

Activities & Engagement Officer – February Report 1

Name: Ana Boikova

Here's what I've been up to!

- Have been in process of coming up with ways to get more of the general student population involved in Varsity as spectators, which included issuing a new varsity merch line that will be something that can be sold in the shop all year round.
- The 'tasters' project has now launched, allowing student groups to apply for grants to run taster sessions, which will allow high costly or unique opportunities to be open to a wider range of students so that they are able to get involved even if they are facing financial barriers. It also will motivate student groups to run tasters throughout the whole year, making sure students can join groups at any stage of the year.
- Activities Zone has been very engaging with many interesting discussions and students' proposed policies.
- The alumni student leader event that I have been working on to help student leaders understand how their experience and skills gained can be applied to jobs after UCL has now been scheduled for Term 3 to allow for both new and old student leaders to participate and gain the most out of the event.

How have I communicated with students in the last fortnight?

- Joined a lot of the This Girl Can sessions and spoke to many students.
- Talked to students via emails & messages.
- Communicated with students at activities zone.
- Met with all the volunteering officers.
- Met student leaders at the ArtsUCL Town Hall.
- Attended the CSSA's Spring Festival Gala and met many students there.

Sabbatical Officer Priorities

1) Sports are central to student life, helping students grow, become more resilient, and achieve their full potential.

- Have been in process of coming up with ways to get more of the general student population involved in Varsity as spectators, which included issuing a new varsity merch line that will be something that can be sold in the shop all year round.
- Helped in promoting and discussing the This Girl Can campaign, which is a key campaign in getting women involved in sport and understanding its importance in improving health.
- Had many conversations with UCL about sports facilities, pushing for their importance in the student population.

2) Students make the most of their university experience by self-discovery, learning from each other, developing skills, and having fun.

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- Had many interesting discussions with the organisations at the Olympic Park about how we can create unique and interesting opportunities for students to get involved with volunteering that will be beneficial for them.

3) Students have access to a thriving arts programme that broadens their horizons while supporting their wellbeing and developing their skills.

- With the arts team we have held out artsUCL town hall, which was great for hearing a wide range of views on different proposals. Particularly, some of the key things I have been working with arts is on awards, making sure we are rewarding students for their hard work and success.
- Together with the arts team we are having discussions around how to create equal opportunities within the space and help societies with facilitating best practice within that.

Attendance at important Union meetings and events

1) Union meetings attended and main outcomes

- Met with the commercial team and Rachel to discuss our ideas for Varsity merch that will be more interesting and appealing to the general student body.
- Attended finance panels, approving purchase request forms and grant applications.
- Had a meeting with sports and physical activity team discussing the amazing progress that we had within Varsity, Leagues, International Festival 5 a-side football, and This Girl Can.
- Met with Kelsey from Sydney SU to discuss some of the things that they do to reward their student leaders and how they support them in leading events and their societies.
- Had a meeting with all the volunteering officers to get an understanding of what they want to do for the remainder of the year and linked them up with the relevant members of staff to be able to support them.
- Had the SU Board, discussing the new Team UCL Gym and our Impartial Chairs programme.
- Met with the institutions and other organisations at the Olympic Park to discuss how we can work together and create interesting and new volunteering opportunities for students.

- Had our first artsUCL town hall of the year and it was very interesting to hear a variety of responses from different arts groups and also to learn about the importance of the garage theatre.

Attendance at important UCL meetings and events

1) UCL meetings attended and main outcomes

- Met with Kathryn Woods for a catch up to understand some of the feelings of key UCL stakeholders with progress of facilities and the SU building.
- Presented to UCL's Student Recruitment team about some of the new projects we have been working on and how we can work closer together to engage students in extra-curriculars and get them interested before they even come to UCL (at the recruitment stage).
- Met with the Estates Team to hear their presentation about the potential SU building sites, taking into consideration their new work and progress on UCL campus as whole.
- Led a discussion with the Philosophy department reps for the IQR, hearing their feedback about their courses and department in a variety of areas, which is now submitted back to UCL.
- Met with people for UCL Careers to talk about some career opportunities we can work on together this year: alumni event, connecting student leaders with alumni, helping student leaders better talk about their skills.