

## **Activities & Engagement Officer – October Report 1**

**Name: Anastasija Boikova**

### **Section 1: General Update**

This past month, apart from talking to many clubs and societies I have been working on:

- Keeping up to date with my role's day-to-day duties by approving grants, purchase request forms, activity reg forms and signing contracts.
- Discussing the lack of sports facilities and what are some of the projects we would be able to do with key UCL stakeholders.
- Working with the societies and UCL East team to encourage more student groups to hold events on UCL East campus by promoting the UCL East grant fund and organising Bal to host tours around UCL East bookable spaces for societies.
- Delivered PG intro talks to over 1,000 students, which cover the main things that students wished they knew.
- In conversations with UCL and SU Advice Service about how best we can use the new OFS sexual misconduct conditions to create reporting and support channels that are robust and easy to use for students.
- Hosted a workshop at the TeamUCL Leaders Conference together with the sports officer and help staff run the event.
- Together with Goksu I have attended the Labour Conference and met with key people, such as Bridget Philipson, Jacqui Smith, Lisa Nandy, the Provost and staff from the UCL Policy Lab.
- Helped host Welcome Fair and attended Battled of the Halls, ArtsUCL takeover, TeamUCL takeover and Community Day takeover.
- Working on making the Active Bystander training compulsory for all core committee this year to then make it compulsory for all committee next year.
- Working with Rachel to create a new programme of Refreshers, which will allow clubs and societies run free taster sessions for students who missed out on welcome week.
- Working on improving sports night by implementing more freebies, more themed nights, changing the way the drink tokens work and creating more of a celebratory atmosphere through the promotion of scores from BUCS fixtures.
- Organised weekly surgeries: both Sabbatical ones (society type based) in printroom cafe and AEO officer ones in CSC common room for student leaders to come and ask questions.
- Filmed for the UCL town hall to talk about the Student Life Strategy to get more support from UCL staff.
- Working on making the union more transparent by publishing all grant allocations, overall finances the society/club currently has and the number of members.

### **Section 2: Sabbatical Officer Priorities**

## **How have you communicated with students in the last fortnight?**

I communicate with students every week through:

- Helping facilitate the University Challenge selections.
- Attending Cheerleading training and their socials.
- Meeting with club and society leaders on an ad-hoc basis when they ask for advice or help.

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

- Working with the societies and UCL East team to encourage more student groups to hold events on UCL East campus by promoting the UCL East grant fund and organising Bal to host tours around UCL East bookable spaces for societies. This is aimed to try to improve the student experience of those at UCL East.
- Working with the cultural team on a few projects that will focus more on cultural exploration: Discover London and Discover the UK programmes, which will be events where students will be able to go on organised trip around London and the UK to explore its history and culture. Additionally, working on the Cultural Summit, which will allow all the cultural societies to get together to ask questions and network.
- Working on the creation of the REFRESHERS project with Rachel, which is set to launch in reading week, where clubs and societies will be able to offer 1 free taster to students that missed out in joining early on during welcome week.
- Working on aligning the Student Led Volunteering Projects set up with clubs and societies so its easier to launch bespoke opportunities.
- Having discussions with the right UCL people around facilities for activities.

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

- Working with Eda and other teams to set up an Arts gallery in Phineas for underrepresented communities for Black History Month.
- Working with the Arts team to develop exhibitions and galleries around UCL campuses so that students are able to showcase their work.
- Working with the Arts team to host guest speakers from the London Arts community and allow students to have networking opportunities.
- Talking with UCL staff around getting more performance hours in the Bloomsbury Theatre.
- Giving ideas to the arts team around what workshops would be super useful for students and how best to facilitate them

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

- Working closely with Ben to see how we can expand the Varsity series, opening up the event to societies outside of sport, such as dance who seem very keen. This is still in early stages and there will be more updates on Varsity soon.
- Working on improving sports night by implementing more freebies, more themed nights, changing the way the drink tokens work and creating more of a celebratory atmosphere through the promotion of scores from BUCS fixtures.
- Working with project active on their 'Give it a go sessions' to help integrate them better with clubs, which have seen a huge number of clubs sign up (20+).

- Talking to student leaders from departmental and cultural societies to get them involved in TeamUCL Leagues, which has had great response and now many of them are signed up to play.
- Helping Project Active facilitate more beginner friendly sessions.
- Talking with key UCL figures in Estates about the importance of having a sports hub and facilities so that clubs are able to offer more sessions and expand to be able to engage a wider student body.

## Section 3: Attendance at important Union meetings and events

### 1) Union meetings attended and main outcomes

- Sport and physical activity student life strategy meeting to discuss how we can improve engagement and the offering for a wider range of students going into this year.
- Finance panels - awarded grants and accepted purchase request forms.

## Section 4: Attendance at important UCL meetings and events

### 1) UCL meetings attended and main outcomes

- UCL 200 meetings - making sure that student activity is at the forefront of their celebration, making sure that there is funding allocated for groups to be able to run activities.
- UCL operations - discussed how to allow for more facilities for student activity on UCL campus (practice rooms, sports facilities, and rooms for big activities)

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

### Policy: Active Bystander and Consent Training

- Working on making active bystander compulsory for all core committee for this year and all elected committee going forward.

### Policy: Scrutiny of Union Processes by Student Media

- Introduction of more transparency within the union (up for discussion in the activity zone) about making information such as grant allocations public and for everyone to see and scrutinise.

### Closing the Taster Membership Electoral Loophole

- Introduction of more transparency within the union (up for discussion in the activity zone) about making information such as grant allocations public and for everyone to see and scrutinise.

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

- I have been currently working on 3 key issues that are key to students:
- Discussing the lack of sports facilities and pushing for some of the projects that would help with that issue to key UCL stakeholders.
- Transparency: Created Sabbatical Officer and AEO surgeries, which is an opportunity for students to come talk to their officers and ask any questions about processes or just for advice. Also in conversation of publishing all grant allocations, the finances of societies and the amount of members.
- Working with the societies and UCL East team to encourage more student groups to hold events on UCL East campus by promoting the UCL East grant fund and organising Bal to host tours around UCL East bookable spaces for societies.

- In conversations with UCL and SU Advice Service about how best we can use the new OFS sexual misconduct conditions to create reporting and support channels that are robust and easy to use for students.
- Working with Rachel to create a new programme of Refreshers, which will allow clubs and societies run free taster sessions for students who missed out on welcome week.