

President – February Report

Name: Mary McHarg

Section 1: General Update

It's been, as usual, wildly busy. From the UCL Council Away Day, where Shaban and I helped contribute to the Council's priorities for the next year, to my regularly scheduled committees in Estates, Finance, and Sustainability, to some slightly more unique opportunities (like helping visually design the Russell Group Students' Unions' manifesto), I've been keeping very busy. I'm not sure how I found time to be an assistant director for a musical, but am very proud I did!

Section 2: Sabbatical Officer Priorities

1) Students are proud of Students' Union UCL, which represents their interests and continues to work for future students.

Chaired the UCL East Student Forum, making sure that we have student voice going directly to the staff members at East who can make a difference. A new common room for students will hopefully be opened for the new year (as long as all goes to plan!)

2) Students will have a new home for the future, where they feel part of a vibrant and inclusive community.

We are mid-RIBA Stage 1 for the new Union Building- progress and support continues to grow in both UCL's Estates Boards and the Student Life Subcommittee, and we are looking next to gain support from UCL Finance Committee and Estates Committee.

3) Students are developed and accredited for the skills that they develop co-curricularly, so that they can achieve their dreams.

Extended Learning Opportunities - the union have a great presence in this group, discussing how we can tie together co-curricular opportunities in the university and make them 'structurally unavoidable'. I'm continuing to push for a credit-bearing option for students engaging in the co-curricular program, including clubs and societies.

4) Students have influence nationally on the matters that affect them.

Helping work up the visual identity of the Russell Group Students' Unions Manifesto - we'll be launching the full manifesto in print around May, we're currently looking for an MP to sponsor the launch so that we can host it in Parliament.

5) Any other priority updates?

I am helping take a new Harm Reduction Policy to UCL Council, after successfully taking it through the University Management Committee. This would signal a step change for Student Support and Wellbeing, as we currently have no existing policy to support students going through substance abuse.

Section 3: Attendance at important Union meetings and events

1) Union meetings attended and main outcomes

Friends' Trust Panel - allocated all Friends' Trust funds to clubs and societies for this term.
Affiliations Panel - ran through and approved the newest set of club and society affiliations.
Board of Trustees - despite being late because of the UCL Council Away Day, I made sure to attend the Board meeting with our trustees!

Section 4: Attendance at important UCL meetings and events

1) UCL meetings attended and main outcomes

Strategic Opportunities Portfolio Board - supporting estates and building projects that could help create new flat floor spaces and large lecture theatres, which we are in urgent need of.
Student & Campus Experience Portfolio Board - progress continues to be made on the Union Building project, as well as some new movement in developing plans for sports facilities.
APP focus group - developing UCL's Access and Participation plan for UG students.
UCL Travel plan - discussing safety for students travelling to and from campus, including lighting concerns both within UCL and externally (especially in the South Quad, Malet Place, and between Gordon Square and the IOE).
Senior Education Team - met with UCL's Senior Education team to sense-check our current projects and ensure progress is being made across the board, particularly relevant to me was how we can develop co-curricular opportunities in Term 3 most effectively.
UCL Council Away Day - set the priorities for the upcoming year with Shaban and Council members, including assessment and achievement, which students have very varying experiences with depending on department/faculty.

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

Policy: Sustainability Training

Progress continues to be made on the training! We are also running a Sustainability Leadership Conference in April, with tickets launching imminently. This will be a free opportunity for any student to get involved in skills development around sustainability leadership and climate policy!

Policy: Use of Amazon Vouchers and Products

N/A

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

N/A

Policy: Plant based food policy

N/A

Policy: Good Night Out Training

N/A