

**Queen's Students' Union**  
**Student Activities Officer**  
**Ellen Fearon**  
**Annual Business Meeting Report 2019/20**



***A note to you all:***

What. A. Year. We have never had a year like this in our society, or in Higher Education. In the academic year 2019/20, as a student community, we experienced an ongoing global pandemic resulting in a complete restructure to all of our lives, two national UCU strikes, a general election, Brexit, the restoration of the NI Assembly after 3 years and we saw the introduction of marriage equality and abortion legislation in the north after decades of fighting. All of this, on top of your own personal struggles, successes and keeping on top of your studies. You are all incredible, and in need of a well-deserved break this coming summer.

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 last few months were completely unprecedented, and saw us as an Officer team 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 paused, but I want you to be reassured that the latter half of March, April and May have been 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 you, I want to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:su.activities@qub.ac.uk) with any issues or concerns you have during this crisis. In July, I leave you in the very safe hands of Chloe Ferguson, QUBSU's very first VP Campaigns & Engagement, who will be here to support you next year. Good luck to Chloe and the rest of the 2020/21 incoming team – you face incredibly tough challenges & I have the utmost faith that you will do everything you can for our students. It's been an honour to represent you and organise with you this year. Stay home & stay safe! We will all get through this together.

***Ellen – Your Activities Officer***

## Overview & Highlights – Activities Officer 2019/20

- ✓ **QUBSU Climate Action Group - Green New Deal, Divestment, Climate Strikes**
  - Brought a motion to the first Student Council of the year for the SU to declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency.
  - Formed a Climate Action Group which has 58 students and staff across the University. This is a group set up to improve environmental practices and policies at Queen's.
  - We have created a 'QUBSU Green New Deal' outlining that the University should become carbon neutral by 2030, with 19 suggestions on how to get there. A petition was created and signed by 350+ students to go to an all student referendum on the GND at the end of January.
  - Led on the Green New Deal Referendum (28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January) with the QUBSU Climate Action Group, resulting in a 93% 'YES' Vote, with a turnout of 1144. This involved working with the group to develop the Green New Deal, collecting student signatures to go to an all-student referendum, creating vote 'Yes' materials, canvassing for a Yes vote and creating a social media strategy – a massive thank you to the incredible student and staff activists involved in making this happen.
  - This deal was taken to the highest levels of University Managements; Vice Chancellor, Heads of Department, Directors of Education etc.
  - Currently working with the Environmental Manager at Queens to implement new structures to give students a voice in decision making processes and ways to implement this deal.
  - Currently working with sustainability academics and Environmental team in creating an online introductory module for all students on the Climate Emergency.
  - Held a divestment protest at the UCU Picket Line in March, off the back of a complete lack of transparency from the University on their processes in divesting from fossil fuels.
  - Organised QUBSU presence at two global climate strike protests in Belfast City Centre.
  
- ✓ **Weeks Don't End - Sunday Brunch Club**
  - Organised Sunday Brunch every Sunday 11am-1pm in the Lounge in the SU, from October to March. Big thank you to everyone who helped out with this!
  - These were not exclusive to, but aimed at International and GB students who are often left isolated on campus when most local students go home.
  - I have engaged in meetings with International Students Officer & Queens International Student Society to expand this and hand it over for the academic year 2020/21.
  - This was extremely worthwhile and I got an incredible response from students' who attended this weekly. I would recommend the SU works with the University to establish better support for International students left isolated at weekends, and work to move campus away from being a Monday-Thursday campus as it currently is.
  
