

City, University of London Students' Union Standing Report

Summary

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

- Sabbatical Officer Key Highlights/Priorities
- Updates on Recent Work

Two actions required.

Recommended Action

Senate is asked to **note and discuss** the report.

Publication: Open

City Students' Union Report | Term 2 – 2017/18

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.

Sabbatical Officer Key Highlights/Priorities

The elected sabbatical officers, Olesea, Malek and Zulkaif, have action plans that further their manifestos and student priorities, these can be seen at: www.citystudents.co.uk/student-voice/studentofficers. Below are some of the sabbatical officer's highlights and priorities.

	Heading	Progress
1	City Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The survey that was conducted in November – December 2017 with a purpose to identify the sense of community on campus has not giving the sufficient material to identify the current situation around community. Therefore, the Union is looking into other means of assessing the sense of community at City. Wellbeing & Insight Coordinator (new role within the Union) has started on 29th January and works together with the SU President to develop a new approach to the City Communities project. The Union has joined a wider research programme among a number of Students' Unions nationally to assess student perspectives on and the lifestyle impact of housing and travel. Finding from that research will help City to understand both national and local trends on that topic.
2	Lecture Capture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Union strongly supports an opt-out scheme to ensure the best coverage for students. The Union continues to work with colleagues and Programme Representatives at City to implement this and improve provision across campus. Working with Schools to have School wide policies in regards to it use.
3	Free Printing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of sabbatical and part-time elected officers are working to address the issue of printing costs and other hidden course costs and the potential impact on Progression and Retention and what can be done to offset the impact.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report has been drafted and will be circulated following revisions.
4	Nap Pods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initial report has been completed of the benefits of nap pods (aka sleeping pods) on campus and the cost associated with this service. • The report was presented to the University and is now undergoing revisions and additional research. • The Union is looking to launch a broader Recharge Your Batteries campaign to promote positive sleeping habits.
5	Academic Societies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Union aims to have 100% of academic disciplines represented by at least one society each to improve progression. • The Union has increased the number of academic societies by 99% since June 2017. • The Union has increased the number of application periods from 1 to 5 across the year to welcome new societies, meaning students can create a society at almost any point during the year or apply for funding.
6	Societies Storage Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of societies has increased from 75 to more than 110 this year, which means that the societies storage space that was provided to the Union few years ago when there were around 30 societies is not big enough to store all the societies' equipment i.e. 3D printer, lightings, banners, etc. • The current storage space poses health and safety risks to our students due to excessive number of items and it is not accessible to students with disabilities due to the need to use stairs to access the storage facility. • The Union has been working with PAF to look into options on how to improve current storage conditions and potentially getting more appropriate storage facilities which will be adequate for constantly increasing number of societies (the Union's KPI is to get at least 150 societies by 2020).

Updates on Recent Work

Study Well

This January we have been running our bi-annual Study Well campaign, which looks to support students through the examinations and assessments periods.

We have been delivering a whole host of exciting freebies, including stress balls, sticky notes, colouring pencils, pens and notepads, as well as handing out a whole host of compliment cards outside examination rooms – ensuring that students know we’re supporting them. We’re very grateful to all 4 Libraries for allowing us to handout items from their desks, including those at Gray’s Inn Place and Bunhill Row.

Other activities we’ve been putting on include Free Fruit Friday, Motivational Movie Monday, Free CitySport Classes, Exam Techniques workshops (across 3 campuses), Relaxation Sessions – including colouring, massages and meditation and yoga movement, Group Study spaces, Lip and Beard Balm workshops and Programme Rep-Led Study Groups.

Our thanks goes out to the Chaplaincy, CitySport, Sodexo, Library Services, Learning Success, Student Counselling and Mental Health and the Sustainability Team, as well as the Worshipful Company of Saddlers for their support to the campaign.



Leadership Elections



Nominations for our Leadership Elections are open at the time of writing of this report with the deadline on 19th February. We are electing our full student leadership team, comprising of 3 Full Time (paid) Officers and our 15 Part Time (voluntary) Officers. All registered City students are eligible to take part in the election and vote. They will come into post for 1 year, commencing 1st July until 30th June.

