

## Equity & Inclusion Officer – October Report

**Name: Eda Yildirimkaya**

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

- Black History Month: Working with POC Network and African Caribbean Society, I have been organising events for the Black History Month.
- Liberate Art Gallery: In the past two months, I have been working with the commercial, marketing, and artsUCL teams to launch our first indie art gallery at Phineas, where we will be displaying the artworks of marginalised students.
- UCL East: I am co-chairing the UCL East Student Experience Board, and I have been working on finding affordable, healthy, and sustainable food options for the East campus. Additionally, I have been working on a strategy to make the campus more lively for the students. Rachel and I are also getting ready to start conversations about transportation difficulties in Stratford.
- BSL: In collaboration with the BSL Society, we are working on ways to increase the participation capacities and promote BSL classes within our student body.
- First year international students support groups: Rachel (WCO) and I have been having conversations with UCL to find ways to continuously support our first year international students throughout their orientation process.
- Sabbatical Team on Insta: I have been working on creating a sabbatical officer team presence on our social media accounts. The goal is to make ourselves more visible for students so that they would know that they can contact us about their inquiries.

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

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

I have been very active on our Students' Union social media accounts since Welcome Week. I have delivered UG talks for our first year students. I have recently announced our Liberate Art Gallery both on our Instagram and website through a news article. I also just announced our Breast Cancer Awareness campaign: On Wednesdays We Wear Pink.

I have also been in contact with my student community officers, updating them frequently on what I'm working on.

### **1) Students are confident in connecting with each other and support one another to feel safe, reassured and inspired.**

- I had a meeting with the SSWS team and initiated the conversations regarding diversifying the mental health support on campus. During the meeting, I also highlighted the importance of crisis communication for the student community and what students expect from SSWS in such situations.
- Rachel, Darcy, and I are working alongside with our Senior Management Team to find ways to better support our first year international students.
- With the decision of the sabbatical team, I am now leading our team presence on social media, collaborating closely with our marketing team to build stronger connections with our student body.
- I am working on increasing the class numbers and capacity of the BSL society.

### **2) Students can be proud and accepted for who they are in a safe community with a high level of cultural understanding.**

- I had a meeting with the societies and intercultural engagement teams to launch a mandatory intercultural competency training module for the society committee members to increase cultural awareness across and within our societies.
- I have been working with TeamUCL to launch a body positivity and inclusive sports campaign in February in accordance with LGBTQ+ History Month and Eating Disorder Awareness Week.
- I had two separate meetings with the UCL EDI and Careers team around starting a leadership programme to empower and support marginalised student groups through student networks.

### **3) Students have an equitable experience in a united and inclusive community, regardless of where they are based and from.**

- I have been assigned as the co-chair of the UCL East Student Experience Board.
- I have had conversations with the UCL East marketing team around how to make the campus livelier for students,
- I have also initiated conversations around travelling to campus and walking back to the tube station during late hours, focusing on student safety.

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

### **1) Union meetings attended and main outcomes**

- Attended the Board of Trustees as the Vice Chair. I lead the sabb priorities sharing session. As the sabb team we were also involved in conversations about the Union building and the changes in artsUCL (I was specifically involved in inclusive arts discussion).
- Attended Union Exec meeting and contributed conversations around students' tenancy right and specific struggles of international students in this space.
- Attendance at important UCL meetings and events
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## Section 4: Attendance at important UCL meetings and events

### 1) UCL meetings attended and main outcomes

- Attended two Education Committee meetings and voted for the DAS to be approved by the committee.
- -Attended several Disability Equity Implementation Group meetings and started discussions around staff and student engagement in terms of disability equality.
- -Co-chaired UCL East Student Experience Board. I have been working with the commercial team to find creative food solutions on campus. I also have been liaising with UCL East departments to open up some of their spaces for clubs and societies for possible collaborations and workshops.
- -Attended Student Access and Success Committee and evaluated UG awarding gaps, clearing cohort demographics (in terms of student financial backgrounds), and widening participation report.
- -Attended the termly Race Equality Steering Group and met the new UCL EDI director as well as the majority of the EDI team

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

### Policy: Pronouns in Class

Over the summer, I have been forming relationships with the UCL EDI team and Senior Education Team to start lobbying on this policy. Now that the welcome period is over, I will pick this up very soon and reinitiate the conversations around this.

### Policy: Support the London-wide rent freeze

I have been working with Rachel on this.

### Policy: Supporting students in sex work

Due to our work cycle and having a new Welfare and Community Officer, we are currently

deciding on which policy proposal to sit under which sabbatical officer. This will be picked up soon by the relevant officers.

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

- Liberate Art Gallery + Black History Month (as they are joint projects)
- UCL East Student Experience Board updates
- First-year international student support groups (work-in-progress)