

Activities & Engagement Officer – November Report

Name: Anastasija Boikova

Section 1: General Update

- Working on the 'Refreshers' programme, which consists of allowing taster sessions of activities throughout the year so society and clubs can get new members, especially during the Winter Welcome week when we have new students. This is in line with one of my priorities around making clubs and societies more accessible to wider student body.
- Feedback from the first zone was to make zones more open to everyone and actively promoted, which is one of the reasons that the UE papers are now public beforehand so anyone can come along and join.
- Carrying on work with the volunteering team and the societies team to make the SLP process easier, in line with one of my priorities.
Working with the intercultural team on setting up the summit - what type of discussions and types of activities will be most beneficial to cultural societies to help them build a community and grow.
- Following the feedback from the policy summit around students missing lectures on Wednesdays due to matches I have now started working on a policy with Shaban that will allow these students to get exceptions so they are able to catch up with materials later. This will also be super beneficial to international students as one of the barriers to them playing competitive sport is that they have mandatory attendance due to visa requirements.
- Reviewed Varsity applications and set the dates. As making varsity bigger was one of my priorities I was very keen on extending the timeframe to give more spectators time to engage so it is now 7 days, rather than the previous 4/5. I also wanted more sports and non-sport clubs so this year we have several new additions such as, cycling, kendo, karting and esports.
- Done a video for the UCL Town Hall, presenting the student life strategy to UCL and showing the importance of extra and co-curriculars, allowing staff to understand how they can get involved to improve the student experience.
- Started discussions around how to engage alumni in clubs and societies, as per one of my priorities. I am working with the UCL alumni team around fundraising and mentoring opportunities from alumni for clubs and societies.

- Working with the advice service on improving participation fund and its timelines, as per many comments around this in zone.
- Activities reception hours have now been extended to allow societies and clubs to run activities later and on sundays.

Section 2: Sabbatical Officer Priorities

How have you communicated with students in the last fortnight?

I have been holding my AEO surgeries weekly and have been having meetings with clubs and societies if they wanted one. I also had my activity zone that had lots of good discussions.

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

- As making varsity bigger was one of my priorities I extended the timeframe to give more spectators time to engage so it is now 7 days, rather than the previous 4/5. I also wanted more sports and non-sport clubs so this year we have several new additions such as, cycling, kendo, karting and esports.
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- Also have been working on the student life strategy in making sports more accessible by expanding leagues, mass participation events and project active.
- I have had meeting with staff to discuss how they can offer more support to clubs in terms of finding venues.

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

- I have been having conversations with UCL around the importance of co- and extra-curricular activities to UCL students.
- Me and Rachel have also created a Intercultural summit to allow cultural societies to expand to more students and have the expertise and knowledge to run bigger and more inclusive events.

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

- Have been in discussions with UCL around the theatre and if we are able to get more hours so we can put on more performances that will allow more performances and opportunities.

- ArtsUnlocked and ArtsLabs have been so far very successful in getting those students involved that would not partake in arts.
- I have been in conversation with the arts team around how we can improve the development plans for arts societies so that they are able to expand and get some rewards for it, similar to the current bronze, silver, gold structure of TeamUCL.

Section 3: Attendance at important Union meetings and events

1) Union meetings attended and main outcomes

- Have allocated ~ £25k of Friends Trust funding to clubs and societies.
- Affiliated many new societies (more updates in due course).
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Section 4: Attendance at important UCL meetings and events

1) UCL meetings attended and main outcomes

- Done a video for the UCL Town Hall, presenting the student life strategy to UCL and showing the importance of extra and co-curriculars, allowing staff to understand how they can get involved to improve the student experience.
- Started discussions around how to engage alumni in clubs and societies, as per one of my priorities. I am working with the UCL alumni team around fundraising and mentoring opportunities from alumni for clubs and societies.
- Discussion with UCL 200 about how we can integrate student art into the exhibitions at UCL East and on main campus during the period of celebrations.
- Met with the graduation ceremonies team to discuss how we can improve graduations to make it feel better for students and their families, particularly the issues around the drinks reception.

Section 5: What progress have you made on your assigned policy proposals?

Policy: Active Bystander and Consent Training

Working with the societies team and the advice service to lobby UCL for more investment into the programme so that all committee members and SLP leaders can be trained.

What three points from your report do you need to be communicated to Students?

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- Activities reception hours have now been extended to allow societies and clubs to run activities later and on Sundays.