10k and students are invited to submit applications to bid for up to a maximum of £500 to facilitate events that foster community.

The Fund was launched because the Union discovered through research are aware that a lot of City students come on to campus for lectures and then go straight home. The Union want to improve the student experience by making sure there are exciting events and activities planned that allow them to take a break from studying to socialise with your fellow students. The Union think that building more cohesive school communities through fun activities will improve student wellbeing and have a positive knock-on effect on their studies.

During this round of funding we received 16 applications for funding, of which 12 were awarded, and many of the events are now in the planning and delivery phase. A talk on music law held on 7th March was attended by around 40 students, and students studying English held a popular World Book Day party in City Bar. In April a student from the City Law School is hosting a salon discussion and film showing exploring issues of race in contemporary Britain, and there are several other events in the pipeline, including a trip to plant trees with MBA students and a workshop where students can make their own plastic free toiletries. Midwifery students have used to fund to subsidise a course on Aromatherapy for Childbirth, and the 30 places were filled in under 24 hours.

Elections Fun Day
On the Tuesday of voting week the Union held a Fun Day to encourage turn-out in our elections. Students who voted at our ballot boxes received free three tickets which they could spend on a range of arcade games such whack-a-mole and air hockey, or exchange for free candyfloss. The event was a great success, with over 300 students in attendance, and verbal feedback from the students was very positive.

The Fun Day was also the first time we used our new Street Team, a team of part-time student staff who have been employed to help facilitate and promote events.
Priority 3: Academic Experience Impact

Academic Impact Awards

The Academic Impact Awards are City, University of London’s Student-Led Teaching Awards (SLTA) project. Previously known as the ‘Learning Enhancement Awards’ they offer students the chance to reward members of staff and students within their communities who have shaped their experience at City. Higher Education (HE) Institutions across the U.K. deliver similar projects, supporting their Students’ Union to design and develop their own awards scheme, in agreement with the partner department. Awards of this kind raise the status of teaching in HE, and affirm the status of students as active partners in their learning and teaching experience. Schemes like this are an excellent opportunity to gather a rich body of data, both on the effects of the project, and on what students perceive to be praiseworthy practice.

The Academic Impact Award helps build and develop good relationships between the student body and their institution and is an opportunity to bring student and staff together to celebrate success. It is also a great way to find out more about what students value most in their learning experience.

The awards at City are delivered by the Students’ Union in collaboration with Learning Enhancement & Development Team (LEaD). There were 19 awards available across four categories, which included the following areas: 1) Experience, 2) Support, 3) Teaching, 4) Programme Representative.

The winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony taking place in the Oliver Thompson Lecture Theatre on Thursday 16th May 2019 from 5pm.

Programme Representatives

The first all-school Programme Rep Reception took place in the Pavilion on 31st January and was a success. The reception allowed for over 150 Programme Representatives and School staff, including Deans to meet and network. To ensure the Reception met the needs of Reps and to ensure future receptions are just as successful, the Union asked Reps to complete an evaluation survey. Headline figures from the survey include:

- Over 81% of attendees were either very satisfied or satisfied by the networking opportunity provided at the Reception
- 63% of Programme Reps said they welcomed the opportunity to speak with an academic from their school easily.
- More than 70% of Programme Reps agreed that they would come to the next reception.
This event was also marked by the launch of the Programme Rep Handbook 2018/19 which was designed and published by the Representation team at the Students' Union. The handbook is a guide for Programme Reps of all school and contains useful information to help them in their role. Programme Reps said that they found the handbook to be very valuable with most of them agreeing it was extremely helpful and very helpful (52%).

**Priority 4: Students’ next steps**

**Leadership Academy and Conference**

This year Leadership Conference was hosted on the 20th February and was attended by over 50 students. We launched with a Key Note Speech by Rossalyn Warren who was listed in Forbes 30 under 30 most influential people and has delivered many ground breaking reports as an international journalist. We then delivered eight workshops:
1. Maximising Personal Impact
2. Understanding Values to Change the World
3. Working with Disabled People
4. Chairing and Meeting Skills
5. Conflict Resolution
6. Developing Your Personal Brand
7. Storytelling and Influencing
8. Resilience and Creativity in Job Hunting

Students were able to attend two of the eight workshops. This was followed by a networking event with food and drinks. As a result of this event we inspired four people to run in the Students’ Union elections. We had a 100% satisfaction rate, with all students reporting they felt they learnt and developed new skills.

**Priority 5: Supporting students**

**VP Education**

The VP Education has been working to support students by following up several different student enquiries regarding assessment feedback and providing sexual health and awareness guidance during their successful S.H.A.G campaign in February. They have also responded to the draft Extensions and Late submissions policy and provided Union representation on the Count Me In Working Group (New implementation group for the attendance monitoring policy) and SHSM Working Group (new implementation group for the Sexual Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Working Group)

**Study Well**

From 7th-18th January the Union held its first Study Well campaign of the year. Across the two weeks 32 events and activities were organised and engaged with over 1200 students. The most popular event was the Dog Cuddle Room which reached its maximum capacity of 64 students. 94% of students surveyed told us they were ‘very satisfied’ with the events they attended, with the remaining 6% telling us they were ‘satisfied’. Although the campaign was a success overall, some events were less well attended, in particular the meditation sessions run in conjunction with the Chaplaincy.

In May, between the 7th and 31st May the Union plan to repeat the Dog Cuddle Room, host a Petting Zoo provided by Surry Docks Farm, and get students peddling away on our bicycle-powered smoothie machine.