

STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL

The 3rd Students' Union Council Meeting (SUC) of the 2019/20 Academic Year,
Monday 16th December 2019, 6PM

OFFICER UPDATES

In this document you can find updates from:

- **George Walker** – Vice President Community & Welfare
- **Fabian Jasonson** – Froebel College Deputy President
- **Katie Nguyen** - Whitelands College President
- **Jacob Afedi** - Male Interfaith Officer
- **Laoise Holohan** - Environment and Sustainability Officer
- **Farrah Black** - Gender Equality Officer
- **Ellie Hall** - Digby Stuart College Deputy President
- **Nicolò Sodaro** – Postgraduate Students' Officer
- **Nathan Lamb** - Off-Campus and Commuting Students' Officer
- **Luke Coffey** - International Students' Officer
- **Jude Stellato** - Trans Students' Officer
- **Annabel Black** - LGBTQ+ Officer
- **Dre Mbwese** - Froebel College President
- **Sierra Kamara** - BAME Students' Officer

Roehampton Students' Union Council Chair did not receive updates from the following officers:

1. **Daniel O' Donogue** – (RSU President)
2. **Levi Mbiya** (Vice President Education)
3. **Ethan Thubron** (Sport Roehampton President – Male)
4. **Harry Newark** (Students with Caring Responsibilities' Officer)
5. **Joshua Sadler** (Students with disabilities' Officer)
6. **Minaal Ali** (Southlands College President)
7. **Olivia Jayeola** (Mental Health Officer)
8. **Samir Abubakar** (Whitelands College Deputy President)
9. **Shez Khan** (Southlands College Deputy President)
10. **Sophie Harris** (Mature Students' Officer)
11. **Stephanie Rosenje** (Female Interfaith Officer)
12. **Tamiah Forbes** (Digby Stuart College President)

George Walker

Vice President Community & Welfare



Sabbatical Officer Update on 16/12/2019

- 1) I have helped create a Memorandum of Understanding between the University and the Union. Having referenced many other institutions I have helped facilitate a document which outlines the relationship and expectations between the two organizations. This has now been approved by the transition committee.
- 2) Working with Aleata (Head of Services) we are very close to hiring a full time member of staff who will roll out Mental Health First Aid training for the student body.
- 3) I have attended all four colleges Christmas meals in an attempt to engage with as many different students as possible. It has been great to receive feedback from students on how they feel the year has gone so far.
- 4) Having secured the £500 funding from our previous Student Union Council I am now in the process of creating a campaign plan with Emily Cookson and Vilde for Bystander Workshops.
- 5) Following our decision to support the UCU strikes I joined the picket line at points during the 8 working days of strikes. As well as this I helped facilitate pop up advice stalls and supported the 12 days of Christmas (an events program designed to alleviate stress for students).
- 6) I have helped create an Accommodation Survey which has now been released. We will analyze the results of the survey and bring the findings to the accommodation subcommittee of which 6 of our PTO's sit on. It would be great if everyone could help in the promotion of the survey.
- 7) Along with the other two sabbatical officers we have continued to Welfare manage our late night events program. The Christmas period has been particularly busy and as such a lot of our time has been spent facilitating this role.
- 8) Since the last meeting of SUC I have sat on important University meetings; these have included Student Senate and University Senate.
- 9) I have been involved in the recruitment process of new interns for the RSU. We have successfully appointed two new interns.

Fabian Jasonson

Froebel College Deputy President



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

- Participating in the setup of the Froebel Christmas meal
- Creating, organising and enacting a college trip to Winter Wonderland
- Helping my CLDO get evidence for and arrange meetings with flat reps regarding concerns within - their flats

Katie Nguyen

Whitelands College President



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

- Improve and promote facilities on Whitelands
- Implement the Equal Access Campaign - Roehampton University offering scholarships, bursaries, fee waivers and accommodation for asylum seeking/refugees students
- Provide a range of events catered to a range of Whitelands student

Other activities I've been involved with:

- Commuters breakfast and snack - Whitelands have juice and biscuits in the reception for commuting students in the morning and during lunch
- Foodbank in reception - food donations to Hammersmith and Fulham foodbank
- Asked Vice-Chancellor to support the UK pledge towards the UNHCR goal of 15% of refugees in higher education by 2030. Roehampton University has signed the pledge. This will improve access to higher education for people seeking refuge protection

Jacob Afedi

Male Interfaith Officer



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

- I had a meeting with Dr Daniel Eshun, Chaplain of Whitelands, to see if permission can be granted in using the Chaplaincy Room for our first interfaith meeting - Dr Daniel has granted this permission. We are now waiting to confirm the date of the first meeting.
- I had an informal meeting over lunch with various religious groups to get their opinion on what date will be best to have our first meeting, and setting some ground rules to listen and respect peoples views. They are going to come back to me with their thoughts.

