

City University London Students' Union Report

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

- Sabbatical Officers Highlights and Priorities
- Vision 2020 Update and Implementation

Recommended Action

Educational Quality Committee is asked to:

- **Note and discuss** the report.

City Students' Union EQC Report | January 2019

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. Below are some of the sabbatical officer's highlights and priorities.

	Heading	Rational
1	Stronger community at City (Strategic Priority 2)	The Union launched its campus community fund in term one and opened the process for a second round of applications in term 2. Further information can be found in the report below.
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 1's Study Well programme of events that took place from 7 th -18 th January.
3	Programme rep system development (Strategic Priority 3 and 5)	The Union delivered face to face Programme Rep training to over 350 students at the end of term one, launched a monthly newsletter and held seven focus groups with students and staff as part of the Student Representation Review. In term two all Programme Representatives will be provided with a new handbook and the first all-school Programme Rep Reception will take place in the Pavilion.
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. Further information can be found in the report below.
5	Free printing (Strategic Priority 3)	Progress is being made into looking at what models are currently being used in the sector.
6	Developing academic societies and student media (Strategic Priority 2)	In term one, with the help of the City staff, the Union radio was set up and in term two the Union will be launching the Carrot Radio station and a Carrot Magazine.

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.

Priority 1: Experts in the student experience

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Each academic year, City Students' Union hold an annual Student Members' Meeting, sometimes referred to as the Union General Meeting (UGM), or the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year's meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th February, 17:00 in B200, Northampton Square.

The purpose of the meeting is for students to hear from the Trustees on what the Union has been doing since the previous year; formally present its accounts, provide an opportunity to ask Trustees questions, hear about its future plans and debate and pass student policy that will contribute to improving their student experience.

At previous events there has been lively debate, all contributing to changing the Union, the campus and even activity at a national level. At last year's meeting, students voted on a number of things, including **'Free Events on campus'**, **'Making Programme Representatives More Representative'** and **'Extension and Late Submission Policy'**. As a result of this all Students' Union events on campus have been free, and the Union launched a huge review of Student Feedback on campus.

This year's meeting will add to the Union's library of research dedicated to understanding the student experience



Union on Tour

In term one the Union relaunched an event titled Union on Tour. It is a regular event which includes a series of activities which promote the Union but also create the opportunities for officers to have meaningful conversations with students. The main activity for term one's Union on Tour was pumpkin carving and the term two activity will focus on celebrating the Lunar New

Year. The Vice President Education will use the Tour to talk and listen to students about Lecture Capture, Student Representation and the general academic experience.

Priority 2: Developing Communities

Community Fund

The Community Fund was launched in October of term one. It was launched with the key aim of supporting students to run community building activities in their course and school; because the Union believes that building more cohesive school communities through fun activities will improve student wellbeing and have a positive knock-on effect on their studies.

The fund included £2000 per a school, a total of £10,000 and students could bid for up to £500. At the end of application period in term one, the Union received six applications – two from SHS and one each from SMCSE, the Law School and Cass. Panels, which were school based and included a City staff member relevant to that School met and awarded all applicants funding. The ideas submitted to develop community in Schools were wide ranging and included:

- organising a trip to Airbus manufacturing factory in Toulouse for Aeronautical Engineering students
- organising a series of events including a treasure hunt, dance night and cinema social to maximise interaction between students and encourage them to engage with other students
- hosting an end of year group dinner for Optometry students
- Organising a panel talk for students interested in music law
- Catered revision sessions
- a trip to the Ice skating rink

Successful applicants are currently being supported by the Union to ensure project plans are met. The window for the second round of applications opened and closed in January and an impressive 16 applications were received and at least one application was received from each School. Panels will judge these applications in the forthcoming weeks.

A full evaluation will be compiled at the end of the year.



<https://www.citystudents.co.uk/getinvolved/yourcityfund/>

Priority 3: Academic Experience Impact

In term a total of 17 induction-training sessions for Programme Representatives took place between 22nd October and 5th December. The Union are pleased that of 535 Programme Representatives, 355 Representatives (68%) were trained and 90% of Representatives trained said they were satisfied with the quality of the training.

In December and January the Union introduced a Newsletter and Handbook to develop its ongoing support for Programme Representatives. The Newsletter will be sent to all Representatives monthly and details all key Programme Rep activity and other Union activities, events and training Representatives that contribute to the academic experience. The Handbook provides Representatives with key information about their role, the meetings they are required to attend and advice on how to collect and give feedback.



The first all-school Programme Rep Reception took place in the Pavilion on 31st January. The reception allowed for over 150 Programme Representatives and School staff, including Deans to meet and network. The Union would like to thank President Professor Sir Paul Curran, Deputy President Professor David Bolton and the Director of Student and Academic Services, Susannah Marsden for attending.

The Student Representation Review is currently underway and work completed to date has included:

- Conducting an analysis of the current system across the Schools
- Conducting Primary and Secondary research of other UoL and non- UoL institutions
- Sending tailored surveys to Programme Reps, all students and City staff
- Holding 5 focus groups with Programme Reps and holding 2 with City staff

In January work began to review survey data, review focus group data and analyse findings/feedbacks from the SWOT analysis and the focus groups.



On the 21st January, the Union opened nominations for the Academic Impact Awards, previously known as the Academic Impact Awards. The awards give students the chance to reward members of staff and students that have helped shaped their academic experience through their teaching, support, innovation and representation. There are 19 awards that students can nominate for, which are in four categories – experience, support, teaching and Programme Representatives. Nominations for the Academic Impact Awards will close on Monday 18th March and the ceremony will take place on the 16th April 2019.

The Vice President Education has recently launched Lecture Capture survey to: assess the satisfaction on the frequency of lecture capture, understand the reasons why students choose to use it, and understand the level of demand for more modules to be captured, assess the preferred place to watch Lecture Capture. The survey has to date received over 408 responses and is still open for students to complete.

The survey results will be incorporated into LEAD's paper to ESC or be submitted separately.

Priority 4: Students' next steps

VP Education Award 2019

To support the Union's work of being a springboard to help students to plan and prepare for their future has relaunched the City Students' union Vice-President Education Award. The Award is a competition to give City students the opportunity to develop their skills and abilities outside of their academic studies and to find creative means to tackle the theme of the year.

To enter the competition students will have the chance to submit one essay of 1500 words on one of five topics. The topics include cryptocurrency, Free Speech vs. Hate Speech, the Gender Pay Gap, Brexit and Artificial Intelligence. The deadline for essays is the 20th March

after which they will be judged school based judging panels comprised of the VP Education (chair), one student representative, one ADE and one academic staff member.

Each essay topic will only have 1st prize and prize winners will all receive a cash prize of £100, a certificate and an SU hoodie. The prize winners will be announced at the Academic Impact Awards on 16th April.

Priority 5: Supporting students

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. Our 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 our meditation sessions, which were not advertised as well as they could have been. As a result of this we will be reviewing our communications strategy and making better use of the Study Well Assistants during the May exam period to ensure that more students are able to enjoy what Study Well has to offer.