There are a whole host of positions available, from School Representative Officers, to Postgraduate Representatives, to Women’s Officer to LGBT Officer, to Ethics and Environmental to Sports Officer – there’s something for everyone!

We ran a series of training sessions and Leadership sessions that are outlined below:

What are the Elections?	18 January: 11.00-12.00 in C103 22 January: 12.00-13.00 in ELG12
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Quick and informal explainer, with plenty of chances to ask questions.	29 January: 12.00-13.00 in ELG12
How to Write a Manifesto Your guide on how to write a winning (and achievable) manifesto.	25 January: 11.00-12.00 in C103 1 February: 13.00-14.00 in C103 8 February: 12.00-13.00 in C103 13 February: 14.00-15.00 in C103
Public Speaking Training Great preparation ahead of campaigning.	5 February: 18.00-20.00 in C309
Creative Campaigning Your guide to creating a winning campaign. Plus, how to not get caught out on the important rules.	20 February: 13.00-14.00 in BM03 20 February: 16.00-17.00 in BM02 21 February: 13.00-14.00 in BM03
Liberation In Leadership Sessions We're running 6 sessions for different segments of our usually underrepresented student groups. Hear from speakers on their experiences and ways to overcome barriers.	Black & Minority Ethnic Students: 5 February: 16.30-17.30 in ELG02 International Students: 6 th February: 15.00-16.00 in ELG02 Women Students: 7 th February: 13.00-14.00 in Geary LGBT Students: 7 th February: 16.30-17.30 in C309 Disabled Students: 8 th February: 16.30-17.30 in BG02 Postgraduate Students: 9 th February: 12.00-13.00 in B103

Student Leadership Conference

On Wednesday 14th February, the Union has hosted a 'Student Leadership Conference', targeted at those who want to develop their leadership skills and receive specialist training in a wide breadth of areas, including networking and business.

The workshop featured a guest speaker Rene Carayol, from the Inspired Leaders Network, and a choice of 6 workshops to attend – delivered by City Careers, Student Development, Cass Business School, Learning Enhancement and Development, Change.Org and City Students' Union. Special thank you to Marianne Lewis, Dean of Cass Business School for delivering a workshop on Leading Through Tensions.

The Conference was primarily aimed for Programme Reps and Society Leader, though any City student could attend it. Unfortunately, the attendance was not very good this year due to the number of reasons such as Valentine's Day and a number of other events/ campaigns happening at the same time. The Union will strive to choose a better day for our Student Leadership Conference and advertise it to a wider student body in the future to secure better attendance.

Food Survey – Update

Between November 2016 and January 2017, the Students' Union ran a Food Survey Campaign in order to gather student feedback on the catering offer on campus and over 500 students completed the survey. This was following feedback received from Programme Reps and student volunteers. Once we had collected the data, we analysed it to identify key trends and to create recommendations for improvement based on the feedback. We produced a Food Survey report, which you can read here:

<https://www.citystudents.co.uk/asset/News/6013/Food-Survey-2017-Report.pdf>

We created 9 recommendations which we then put forward to the University and its catering partners, Sodexo in July 2017. The recommendations are below;

Number Recommendation

- 1 Increase the range of food on campus, especially at EatCity. This should include less daily repetition.
- 2 Ensure that there are a number of £4 or less meal options across the campus.
- 3 Introduce more visible signage of Kosher and Halal foods (with certificates present).
- 4 Introduce more visible signage of allergy information in food.
- 5 Introduce more meals, food and beverages that are allergy sensitive such as dairy-free foods, gluten-free foods, etc.
- 6 Introduce more Vegan options of food.
- 7 Introduce more Vegetarian options that are healthier to students.
- 8 Examine the practice carried out when preparing Vegetarian/Vegan foods such as the use of parmesan cheese (considered not Vegetarian/Vegan), and the meat used for Halal and Kosher foods.
- 9 Introduce more healthy meats/food such as grilled meats and fish rather than a heavy reliance on fried chicken and pizza

We have engaged with Sodexo over the last month to identify the changes that have been made following the publication of the Food Survey Report. They have directly responded to all of the recommendations made.