Laoise Holohan

Environment and Sustainability
Officer



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

- Been in contact with Celia to discuss her objectives for my role this year and with Matthew Delicate (former sustainability officer)
- Begun planning for Fairtrade Fortnight (Feb 24th-March 8th), including a Sustainability Conference during that time (and will likely be reaching out to other PTOs about collaborating on different events for that, so beware)
- Begun planning a future agenda item on voluntourism based charity events at uni
- Working with Amnesty Society, now as co-president, starting plans for a January Jumble Sale
- Brought together a focus group to talk to the University about how they can better their sustainability practices, as requested by Dan in the first SUC

Other activities I've been involved with:

- Ran a Write for Rights event with Amnesty and Creative Writing Society, with over forty letters written to support wrongfully convicted young people around the
- Raised over £80 for Amnesty through a Union Pub Quiz I hosted
- Part of Drunken Drama and nagged people to recycle their waste at it 😊
- Participating in UR Leaders to help build skills for navigating the role

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

Farrah Black

Gender Equality Officer



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

{Collaborate as much as possible with other officers + societies }

- Since October I have been working with Roehampton Players, as the writer and director of my first play: 'What Fresh Hell is This?'. It's a biography play about the life and work of Dorothy Parker, who was a writer, critic and humorist in the 1920's to 1950/60's in New York and Hollywood. She was also an incredible civil and human rights defender, an active feminist and self-proclaimed social justice warrior. The play also looked at themes of mental health and alcoholism, as well as the political climate over the 30 years. The show finally went ahead over the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of December, and I couldn't be prouder of how it turned out and of everyone involved. Thank you anyone who came to see it!

{Make it easier for students to report sexual assault }

- Still a bystander! Still the best job ever! Had my final shift on the 6th at Christmas Bop. This term I have done 13 shifts- including both Halloween and Christmas events- and dealt with approximately 16 incidents. Looking forward to starting again in the new year!
- I have had a meeting with the Bystander team, who are working with welfare on organizing and running active bystander workshops next term- which I will be helping run! Very exciting.

{Restart the feminist society and spread awareness of feminsit issues}

- Submitted my feedback report, after speaking to a wide a range of students as possible. It's given me tones of ideas for next term, which I plan to start working on over Christmas. Specifically around getting students involved and excited by Women's

history month and the Women's march, diversifying the members of staff at Roehampton who are available during a crisis/ emergency (as not all students feel uncomfortable around staff of the opposite gender when in vulnerable situations), improving and spreading awareness around the options available to students who wish to report sexual assault, and encouraging lecturers to notice casual sexism within the classroom and ensure that all student voices are heard and respected equally.

Ellie Hall

Digby Stuart College Deputy
President



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

Planning January events

Other activities I've been involved with:

Helping with the two Digby Christmas Dinners

Attended Digby Commuters Lunch

Performed at the Digby Carol Service and at the Southlands Music Gala

Nicolò Sodaro

Postgraduate Students' Officer



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

1. **Make PG students feel welcome and represented within all aspects of student life.** - I have been able to start interrogating myself with other postgraduate students to find out their views so far on their experience as a postgraduate on campus with other students.

2. **Creating a more vibrant postgraduate social life experiences at the University** - I have been trying to social events with postgraduate students to fulfil their experiences of London. Especially those who are living abroad.

Other activities I've been involved with:

Creating the Bingo Nights at the Union – Starting weekly in January 2020

Nathan Lamb

Off Campus and Commuting
Students' Officer



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

- To be approachable to answer any questions or ideas people have.
- To look into lobbying security to try and improve the experience off campus students experience.
- To look into holding events for off campus students to try and get new students and existing students to meet and create friendships they might not have had a chance to do.

Other activities I've been involved with:

Attended the Digby Stuart Christmas dinner.

Attended a brief meeting with Maxina Patterson about me standing down from my role.

Finishing the process of formally stepping down from my role to take on the opportunity within the RSU as Students Activities and Communications assistant internship.

Luke Coffey

International Students' Officer



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

I wish to achieve in helping international students feel like Roehampton is their home away from home. I want to make sure to work specifically with the Vice President of Community and Welfare in order to ensure that international students are made to feel welcome and at ease during their time here at the University.

In addition to my general hopes to help other international students' transition to life in London, England, I want to host numerous events to honour and celebrate various holidays from other countries' cultures around the world.

Other activities I've been involved with:

- American Thanksgiving Dinner November 2019
- Thursday night Karaoke host at union bar
- Planning for the new year
- Making ideas for activities and events for the new incoming international abroad students in spring term
- Planning an American Super Bowl party for February 2
- Touch base with the larger student body of international students to reexamine there needs for 2020

Jude Stellato

Trans Student's Officer



Students' Union Council update on 09/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives: More gender neutral toilets, Alternative Route for name change, Staff Training and Safe space for trans people.

Successfully wrapped up last event of Trans Awareness week, the week has overall been very active and positive, we have met more trans and nonbinary student and encouraged them to get involved, we have raised money for a London Shelter and overall built a stronger sense of community as people have started reaching out to me even by email and such.

Helped a student conduct their research on changing rooms and big clothing chains and how they exploit the Pride symbol for marketing but overall do not have inclusive policies.

