

Activities & Engagement Officer – January Report

Name: Ana Boikova

Here's what I've Been Up To!

- The past few weeks my focus has been on some of our major sporting events. I have been working on the Campus Run for 2025 with the team, looking at the feedback and finding ways to make the event even better, particularly focusing on pre- and post- event activities. I have also been working on the Varsity series, helping with the logistics and the spectator experience, which is a key area we want to improve on. I have also been involved heavily in planning conversations of sporting events for UCL200 and how they could look like, considering they would be scaled up and would be tailored to more students.
- The refreshers programme has been going through the final stages of getting approved by the societies team, particularly in terms of how the applications will be judged and the funding will be given. Once this is completed the programme will be able to launch and there are already marketing plans prepared to promote any tasters run by groups to students and encourage student groups to apply for funding.
- The alumni event I am planning together with UCL's alumni team has now entered its initial planning phase. The event is centred around connecting current student leaders with ex-alumni student leaders so they can learn about how to use the skills they learn through their positions within the SU in the job world. We are currently looking at date options, catering, marketing to students, and sourcing alumni

How have you communicated with students in the last fortnight?

- I have met with some students on a 1-1 basis to discuss particular issues and offer support with some of their projects.
- I have done a Q&A on the Instagram stories, answering student questions about participating in activities and clubs and societies in Term 2.
- I have also been communicating with students via email, trying to give them support and solve their queries.

Section 2: Sabbatical Officer Priorities

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

- I have been working on looking at sports within the Student Life strategy and how that has significantly boosted engagement for sport, particularly for Leagues and Project Active.
- I have also been looking at how sport can look like for UCL200 and how we can scale up our current projects to make them more celebratory for the year and make sure more students are included and have a positive impact.

- I have been working on helping plan the Campus Run, discussing some key details about this year and how we would like to do things: student volunteers, pricing, medals, before and post-run socials, additional programmes throughout the term (such as injury prevention). We have looked at all the feedback from last year and are taking it into consideration to make the run even better this year, particularly focusing on the whole day experience.
- I have been part of the Varsity project board, discussing key things around the events: confirming the venues and timings, broadcasts, spectator experience, security and first aid, behaviour and guidelines for clubs. We have really been trying to focus on the spectator experience this year, aligning times and venues so students are able to watch matches and support their peers.

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

- I have been preparing for some of our campaigns that will be starting soon. I have been currently focused on creating content and boosting the 'This Girl Can Campaign' to get more women involved in physical activity. I filmed an interview with the new Pilates instructor in hopes of reducing barriers for women joining.
- The refreshers programme has been going through the final processes of getting approved by the societies team, particularly in terms of how the applications will be judged. Once this is completed the programme will be able to launch and there are already marketing plans prepared to promote to students and encourage student groups to apply.
- I have helped open the new TeamUCL Gym and have been actively collecting feedback from students, which has been generally positive: many say they love the new equipment, flooring and the layout. I have also been working on promoting the new gym to students, in hopes to get more students active and make use of the current student deal.
- The alumni event I am planning together with UCL's alumni team has now entered its initial planning phase. The event is centred around connecting current student leaders with ex-alumni student leaders so they can learn about how to use the skills they learn through their positions within the SU in the job world. We are currently looking at date options, catering, marketing to students, and sourcing alumni.

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

- I have been discussing how arts can look like for UCL200 and how we can get student groups to be more involved and be able to run activities within the arts space.
- I have also been looking at helping the arts team co-design guidelines for equal opportunities with arts societies, particularly in casting and auditions.

Section 3: Attendance at important Union meetings and events

1) Union meetings attended and main outcomes

- I attended our 3rd sport Student Life strategy meeting to discuss any updates within the team and what we can do to support each other. We also discussed some ideas of UCL200 and what we can potentially do for the students within our areas to elevate the events during UCL200.
- I met with the IQR reviewed to plan out how we will conduct the Philosophy department student review and sent out the menti poll to all the department reps to start collecting feedback.
- I Met with the sports reps and the sports officer to discuss some of our priorities for the next term and how we can support each other in delivering our key objectives.
- I attended our first Campus Run working group to discuss some key details about this years' run and how we would like to do things: student volunteers, pricing, medals, before and post-run socials, additional programmes throughout the term (such as injury prevention).
- I attended the Varsity project board, discussing key things around the events and logistics: confirming the venues and timings, broadcasts, spectator experience, security and first aid, behaviour and guidelines for clubs.

Section 4: Attendance at important UCL meetings and events

1) UCL meetings attended and main outcomes

- I had attended a very productive UCL200 meeting, flushing out some ideas around the key activities and projects during that year and what the scaling up can look like for students and what impact that would have. We also talked about funding student activities so that student groups can also scale their activities up during that year if they want to.
- I Met with the UCL alumni team to get our joined alumni event for student leaders off the ground: decided on some time frames, the structure of the event, and how we would go about planning something.