

Activities & Engagement Officer – January Report 1

Name: Ana Boikova

Section 1: General Update

- I have set up more Activities Officer drop-in sessions for term 2, which will be running during the same hour as before.
- Presented to the council about sports facilities, the issues we are currently facing and what solutions we have that they can support us with. I then later met with the Provost about what exactly he can do to help us move forward in that space.
- Had our first Varsity Project board with the sports reps and officer was to talk about Varsity ideas, particularly how we can use marketing and merchandise to make it bigger and better.
- I attended the BUCS AGM where I talked to many of the other student officers from other universities about initiations, hazing, and Wednesdays afternoons. I also voted on some of the new proposals on behalf of the students at UCL about the membership fees, making our fee ~£3,000 cheaper.
- I met about the common room refurbishment over the summer, highlighting some issues that may arise with the current designs so that we can ask students who are consistent users about what they feel about the new changes and what they would like to see.
- Me and Rachel have finished the project plan for Refreshers, highlighting the key aspects and societies & clubs that may want to get involved.

Section 2: Sabbatical Officer Priorities

How have you communicated with students in the last fortnight?

- Activities Officer Surgeries - met some of the students for questions.
- Held 1-1 meetings with some of the sports reps, sports officer, arts officer, societies officer.
- Had a Swimathon and Varsity project groups, on which some of the students sit to gather their ideas.
- Met with a few students who had their affiliation applications rejected providing feedback as to how they can improve their application for next time.

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

- Continued to push for sports facilities and the need to invest in them: Presented to the council about sports facilities, the issues we are currently facing and what solutions we have that they can support us with. Council was very supportive and the provost spoke in our meeting to talk about him reading our report and the importance of investing in sport. I also met with the Provost, talking mainly about sport facilities and what exactly we can do and what we need from the provost to get funding for sports facilities.
- Had our first Varsity Project Board: This session with the sports reps and officer was to talk about Varsity ideas, particularly how we can use marketing and merchandise to make it bigger and better. This was the first meeting to discuss plans and how we can boost the culture of spectators at UCL.
- BUCS Winter AGM: I talked to many of the other student officers from other universities, particularly the conversations were about initiations, hazing, and Wednesdays afternoons now having lectures. I also voted on some of the new proposals on behalf of the students at UCL about the membership fees, making our fee ~£3,000 cheaper.

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

- Continuing to push for the Students' Union building: Me and Goksu shut down the idea of the SU building having facilities spread across the whole campus in the meeting with the UCL Estates team, highlighting that we need a central hub for students.
- Improving our current Students' Union facilities: Met about the common room refurbishment over the summer, highlighting some issues that may arise with the current designs so that we can ask students that are consistent users around what they feel with the new changes and what they would like to see.
- Creating change in the social impact space: Caught up with Anne about social impact and updates within that. We decided we will schedule a catch up with the volunteering reps to see if we can pair them up with a staff member and to see how we can help them.

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

- Working on collecting data for the Arts Space: Met with Ashley, the arts officer, to talk about the updates in the Arts space, connecting her with the relevant people for her to be able to do research into why certain groups of individuals find it hard to get involved with in the Arts space.
- Refreshers Programme: I have been in conversations about how to engage Arts societies in the Refreshers programme, highlighting a few that could be interested in taking part, which I will be reaching out to in the new term.

Section 3: Attendance at important Union meetings and events

1) Union meetings attended and main outcomes

- Session with the sports reps and officer to talk about Varsity ideas, particularly how we can use marketing and merchandise to make it bigger and better. This was the first meeting to discuss plans and how we can boost the culture of spectators at UCL.
- Met about the common room refurbishment over the summer and some issues that may arise with the current designs so that we can ask students that are consistent users around what they feel with the new changes and what they would like to see.
- Met with the IQR student reviewer to talk about how we will plan and structure the Philosophy IQR and set up a meeting with the lead department reps to gather student feedback.

Section 4: Attendance at important UCL meetings and events

1) UCL meetings attended and main outcomes

- Presented to the council about sports facilities, the issues we are currently facing and what solutions we have that they can support us with. Council was very supportive and the provost spoke in our meeting to talk about him reading our report and the importance of investing in sport.
- Met with the UCL Estates team to get an update on the progress with the SU building and what are the potential sites. Me and Goksu shut down the idea of the SU building having facilities spread across the whole campus, highlighting that we need a central hub for students.