



Regent's University London
STUDENT UNION



STUDENT UNION
ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

INTRODUCTION:

The Student Union annual report summarizes the work of the SU towards the improvement of the student experience at Regent's University London in collaboration with Regent's staff, and academic and professional services. This year, we have moved into a new office space in Acland directly across from the Student Hub, created a new branding strategy, launched our own website, formalized policies and procedures for all SU members and created and supported a substantial number of events, clubs and initiatives in benefit of the overall Student Experience.

Our Purpose:

As a Student Union our purpose is clear and simple– We exist to serve the students of Regent's University London. We are here to improve the overall experience for current and future of students. On a daily basis, and in a systematic way, we focus on making a real difference to our members (the whole student body). In addition, we are continuing to build a strong and dynamic Students' Union with the aim to serve the needs and interests of our student population and to be recognized by both students, the administration, Trustees and external stakeholders for doing so.

Our Values:

We follow the University Values of Integrity, Excellence, Internationalism, Collaboration and Caring for each other. Our work is fully sustained by our three pillars: Communication, Collaboration and Community.

Our Priority:

To develop a strong and tight-knit community of students who care for one another now, and will continue to do this as alumni, friends and business partners in years to come.

Our primary long-term goals

- ✓ SU transparency and communication – inside and outside
- ✓ Leave a legacy that will strongly benefit our students

OUR JOURNEY:

This year, the SU team was focused on being closer and more open to our students in an effort to increase student engagement and to fully hear the student voice. This was a top priority.

In a tumultuous political context across the higher education, we have sought to support and protect students' interests as best as possible by representing their interest in the London Working Group, the organisation of Sabbaticals who were fighting for the Poststudy Working Visa.

As the Sabbatical Trustee, the SU President put together a set of team priorities for the year, based on the analysis of the previous Student Union results and the former Sabbatical President's experience. Representing students and helping them navigate through Regent's University London's complexity has been a steep learning curve for us all.

Our successes have been wide-reaching.

OUR RESULTS:

Our efforts were focused in the following SU areas and projects:

1. SU - Students' overall satisfaction, NSS results
2. SU Presidential Elections
3. Student Representation
4. Councils
5. Societies
6. Academic Events
7. Social Events
8. Improving the sense of belonging on campus
9. Support Regent's Sports
10. Activation of the Student Voice:
 - a. Creation of a new SU website
 - b. "I care" campaign

1. SU - Students' overall satisfaction, NSS results

This year we are incredibly pleased to report that SU overall satisfactionⁱ is **62.7%**, which is **above the sector by 7%**, according the results of the National Student Survey results 2019 (NSS). This is a true reflection of the passion and hard work that we have done during this year.

2. SU Presidential Elections

In the end of the first term, SU successfully ran elections and recruited new Executives (VP Student Experience, Secretary, Treasurer, Liberal Arts Council President, Psychotherapy & Psychology Council President, Societies Officer, Social Events Officer). SU have got a high interest from students, interviewed candidates on Friday, the 7th of December followed with handover dinner on the 8th of December. The last week of the semester was dedicated to the training of the new team to get them ready to the next one.

The second term faced 2 election processes: Executive Members Elections and the SU President started on the 4th of March. New VP Academia, Secretary, BAM Undergraduate Council President, BAM Postgraduate Council President, Fashion & Design Council President, Film & Media Council President and the Academic Events Officer were elected following with the handover SU event.

The SU Executive team was completely prepared for the new academic year.

The involvement in SU President was increased and the current President was re-elected for a second term with results 65.745% for the candidate, 28.729% for the re-open nomination and 5.524% unanswered.

It is the first time when Regent's University London Student Union leaded by a Sabbatical Officer with the all year experience.

3. *Student Representation:*

The academic team's role this was instrumental in the aggregate development of the Student Union, exhibiting symbiosis and mutual engagement with Student Experience.

From the beginning of the year, an activist approach was taken to the union's support of ancillary academic activities: working with Academic Events (SU) to develop and push events with faculty's help and expertise.