You can read Sodexo's response here:

www.citystudents.co.uk/asset/News/6013/Sodexo-Food-Survey-Response-2017.pdf

We would like to thank the University, for facilitating our survey and supporting its distribution, and Sodexo for supporting and engaging with the Union in an objective and collaborative way and for regarding this student feedback with importance.

International City Week

The Union has been working with a whole host of University departments to collaborate on International City Week – a week to celebrate and learn more about City's global community and its contribution to life at City and around the world. The work hosts over 50 events and a full list is available at: www.city.ac.uk/events/2018/february/international-week.

The Students' Union will be hosting an International Culture Show on Thursday 22nd February with a range of performances from around the world presented by students and societies. More information on the International Culture Show is available here: www.citystudents.co.uk/ents/event/1418/

International Women's Day

The Union is going to host a Lady's Night at CityBar at 6 pm on 8th March, International Women's Day to celebrate achievements of women at City. All students and staff are welcome.

Student Media

The new Students' Union space in Tait Building (Level 1) is now equipped with its very own Radio station, Carrot Radio, who are soon to be broadcasting live on air will help to take student-led media to the next level.

This has only been possible thanks to determination and hard work of students involved in setting up Carrot Radio, especially from leaders Winston, Jordan and Luke who have been working with the VP Activities and Development, Zulkaif.

We would especially like to thank the Journalism Department Technical Team, for their expertise and extensive assistance in equipping the Students' Union's new Radio Room. You can listen to Carrot Radio online at <https://mixcloud.com/CarrotRadio>

Along with Carrot Radio, forthcoming video enthusiasts 'N'Square TV' outlet. You can find out more at www.citystudents.co.uk/media

Events and Trips

We're running 2 trips to Amsterdam in February and March, as an opportunity for you to get to know other students from City, but also to experience the sights, food and culture.

The trips include:

- Accommodation for two nights
- Transport to Amsterdam from City
- Guides
- A big night out

In order to find out more, or reserve your space – please see:

<https://www.citystudents.co.uk/news/article/6013/Visit-Amsterdam-or-Paris-this-Spring-with-City-Students-Union/>

We'll be welcoming you back to teaching, via a host of exciting events. On Wednesday 31st January, from 1pm-4pm, we'll be hosting a Refreshers Fair in the Great Hall, College Building – to give you an opportunity to see all of our new societies, find out more about how to set up your own and about the work of the Union in Leadership and our Elections. In the evening, we're also hosting a Back to School Party with Sodexo, from 8pm onwards in CityBar. You can dig out the old School uniform (or Harry Potter costumes, as Hogwarts was a School)

Awards

February has kicked off our annual season of Awards. This year, we are running 2 Awards Ceremonies.

On April 5th, we will be hosting our Students' Union Awards. This is our flagship ceremony, where we honour all of the students who have volunteered their time towards student activities, such as Society Leaders, Student Groups, Programme Reps and RAG Volunteers. We will also be incorporating our Leadership Award participants, for those who have completed the Union Leadership Award as well as our historical Carrot Awards, which is our 83 year old ceremony that looks to honour students, staff, alumni and individuals who have gone above and beyond in their support for City's students, the Students' Union and the University.

Nominations are open from 1st February until 12th March, and can be completed via: <https://www.citystudents.co.uk/getinvolved/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

Leadership Academy

The City Students' Union Leadership Award is an accreditation offered by the Students' Union where students can utilise their leadership roles and their voluntary activities/achievements in order to reflect on and learn about their leadership skills development.

The Leadership Award encourages students to consider their personal development and employability long before leaving the university, and gives tools and incentive to reflect on and learn how to articulate these attributes. The Leadership Award also offers a certificate for which the Students' Union recognises their contributions and development as a leader amongst students.

Any City student can register to participate here: www.citystudents.co.uk/leadership by **Monday 19th February.**

We are running a whole host of sessions, throughout January to March, open to all students to develop their Leadership skills, including some exclusively for Programme Reps. Check out the website for further information.

Olesea Matcovschi

Students' Union President 2017/18

Malek Arab

Students' Union Vice President Education 2017/18

Zulkaif Riaz

Students' Union Vice President Activities and Development 2017/18