

Student Activities Officer

Report to Council

March & April 2020



su.activities@qub.ac.uk

Note on COVID-19:

First and foremost, I want to say a massive thank you and well done for getting through this incredibly difficult period. For helping our fellow students along the way; whether you reassured or passed on student concerns to us, worked on getting advice to those you represent, or organised to ensure our students are being protected – we are all incredibly grateful and proud of you, and you should absolutely be proud of yourselves.

The months of March & April were completely unprecedented, and saw us adapt to an entirely new way of working, and creating new methods of engaging with you all. Many of my projects that I had hoped to oversee in my last months as your Activities Officer unfortunately had to be put aside, but I want you to be reassured that the latter half of March and April were focused on the response to COVID-19, ensuring your interests, whether; academic support, mental health support or your student experience were protected as much as they could be.

As this is my last report to Council, I want to take this opportunity to say a massive thank to you all for everything you've done this year & offer my continued support for the next few months. I was incredibly honoured to have been elected as your NUS-USI President 2020-22 on the 21st April. I will continue representing you and fighting for your rights for the next two years, but for the remainder of my time with QUBSU, please feel free to reach out to me on su.activities@qub.ac.uk with any issues or concerns you have during this crisis. Stay home & stay safe!

March and April Priorities:

- UCU Strikes – supporting UCU staff in their strike action and being present at the picket line as much as possible. Engaging with student groups to raise engagement with the strikes, organised sessions for the picket line including a fossil fuel divestment protest and a 'history of student activism' session. Alongside the team, held a UCU Strike Town Hall so students could chat directly to UCU leaders.
- COVID-19 – Student Engagement – working to maintain engagement with students and to take care of students wellbeing during this crisis. Created daily Instagram takeovers on InsideQUBSU to answer student queries and offer tips – thanks to all who take part. Worked to set up COVID-19 Community Group for students to engage and stay in touch with each other, and worked with our International Students Officer to help set up International Students Response Group. Organised online events such as the Great SU Bake Off, SU Awards & offered support to Clubs & Societies in running their own online events.
- Engaged with Queen's Wellbeing Services and Inspire to ensure students still have access to counselling and mental health support via phone / video calls.
- Worked with different sustainability working groups to adapt carbon management strategy and plan post COVID-19.
- Worked on a vast increase of student casework; students seeking emergency accommodation, sign posting for mental health support and seeking advice for increased financial support for students financially impacted by COVID-19.
- Worked alongside Officer Team and NUS-USI to ensure financial and academic support was available to students given new, often impossible, working conditions.

Date	Meetings / Events
2 nd March	UCU Strike – Picket Line Seachtain na Gaelige
3 rd March	UCU Strike – Picket Line
4 th March	UCU Strike – Picket Line Student Voice Meeting
7 th March	International Women’s Day Rally
8 th March	Sunday Brunch Club
9 th March	UCU Strike – Picket Line Common Youth – Sex Positivity Workshop
10 th March	UCU Strike – Picket Line Student Voice Meeting
15 th March	Sunday Brunch Club
16 th March	SU Marketing meeting Officer Team meeting
18 th March	COVID-19 Update meeting Clubs & Societies Update & Meeting
19 th March	Working From Home – Start
23 rd March	Student Voice Meeting COVID-19 Officer Team Meeting
26 th March	SU Awards – Virtual
27 th March	COVID-19 Officer Update meeting
30 th March	Voice, Clubs & Socs, Marketing Meeting – Online Activities Development
31 st March	NUS Conference - Online Supplementary Regulations Update Meeting
1 st April	NUS Conference – Online NUS-USI COVID-19 Update
3 rd April	Environmental Manager – Meeting SU Marketing – Meeting
6 th April	International Students Response Group – Meeting Officer Team Meeting
7 th April	NUS-USI – COVID-19 Update & member update Student Voice meeting Volunteer SU Catch-Up
8 th April	Supplementary Regulations Briefing Student Voice meeting All SU Staff Meeting
9 th April	Student Development Meeting Student Officer / Voice Meeting NUS-USI Meeting
13 th – 18 th April	Easter Break
21 st April	NUS-USI Conference (wahey Elected..)
23 rd April	NUS-USI Interview Panel Student Voice Meeting
24 th April	EMC Student Housing Meeting
27 th April	Student Voice Meeting Sustainability Catch-Up

	NUS-USI COVID-19 Update
28 th April	Student Voice Meeting NUS-USI Members Update
29 th April	Management Board Meeting
30 th April	Student Voice Meeting Change Management Working Group USI Campaigns Working Group