We fought relentlessly for students with regards to the new capstone module, a host of obstacles that unfolded rapidly in our first few weeks.

With regards to timetabling, we were pleasantly surprised by the improvement in systematic arrangements. Some policy review has been advised by the SU- although the SU is cognizant of resource constraints, greater timetabling flexibility would be *highly desired*. This extends to the ability of students to *secure their first choice for electives*.

A key motivation has been to improve cross-programme communication to allow for networking in order to address the current feelings of 'seclusion' and 'disconnectedness'. Head of Programme of BA Fashion Marketing, has been a key champion of this. We have helped to promote various campus events, and we intend to approach the next semester with a more formal, structural approach to attract students on to both campuses.

4. *Councils:*

The SU is working closely with faculties to improve and delivery of information to push further engagement and response level.

This includes initiatives with faculty regarding electives selection. Several meetings were taken the place to discuss the best way to deliver the information about electives, ideas were investigated, and the strategy was developed.

BAM Undergraduate Council: During the past semester has strengthened its core while also recruiting new individuals. The total number of members has risen to around 20 and with a 75% attendance. A lot of work has been done such as the identification of student issues that were then brought up to the relevant members of staff to be resolved. On the other hand, solutions were identified to resolve longstanding headaches that students have been having during the past few years such as electives.

Furthermore, a security issue with double cards was also identified by the Council, was brought up and being solved.

BAM Postgraduate Council: The Council President has dramatically increased the students' involvement by creating the WhatsApp group with more than 130 PG students, hosting a variety of events where tight-knit relationship have being established. Also, BAMPCP took the active participation in the Regent's University London's competitive sports, such as Polo, and promoted the active lifestyle among her peers.

Psychotherapy and Psychology Council: The Council President promoted a healthier mental awareness programme by integrating "The Theory of Knowledge" classes taken as an

inspiration from the “International Baccalaureate Diploma” programme into the Council activities. The first session has started in week 5/6 of term two. Various topics were discussed each week depending on student interests. The initiative was implemented in collaboration with Student Services and the School of Psychotherapy.

Film & Media Council: The Council planned and successfully delivered several big events including the Regent’s Talent (with more than 40 people in participation) and the Regent’s Oscars night on the 9th of April in collaboration with the Music Society and Fashion & Design Council to award Film & Media students.

Fashion & Design Council: The Council President have designed new hoodies within the Regents’ University London branding to sell during the graduation, red jackets for SU Executives and hoodies for Student Union events members.

The Liberal Arts Council: The Council has been functioning well, with regular meetings and relevant issues being brought up. The team was working to make some changes to the Art History program, as well organising a Council event – a screening of a film “Woman in Gold” (scheduled for the 4th of March) with a discussion afterwards to encourage inter-program communication and interest in students, as it touches on the themes of business, psychology and art history.

Liberal Arts Council President joined the Communication’s Officer in promoting the new Student Union website, recruiting members who were interested in writing for the website and show-casting their art.

During the academic year, all Council Presidents were provided with papers with questions about the Student Union and students opinion in the university’s management. Answers were proceeded, necessary actions were taken.

5. *Societies:*

The part of Student Union Mental Strategy is an effective Societies’ development. SU Executives are actively encouraged students to gather in groups and support their ideas.

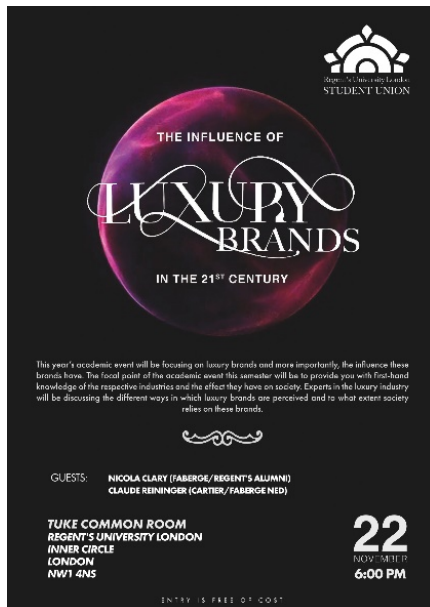
In January, the new Societies Officer together with the SU President’s support arranged the First Societies Presidents Round Table. The event was extremely successful with **32 people** in attendance. The aim of the gathering was to update Presidents with regulations and opportunities, meet each other for a potential collaboration and get to know key SU Executives to work with.