- ✓ **Student Engagement Campaign**

- Created weekly rota for officers and other SU staff to be out all over campus each Tuesday from 12pm-3pm, promoting different SU and student initiatives, and collecting feedback from students. We had; voter registration, Volunteer SU promotion, Advice SU promotion, Enterprise SU promotion and feedback sessions on the SU.
  - This stopped and started throughout the year with mandates not to cross picket lines during period of UCU strike action and slow introduction of lockdown measurements in Semester 2.
- ✓ **RAG Review**
- Initial meetings with Volunteer SU, Student Voice and current RAG President to agree to conduct a RAG Review to introduce more SU support for RAG and enhance how the fundraising body operates.
  - Met with RAG, SU departments, ex-RAG presidents and external organisations to discuss changes to the structure of RAG and support from the SU to RAG.
  - Completed first and second drafts of the RAG Review which were reviewed by Student Voice and the current RAG President and Vice President.
  - Final draft in progress to be accepted by the current RAG Committee and approved by EMC.
- ✓ **Presidential Forum**
- Held Presidential Forum each semester, on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for Clubs and Society Presidents and Executive Committee Member regarding our new 5 year strategic plan, and collective feedback on their opinions of the SU and Clubs and Socs.
  - Also included, feedback on support needed for Clubs/Socs going forward, funding issues & as well as acknowledging supportive relationships from our Club & Soc staff.
- ✓ **Activities Officer Drop In Sessions**
- Established Activities Officer Drop-In Sessions monthly which were open to any Club or Societies member, alternating between the PEC and SU on the first Monday of each month – this has shown successful in helping students resolve internal issues; funding issues, advice on conflict resolution, event spaces etc.
- ✓ **Sponsorship Framework for Clubs and Societies**
- Created and developed Clubs & Socs sponsorship policy, draft contract and draft 'One-off event' agreement for Clubs/Socs and any potential sponsor to enter into.
  - Aims to increase funding for Clubs & Societies, provide clear guidelines and protection from exploitation from companies, and help members develop their business skills.
  - This has been approved by the Clubs & Societies department, Queens Sport and DARO and now awaits final approval from EMC to be uploaded for the use of Clubs/Socs in 2020/21.
- ✓ **Weeks Don't End - Sunday Brunch Club**
- Organised Sunday Brunch every Sunday 11am-1pm in the Lounge in the SU, from October to March. Big thank you to everyone who helped out with this!
  - These were not exclusive to, but aimed at International and GB students who are often left isolated on campus when most local students go home.

- I have engaged in meetings with International Students Officer & Queens International Student Society to expand this and hand it over for the academic year 2020/21.
  - This was extremely worthwhile and I got an incredible response from students' who attended this weekly. I would recommend the SU works with the University to establish better support for International students left isolated at weekends, and work to move campus away from being a Monday-Thursday campus as it currently is.
- ✓ **Refugees and Asylum Seeker Support**
- Along with our Education Officer, held an information session for asylum seekers on how to access the University's 2 Asylum Seeker Scholarships, which have now been opened up to postgraduates.
  - Worked alongside NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS) in developing a strategy for pathways into Higher Education for local asylum seekers
- ✓ **Trade Union Relationships & Student Workers**
- Re-established relationship with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to form a campaign for student's workers' rights on and off campus – this campaign was paused following 3 meetings in its planning stages as this was a part of the Action Changes Things conference plan. Plans involved collecting data from student workers, creating a pledge for local businesses to sign up to publicly stating they pay fair wages and don't steal tips etc.
  - Worked with UCU to develop 'Trade Union Education' program for students, this is sitting with UCU to find out if the program can be Degree Plus recognised and the logistics of running it annually.
  - I will create a permanent structure for a relationship with ICTU and the SU before the end of my term, to ensure that student workers rights are able to be picked up year on year.
- ✓ **UCU Strikes**
- Supporting UCU staff in their strike action during both periods of strike action this academic year 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.
  - Brought an emergency motion to student council before the second period industrial strike action commenced, ensuring the SU's support for UCU strike action was reaffirmed.
- ✓ **COVID-19 Response**
- 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.

✓ **Action Changes Things Conference**

- *This conference was cancelled due to COVID-19 but I wanted to include because I had spent a lot of time in organising it and thought it might be helpful for future students looking to hold this conference.*
- Secured funding and developed planning for an 'Action Changes Things' Activism Conference which would have been held in May in Crumlin Road Gaol – conference was to focus on environmentalism and trade unionism to student attendees, delivering campaign training and learning from social justice groups. Conference had confirmed facilitators such as; Phoenix law, Alliance for Choice, ICTU etc.
- Digital alternatives to this will be sought out during the summer and included in handover for 2020/21 team.