Helped a doctoral research student with their research on transgender people in higher education by spreading their survey and taking part in it

Communicated with Committee and updated, requested feedback and participation

Currently working on next steps towards achievement of alternative way to avoid deadnaming that is not a deed poll (because not accessible to everyone)

Joined the LGBTQ+ officer's committee

Currently collaborating with the LGBTQ+ officer towards the realisation of ROE Pride

Other activities I've been involved with:

- Attended BAME conference.
- Took part in SSOAP's fundraising event on 27/11 as a member of two of the three casts that performed during the night.
- Attended Interview for the Bystander Intervention Team
- Currently performing in SSOAP's original play "Redwater" directed by Jack Gray, shows 7th-9th of December
- Auditioning for Player's upcoming musical "Legally Blonde"

Annabel Black

LGBTQ+ Officer



Students' Union Council update on 12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

- Safe space for LGBTQ+ and faith/religion
- Safe space for BAME LGBTQ+
- Roehampton Pride festival

Other activities I've been involved with:

- I discussed ideas and plans for Pride with LGBTQ+ neighbours and friends, and I have put out a request for suggestions in my LGBTQ+ Committee group chat
- I have emailed Samantha (Events Co-ordinator) to get the ball rolling with creating the Pride event
- I have participated in a fellow student's performance piece for the Directing module (DTP)

- I have collected and sent back feedback to a Journalism student, who emailed me asking if I could gather information about trans and non-binary students' experiences of accessing shop changing rooms
- I have shared a questionnaire survey regarding trans students' experiences at university, sent to me by a Doctorate student at the Open University
- I have applied and had my interview to join the Bystander team
- I have organised a meeting with Emily (Student Welfare Officer), Farrah and Jude to discuss the support system for LGBTQ+ students at Roehampton – whether it is effective and how it can be improved
- I have signed up to perform at the Spark Festive Finale event

Dre Mbwese

Froebel College President



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

24-hour computer room. Will be in Lulham by the next academic term.

Organising Frigby

Ensuring the inclusivity of Froebel student in terms of dealing with issues involving race and culture

Other activities I've been involved with:

Organizing and attending the Froebel Christmas dinner

Sierra Kamara

BAME Students' Officer



Students' Union Council update on 16/12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

1. Increase BAME involvement in the student union by introducing volunteering schemes that could essentially enhance employability prospects for them once leaving University, whilst simultaneously allowing them to orchestrate their own University experience.
2. More collaboration with alumni students who can speak based on experience rather than teachings. Creating a termly platform for alumni and current students to discuss academic plights and pleasures, and to share tips on what can be done to alleviate certain issues. These events will be titled #WhatIWishIKnew.
3. My last aim is to listen to and advocate accurately for all BAME students. This will be in the form of several focus groups where I listen to the needs to different groups at the intersections of BAME. There will also be more suggestion boxes and I will be available for regular chats.
4. Greater focus on and relationship with BAME alumni

Other activities I've been involved with:

- held several focus groups in order to see what students would like in the future, as well as what they'd like presently.
- In the process of planning events for January with Levi
- Planning UBM events for January, refreshers event for new abroad students (inclusive)
- More work done on decolonising the curriculum

Jake White

Mount Clare Site Rep



Students' Union Council update on 12/2019

Manifesto Objectives:

- Dedicated Noticeboards/ Calendars detailing University Events. E.g. Details of Summer Ball, society and sporting events, and Locations of closest stores/supermarkets with their opening/closing times. } From the week starting 02/12, myself and several other Mount Clare Students have invested our time and resources into creating and updating noticeboards and creating a board dedicated and relevant to Mount Clare (history, trivia etc). Here you will find information such as locations and opening/closing times of local stores, information on Mount Clare events, a map of the entire campus, along with a local map with different directions to Main Campus itself such as walking, taking the bus or driving. We have also for the first time created a well-being board in which you can find various useful information on staying safe when drinking, mental health advice and the relevant staff trained to help, tips on being active and staying healthy such student-friendly cost-effective recipies etc.

- Introduce a plan to get a pool table in the common room. } I met with the VP Community & Welfare to discuss the idea of introducing a relatively affordable pool table in the common room. It was decided that it wouldn't be possible this side of Christmas or at least in the short term as a significant amount of time and resources must be put in to achieve this. However, we agreed that that if we were to be able to get at least 80 upvotes on the student idea page that we would be allocated £50 to purchase a Dart Board and its relevant accessories - something that would be greatly appreciated here at Mount Clare. In my opinion, not only would this benefit students at Mount Clare but it would also bring students across from Main Campus to play, developing and strengthening the connection between Mount Clare and Main Campus. Furthermore, it would create another opportunity for an event in the common room alongside our existing and beloved ping-pong table

- Social Events will be set up E.g. Ping Pong, Organised nights watching events on the television in the common room (Champions League, BGT, FA Cup etc.)} Since the last meeting I have organised and run 3 ping-pong tournaments here. These tend to be very popular nights and can go on for hours at a time. Also alongside this we have had ITV's I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here on the television in the Common Room which as proved equally as popular among students.

Other activities I've been involved with:

- I've set up a Mount Clare Committee, on which 3 people are currently involved with. We regularly establish contact with each other basis to discuss day to day issues. The communication allows us to report issues more quickly and therefore ensuring the efficiency of all utilities.