

Postgraduate Officer – January Report

Name: Issy Smith

Section 1: General Update

My key focus in the new year has been on kicking off PG events for term 2, setting up the across-SU PG working group, and supporting the set up of a PG society.

I have also been involved in informing the new EC 'free-pass' policy and how to transform assessment and feedback at UCL, especially in regards to improving our 'research-led' name in practice across all levels of study.

On an important note, I have been successful in my application to Student Minds Student Advisory Committee (the first meeting is on 04/02). I am keen to use this platform to highlight the experiences of postgrad students, but more specifically, mature students, disabled students, neurodivergent, parents and carers, and working students to promote their wellbeing and improve their experiences of HE.

Section 2: Sabbatical Officer Priorities

1) Research, Masters and Mature students have an inclusive programme of events and activities; feeling valued as members of our community and supporting their wellbeing.

I have collaborated with the SU Events team to hold several events for PGT and PGR students and have planned the upcoming events for the rest of Term 2, including Chinese New Year Mahjong social. They have been popular with the most recent Master's crazy golf event selling out.

Working with Yasmin, Research Students' Officer, to start up PHD connect society for more across-university PHD events and networking opportunities.

Supporting the Mature Students Society to hold events. I am also putting together workshops for mature students to discuss recommendations found in recent studies on mature students to improve their UCL experience and will work with the SSPC to implement the top priorities.

I have set up the first meeting for an SU-wide PG working group to collaborate efforts across the Union to improve PG engagement in SU events and services in line with the Student Life Strategy.

2) Research and Masters students have a respected voice and are able to make informed choices, to better their education.

I'm in the process of setting up more PG academic rep lunch meet ups for Term 2, doubling up both as a networking opportunity and a platform to share issues/worries and find a solution with their postgraduate officer.

3) Students are financially supported in their time of need, so that they are able to achieve their potential.

N/A

4) Students who work know their rights and are developed, rewarded and recognised by their employer.

I worked with HR and Commercial team to set up the first SU student staff and SU leadership meeting (held on 30/01) to provide an open platform for communication and to discuss any issues that may be impacting our employees and/or the running of our bars and cafés.

Section 3: Attendance at important Union meetings and events

1) Union meetings attended and main outcomes

Emergency Board of Trustees: agreed to publish and published a ceasefire statement.

NUS national conference meet up: policy decided upon and submitted to the NUS conference.

Section 4: Attendance at important UCL meetings and events

1) UCL meetings attended and main outcomes

Student and Campus Experience Estates Board: good progress on the SU building. Moving on to next stage.

Graduations team catch up: gave feedback on our experiences of graduations and how we feel they could be improved. Was also informed of the changes they have made already.

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

Policy: Commitment to harm reduction

A follow up needs to be done.