## Officer Reports:

### August Priorities:

- Plan of work for the year – detailing how to orchestrate a student engagement campaign that would last the entire academic year and getting staff on board to assist with this
- Clubs and Societies Sponsorship – drafting sponsorship policies and draft contracts for Clubs & Socs execs to use
- Student Union Training – having missed induction training, time was spent catching up on this
- Meeting department heads in Queens
- Catch ups with Enterprise SU, Volunteer SU, Clubs and Societies, Student Voice, SU Director, SU Marketing, Advice SU and Finance.
- Allocating budget for the year and identifying which projects would take priority for first semester

### Activity to Date

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> August 2019	Catch up officer team and student voice
2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2019	Meeting – President RAG
5 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Clubs and Societies Briefing –Alice Devlin New Build Update – SU Director
6 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Meeting – Student Voice
7 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	SUT+
8 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	SUT+
9 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	SUT+
12 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	
13 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Meeting – Volunteer SU Meeting – Student Voice – Plan of Work
14 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Meeting – Community Engagement EMC
15 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Meeting – CED – Tracy Galvin Buddy Scheme Organising
16 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	
19 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Media training
20 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	SU Volunteering Working Group Shot video for SU Marketing
21 <sup>st</sup> August 2019	Meeting – Wilma Fee
22 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	SU All Team Meeting Advice SU / Sabbs re: Housing Event
23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2019	Visit from Limerick SU and UCD SU
26 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Meeting – Sage Amigos Student Disciplinary Accompaniment
27 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	EMC Meeting: Damien Toner – Estates

	PACT (Residents) – Belfast City Hall
28 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Meeting – Matthew Collins – VR for Housing event Residential Assistants Event
29 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Advice SU – Meeting re: housing event
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Meeting Public Engagement NIO Briefing



### September and October Priorities:

- Student Engagement Campaign – created rota for officers and other SU staff to be out all over campus each Tuesday from 12pm-3pm, promoting different SU and student initiatives, and collecting feedback from students.
- Weeks-Don't-End – Sunday Brunch Campaign – organised Sunday Brunch started from 10<sup>th</sup> November every Sunday 11am-1pm in the Lounge in the SU. This will be not exclusive to, but aimed at international and GB students who are often left isolated on campus with most local students go home.
- Presidential Forum – met with 52 Clubs and Socs regarding our new 5 year strategic plan, and collective feedback on their opinions of the SU and Clubs and Socs
- Started Activities Officer Drop-In Sessions monthly which are open to any Club or Soc member
- Formed Climate Action Group after meeting with various Queens staff, students and external organisations about the current climate emergency

2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019	Meeting – Student Voice, VP Welfare – Off Campus Discipline
3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2019	Committee of Discipline – Accompaniment
4 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Team training day Meeting with DARO
5 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Open Day – Whitla Hall Catch Up – Officer Team Annual Fund Applications Deadline
7 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Rally for Choice
9 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Health and Safety Training
10 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Student Voice Catch Up Meeting with Appeals and Complaints Induction Talk – IPLS Meeting – Queens Sport (Disparity of funding)
11 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	EMC
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Buddy Scheme Preparation Meeting – SU mission statement Student Development Meeting International Buddy Scheme: Meet Up
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Registration as Student Officer Commercial Services Forum International Buddy Scheme: Pub Crawl
14 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Welcome Weekend – Elms BT9
16 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Induction Talk – Social Work Induction Talk – IPLS
17 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Induction Talk – Chemistry SU Strategic Plan Sub-Group Meeting
18 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Big Brunch – VP Activities Event

Hello Neighbour event – Holylands	
19 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Induction Talk – Maths and Physics
	Social Media Training – Dillon Osborne
20 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Lord Mayor Breakfast – City Hall Strike for Climate Action
24 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Run For Something –Graduate School
25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Freshers’ Fair
27 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Meeting – Volunteer SU – Handy Helpers Social Hackathon Meeting – Dragonslayers and timetabling
30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019	Meeting – Student Voice – Student Engagement Campaign Public Engagement Policy Event RAG Meeting
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2019	Management School Open Evening
2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019	Black History Month Launch
3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019	Mental Health in Sport Conference
7 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Meeting – Sara Lynch – Environmental Manager in Estates DASA Senior Team Management RAG Meeting
8 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	SU Management Meeting re: Student Engagement
	Student Voice Catch-Up Student Engagement: Rep Elections Charities Committee Meeting EMC
9 <sup>th</sup> October	Handy Helpers Welcome Event – Ran social hackathon
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Student Development Meeting
	Meeting – SU Marketing Community Steering Group World Mental Health Day – Stalls QISS – Qulture Shock Meeting Black History Month – Decolonising Gender Meeting – Alice Devlin – Clubs and
11 <sup>th</sup> October	Socs Sponsorship Process
14 <sup>th</sup> October	Meeting – SU Marketing Meeting – Enactus – Event planning event Presidential Forum – VP Activities Event
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Student Engagement – Feedback Handy Helpers Community Activity Part-time Officers – Briefing
16 <sup>th</sup> October	Public Engagement Operational Group Meeting – Professor John Barry Homework Clubs Induction

