

Faculty Representatives Termly Report

2017-18

Your Name: Mariam Idrissi

Your Faculty & Role: Life Sciences, Faculty Representative

Faculty Priorities:

The most pressing needs from the students are the quality of the lectures and facilities here at UCL. I have had discussions with many life science students and a key issue is the quality of teaching on their modules, the accessibility to handouts and key information before and after a lecture, as well as the facilities in which they learn, study and socialise. Conversation with some Lead department Representatives and various students from across many departments have expressed their issues in these areas, which I have been feeding back to staff at the Faculty Teaching committees

Meetings in the Faculty:

I have attended 1 faculty meeting early in Term 1 to discuss the ASER documents. We went through each department in the faculty and discussed how they were doing when thinking about the benchmarking process. I inputted feedback based on student views on the importance of having necessary handouts available for students to review before the lecture, as well as how many students find that they are not as well supported in beginning to understand and read scientific journals, especially as they have not been a major reading source before university education. Many staff members from across the faculty have said that they do provide lectures and sessions on how to read a paper, however I mentioned that students don't find this engaging enough. A particularly good example was the Personal Tutoring system for Y1 in BSc Biomedical Sciences where they complete months tasks to understand how to read and pick out essential components of a scientific paper with a personal tutor who can give guidance. It was discussed to think about a similar structure for all departments.

I have also been having informal discussions with Dr Tunwell about setting up informal careers sessions with Alumni from the Biomed degree to allow Y1 and Y2 to get a bit more of an idea about all the different career paths that can be taken with such a broad degree programme. First events will be held this January and if successful, we will be thinking about making them more Faculty based to allow for more diversity and inclusivity.

Meetings with the Union:

One issue raised is the financial pressure that students in my faculty are facing at UCL. The Cut the costs campaign that the Union are working on would give a greatly positive impact to my Faculty. As a science based faculty, the costs for laboratory equipment and field trips, as well as transcript reports are very high and students struggle with this. If successful in cutting the cost in a few of these areas it would be a great win for my faculty and allow students to save money. I have been in contact with the Education officer, and have been encouraging students in my faculty to complete the survey for the Union to see where the hidden costs lie.

The Faculty Rep Forum was also a great opportunity to hear more about the student teaching awards and gave me the tools to be able to share and encourage students to nominate staff when the nominations begin.

One thing that is being raised a lot by students is the need for locker space within social spaces on campus. I would like to bring these topics into discussion with the union, as well as the faculty, to see if possible to include locker space for all students on a wider scale around the campus, particularly in libraries and common rooms. This would really make a positive difference to students university experience.

Other comments:

Term 2 holds more opportunity to get our student voices heard from our Faculty and our Union. Some key topics that I will be pushing this term are locker spaces, module selection processes and assessment feedback, as well as continuing discussions and setting out actions regarding teaching standards and both social and study spaces for students use.

If you have any questions or would like to make me aware of anything to bring up formally during any of these meetings then do email me at: Mariam.idrissi.15@ucl.ac.uk