

President – October Report 1

Name: Gosku Danaci

Section 1: General Update

Represented the student body and the Union at UCL meetings and events. Got involved with national and regional lobbying for student transportation and housing issues. Went to Labour Party Conference for this. Represented UCL SU in RGSU meetings. Evaluated and edited Union's commercial strategy. Still exploring sustainable financial practices here at the Union, and working on COP29 preparations as I will be heading off to Baku, Azerbaijan. Always physically OR mentally working on the building, whether it be to lobby UCL Estates for the best building or to do SU visits with architects to create a vision forward. There's so much more that I am working on that I can't even recall without looking at my work notebook.

Section 2: Sabbatical Officer Priorities

How have you communicated with students in the past fortnight?

Yes, I try to meet students on campus whenever I can, especially our student staff. I reply to and signpost all students who email me. In a more reactive manner, I also meet with students who want to arrange a coffee catch up. I am in fortnightly contact with the Sustainability Officer, regarding sustainability. I plan to set up monthly catch ups with our Student Trustees too.

1) Students have waited long enough and deserve a home on campus where they can make connections, discover new interests and do things they enjoy and love.

We need a students' union building. The current Students' Union building scoping project is taking place and we're touring different Students' Unions across the country with our architects to work on the designs. I have urged UCL senior stakeholders to prioritise the building and the Provost is keen on keeping their promise. I am also in liaison with UCL Estates to have the best possible version of this building, as we have had a few options so far. We are lobbying UCL Estates for the best possible outcome.

2) Our Students' Union is in a strong position to look out for students and ensure their success at UCL.

With our Head of Commercials, I've worked on the Union's Commercial Strategy 2024-2027 and have outlined the need to work on a Commercial Marketing Strategy for the Union. We are actively reviewing our partnerships with external organisations to bring most services in house. Our Union is in a very secure financial position and we are working with our Finance Team and Sustainability Officer to have the best sustainable financial practices.

3) Students have a voice outside of UCL with local and national government to ensure their needs and interests are taken into account.

I have so far attended the 2024 Labour Party Conference where I met Bridget Phillipson MP, Secretary of State for Education, and Baroness Jacqui Smith, Minister of State for Skills. I've also had a meeting with Cllr Sabrina Francis regarding partnering up with Camden Council and have reached out to MP Uma Kumaran (UCL East) during the NUS National Lobby Day at the Parliament.

We are working on representing students' interests around housing, accommodation, transportation and safety issues around London. We have also recently got in touch with Deputy Mayor of London for Environment and Energy, Mete Coban MBE.

4) Any other priority updates?

None.

Section 3: Attendance at important Union meetings and events

1) Union meetings attended and main outcomes

Board Away Day: met with Trustees of the Board, had a successful meeting to begin the year up to full speed.

First Union Executive of this academic year: heard from students and discussed our agenda around national influencing ie. students' housing issues – which was helpful to me.

Section 4: Attendance at important UCL meetings and events

1) UCL meetings attended and main outcomes

UCL Council, Estates Management Committee, Investments Committee, Operations Committee, Finance Committee, Financial Performance and Planning Committee. We are growing our partnership with UCL further to the previous years, and working tirelessly on the Students' Union building.

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

Policy: Sustainability Training

The training is being developed by the Development Education Research Centre at IOE. I met with the lead academic overseeing this project and had a successful session. We're willing to have further sessions to develop this. We also hope to run the pilot this year to make sure all students may access the course in the beginning of the next academic year.

Policy: Use of Amazon Vouchers and Products

This policy has already been implemented.

Policy: The Union should bring all outsourced support staff at UCL in-house

Policy: Plant based food policy

We're working with our Commercial Team on this.

Policy: Good Night Out Training

Welfare and Community Officer role was vacant last year and this had automatically fallen under the President's remit. However, we have Rachel Lim this year and it's been passed on to her as it was deemed appropriate to be under her remit.

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

Students of UCL should rest assured, because our Union is in a strong operational and financial position. I, having seen some very big Students' Unions across the UK can confirm that we are the best and probably largest Students' Union in the UK. As President and Chair of the Board of Trustees, I am working towards realizing my priorities around getting a Students' Union building, successful national influencing and making Union a stronger and more sustainable institution.