	SU Management Board
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Meeting – AHSS – QUB Sustainable Festival Public Engagement – Rob McGreer – TedX
18 <sup>th</sup> October	Meeting - Fiona McGarry – UCU
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Meeting – Officers – OMNI Fitness to Practice Panel Project Choice First Meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	RAG Meeting Student Engagement SU Area Safety Committee Meeting Meeting – Alice Devlin – Clubs 7 Socs Week
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	EMC Inaugural QUB Sustainability Lecture
24 <sup>th</sup> October	RAG Review Meeting – Volunteer SU
25 <sup>th</sup> October	Meeting – Student Engagement Rota Meeting – International Office - Asylum Seekers Scholarships
28 <sup>th</sup> October	SU Council
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Advice SU – Pop Up Stall – Biological Sciences
30 <sup>th</sup> October	LGBTQ+ Career Day – Youth Action – Panellist
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Meeting – Phoenix Law – Legal training SU Team Meeting Meeting – Library Services
4 <sup>th</sup> November	Activities Officer Drop-In Session – PEC RAG Review – Student Voice
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Student Engagement – Feedback on Canvas Committee of Discipline Advice SU Meeting
6 <sup>th</sup> November	RAG Review – Paul Loughran Meeting – Engineers Ireland EMC NUS-USI Manifesto Launch INTO Interview

#### **November and December Priorities:**

- Created Clubs & Socs sponsorship policy, draft contract and draft 'One-off event' agreement for Clubs/Socs and any potential sponsor to enter into. This will hopefully help to increase funding for Clubs & Societies, provide clear guidelines and protection from exploitation from companies, and help members develop their business skills. This has been approved by the Clubs & Societies

department, Queens Sport and is now sitting with DARO for final approval before it can be used by Clubs & Socs.

- Student Engagement Campaign – created rota for officers and other SU staff to be out all over campus each Tuesday from 12pm-3pm, promoting different SU and student initiatives, and collecting feedback from students. We had; voter registration, Volunteer SU promotion, Advice SU promotion, Enterprise SU promotion and feedback sessions on the SU. It has been successful thus far.
- Formed a Climate Action Group which has 48 students and staff across the University. This is a group set up to improve environmental practices and policies at Queen’s. We have created a ‘QUBSU Green New Deal’ outlining that the University should become carbon neutral by 2030, with 19 suggestions on how to get there. A petition was created to put this to an all student referendum, which will hopefully be going ahead at the end of January.
- Weeks-Don’t-End – Sunday Brunch Campaign – organised Sunday Brunch started from 10<sup>th</sup> November every Sunday 11am-1pm in the Lounge in the SU. These are not exclusive to, but aimed at international and GB students who are often left isolated on campus with most local students go home. This has seen 30-40 attend weekly, with good engagement. Starting up again on 19<sup>th</sup> January.
- Started Activities Officer Drop-In Sessions monthly which are open to any Club or Societies member, alternating between the PEC and SU. First 2 sessions have been completed, and will continue on 13<sup>th</sup> January.
- UCU Strikes – supporting UCU staff in their strike action and being present at the picket line as much as possible
- Along with our Education Officer, held an information session for asylum seekers on how to access our 2 Asylum Seeker Scholarship, which have now been opened up to postgraduates. Will be working to improve the accessibility of these scholarships in second semester.
- RAG Review – met with RAG, SU departments, ex-RAG presidents and external organisations to discuss changes to the structure of RAG and support from the SU to RAG.
- Secured funding for our second ‘Action Changes Things’ Activism Conference which will be held again in May, and organised by the Student Officer Team this year, as opposed to Volunteer SU.
- Re-established relationship with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to form a campaign for student’s workers’ rights on and off campus – this is in early stages. A priority in second semester will be to create a permanent relationship and link with QUBSU and trade unions in the North.

4 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activities Officer Drop-In Session – PEC</li> <li>- RAG Review – Student Voice</li> </ul>
5 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student Engagement – Feedback on Canvas</li> <li>- Committee of Discipline</li> <li>- Advice SU Meeting</li> </ul>
6 <sup>th</sup> November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RAG Review – Paul Loughran</li> <li>- Meeting – Engineers Ireland</li> <li>- EMC</li> <li>- NUS-USI Manifesto Launch</li> <li>- INTO Interview</li> </ul>

7th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student Voice Meeting – Voter Registration Campaign</li> </ul>
8th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RAG Review Meeting – Officer Team</li> <li>- The Gown – Conor Reid</li> </ul>
11th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UCU Meeting</li> <li>- Gave talk for Global Opportunities Dept.</li> <li>- Student casework meeting</li> <li>- Plastic Reduction Committ1ee</li> <li>- Standing Committee</li> <li>- Climate Action Group – First Meeting</li> </ul>
12th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advice SU – Pop-Up EPS</li> <li>- Student Engagement</li> <li>- SU Council – Stormont</li> </ul>
13th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Fund Photo Shoot</li> <li>- QUB Sustainability Festival</li> <li>- Committee of Discipline – Student Accompaniment</li> <li>- Change Management Group</li> </ul>
14th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RAG Review – Connor Malone – Concern</li> </ul>
15th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ICTU Meeting</li> <li>- Student Officer Meeting – Constitutional Amendments</li> </ul>
18th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clubs and Societies Review Group</li> <li>- RAG Review – Enterprise</li> <li>- LiUNA phone call meeting</li> </ul>
19th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Student Engagement</li> <li>- Climate Action Group – Second Meeting</li> </ul>
20th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marketing meeting – Climate Action</li> <li>- Executive Management Committee</li> <li>- Disciplinary Meeting – Student Accompaniment</li> <li>- Full Execs – QUBSU / UUSU / NUS-USI Strike Talks</li> <li>- Co-Act for Climate</li> </ul>
21st November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commercial Services Forum</li> <li>- Advice SU – Housing meeting</li> </ul>
22nd November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Leave</li> </ul>
25th November – First day UCU Strikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Meeting – Clubs &amp; Societies</li> <li>- Meeting – Environmental Manager (Sara Lynch)</li> </ul>
26th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate Action Group</li> </ul>
27th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ICTU Meeting</li> <li>- Standing Committee</li> <li>- Climate meeting</li> </ul>
28th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental and Ethical Committee</li> </ul>
29th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strategic Plan Sub Group</li> </ul>
2nd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Activities Officer Drop In</li> <li>- SU Management Board</li> <li>- SU Council</li> </ul>
4th December – Last day of UCU Strikes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ACG Rally</li> <li>- Executive Management Committee</li> </ul>

5 <sup>th</sup> December	- Carbon Management Development Group
9 <sup>th</sup> December	- Green Fund Application Review - Meeting – Student casework - Student Voice – 2019 Review - Asylum Seekers Scholarships Info Sessions
10 <sup>th</sup> December	- Student Voice Catch-up - Student Engagement
11 <sup>th</sup> December	- Disciplinary Meeting – Student Accompaniment - Graduation Ceremony – SU Rep
17 <sup>th</sup> December	- Volunteering Working Group - NUS-USI Meeting
18 <sup>th</sup> December	- Student Officer Team Away Day - Executive Management Committee
20 <sup>th</sup> December	- Finished for Christmas break

### **January and February Priorities:**

- Led on the Green New Deal Referendum with the QUBSU Climate Action Group, resulting in a 93% 'YES' Vote, with a turnout of 1144. This involved working with the group to develop the Green New Deal, collecting student signatures to go to an all-student referendum, creating vote 'Yes' materials, canvassing for a Yes vote and creating a social media strategy – a massive thank you to the incredible student and staff activists involved in making this happen.
- Weeks-Don't-End – Sunday Brunch Club campaign – organised Sunday Brunch every Sunday 11am-1pm in the Lounge in the SU. These were not exclusive to, but aimed at International and GB students who are often left isolated on campus when most local students go home. I have engaged in meetings with International Students Officer & Queens International Student Society to expand this and hand it over for the academic year 2020/21.
- Student Engagement Campaign – continued rota for officers and other SU staff to be out all over campus each Tuesday from 12pm-3pm for January, promoting different SU and student initiatives, and collecting feedback from students.
- Continued Activities Officer Drop-In Sessions monthly which are open to any Club or Societies member, alternating between the PEC and SU – this has shown successful in helping students resolve internal issues.
- 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.
- Worked alongside NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS) in developing a strategy for pathways into Higher Education for local asylum seekers

- Secured funding and developed planning for an ‘Action Changes Things’ Activism Conference which would have been held in May – conference was to highlight environmentalism and trade unionism to student attendees.
- Held Presidential Forum for our Clubs & Societies leaders, receiving incredible levels of feedback on support needed for Clubs/Socs going forward, funding issues & as well as acknowledging supportive relationships from our Club & Soc staff.
- Worked to increase engagement with the Student Leader Elections and met with numerous students on running for both full-time and part-time roles for 2020/21.
- Supported RAG executive through a successful RAG Week and continued to engage on this year’s RAG Review.
- Worked to support Student Development initiatives; opening and assisting with Homework Clubs Induction Training, participating as SU Leader in Inspiring Leaders training, sat on SU Awards & RAG shortlisting panels, helped to deliver Refreshers Fair and promoted Dragons Den, Handy Helpers and other Enterprise and Volunteer SU initiatives.
- Worked to build relationship with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to form a campaign for student’s workers’ rights on and off campus and engage them with upcoming conference.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Meetings / Events</u></b>
6th January	International Students ‘Meet the Services’ Event
7th January	RAG Review meeting – RAG President
8th January	Blackwells – meeting to extend supplies for activities
9th January	Student Development meeting Committee of Discipline VR Housing Event meeting
10th January	An Cumann Gaelach meeting INTO students – SU Induction NICRAS meeting – pathways to HE for asylum seekers
12th January	Sunday Brunch Club
14th January	Student Voice meeting Climate Action Group Meeting SU Council
15th January	Go Global Mini Fair – Careers EMC SU strategic plan meeting - Officers
16th January	Petitioning for CAG referendum ICTU meeting International Buddy Scheme Training
17th January	UG prospectus photoshoot International Students Officer – meeting

	Sustainability Lecturers – meeting
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Sunday Brunch Club
20 <sup>th</sup> January	VR Housing Event filming Petitioning for CAG referendum Action Changes Things Conference planning meeting
21 <sup>st</sup> January	SU Elections meeting Climate Action Group meeting
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Marketing SLE video shoot International Buddy Scheme – Undergrad meet-up
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	SU Election meeting International Buddy Scheme – Postgrad meet-up PhD Event – Graduate School
24 <sup>th</sup> January	NUS-USI meeting – tuition fees Buddy Scheme Pub Crawl meeting
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Sunday Brunch Club
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Presidential Forum – Clubs & Socs leaders Run For Something – Graduate School
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Green New Deal Referendum – Day 1 Climate Action Group Meeting Refreshers Fair – Clubs & Socs
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Green New Deal Referendum – Day 2 Homework clubs induction training
30 <sup>th</sup> January	NUS-USI Accountability Surgery Buddy Scheme pub crawl
31 <sup>st</sup> January	USI Women Lead – Dublin
1 <sup>st</sup> February	USI Women Lead – Dublin
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Sunday Brunch Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Activities Officer Drop-In Session Committee meeting Officer team meeting
4 <sup>th</sup> February	Advice SU Meeting Action Changes Things – Venue check
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Inspiring Leaders – Hilton, Templepatrick LGBT+ History Month Launch
6 <sup>th</sup> February	NISPA Youth Committee Meeting – Climate Action Decolonise Network meeting
8 <sup>th</sup> February	Sunday Brunch Club



10 <sup>th</sup> February	Your Education Matters – workshop QUB 175 Challenge meeting – DARO
11 <sup>th</sup> February	Public Engagement Operational Group NUS-USI Meeting RAG Shortlisting Panel
12 <sup>th</sup> February	UCU & NUS-USI meeting EMC
13 <sup>th</sup> February	RAG Meeting – Vice President An Cumann Gaelach Meeting Environmental Manager – Meeting
14 <sup>th</sup> February	SU Shop – Biological Sciences opening
16 <sup>th</sup> February	Sunday Brunch Club
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Queens Sport Meeting SU Elections – Hustings SU Area Safety Committee
19 <sup>th</sup> February	QUB Challenge 175 Meeting – DARO RAG Drunk Lectures
20 <sup>th</sup> February	UCU Strikes – Picket Line SU Autonomy Meeting – Team RAG Fundraiser
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Sunday Brunch Club
24 <sup>th</sup> February	SU Elections / UCU Strikes – Annual Leave
25 <sup>th</sup> February	SU Elections / UCU Strikes – Annual Leave
27 <sup>th</sup> February	SU Team Meeting SU Awards judging panel UCU Meeting Environmental Manager – meeting

### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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

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