Last academic year, **SU ran 16 active Societies** and looking forward to increase the number and the level of involvement upcoming year.

6. Academic Events:

Last academic year, Student Union actively helped to run the *Senior European Experts Seminars* as well as organizing its own events:

1. SU President and Academic Events Officers implemented the idea about the *Luxury Brands in 21st Century* panel, attracted Claude Reininger, the non-executive trustee at *Faberge*, the product developer at *Cartier* and Nicola Clary, who also works in Faberge and at the same time he is the Regents' alumnus. More than 40 students have attended the event with an active networking session with speakers afterwards.
2. Together with the Alumni Department, SU President and Academic Events Officer organised the *Dragon's Den* on the 12th of February with four alumnus Dragons and 5 students pitched their business ideas. The event was highly successful with more than **70 people in attendance**.
3. BAM Undergraduate President together with VP Academia have organised the public interview with *Luca del Bono*, the founder of the *Quintessentially* Concierge service and the Kensington Private Members Club. Moderating by VP Academia, the event had a big success primarily among BAM student with attendance of more than **50 students**.
4. With the support of the formal Dean of BAM, Professor Michael Luger, SU organised the *Annual Business Conference "Trial and Triumphs in My Career"*, consisting of female business expert panellists from different fields.





**BUILDING
SOMETHING
MEANINGFUL**
IN THE 21ST CENTURY
WITH LUCA DEL BONO

27 FEBRUARY
**TUKE
COMMON
ROOM**
16:00 to 18:00
FOLLOWED BY A NETWORKING SESSION

QR CODE: RESERVE YOUR FREE TICKET HERE!

ONDA
QUINTESSENTIALLY
LIFESTYLE

SOUTH KENSINGTON CLUB
S.K.C.

AEOLIAN ISLANDS
PRESERVATION FUND



REGENT'S
UNIVERSITY LONDON
London's Independent University

**Dismantling
of the
Rules-based
Global Order**
Senior European Experts Seminar

Wednesday 21 November
18:30 – 20:00
Herringham Hall
Followed by a reception

Join a distinguished panel of experts,
including **Geoffrey Robertson QC** to
debate the future of the global rules-based
order at this critical juncture.

Since the end of the Second World War,
countries have worked together to create
an international system that facilitates
peaceful, economically effective and
politically robust relations between
nation states.

But what is often called the 'international rules-based order'
is now facing fundamental challenge.
Whether it is from President Putin's Russia, with its invasion
of Georgia or annexation of Crimea, or from US President
Donald Trump's opposition to the rules of the World Trade
Organisation and the Paris Climate Change accord, it is not
just the way the international order operates but its very
existence that is being questioned.

Speakers include **Geoffrey Robertson QC**,
Ms Kori Schake, Deputy-Director General at the
International Institute of Strategic Studies, and
Sir Mark Lyall Grant, former UK National Security
Adviser and Ambassador to the United Nations.



Book your place at www.eventbrite.co.uk (search on 'Global Order')

7. Social Events:

This academic year SU organised more than **25 social events**, including the Fresher's Boat Party with **260** students in attendance, 2 Halloween Nights with more than **400 attendees'** overall and others. The SU have established great relationships with key London venues and have a good reputation among it.

To enhance the student engagement VP Student Experience and Social Events Officer have organised the 360-degree St. Valentines experience, including the Secret Valentine delivery and two events on the 14th of February.

As a part of the NSS launch event, Student Union organized the Jazz Night, inviting the band which played at the University several years in a row.



***** YOU ARE INVITED *****

ALBERT'S
STUDENT UNION

**GRAND
Masquerade
... PARTY ...**

3rd April 2019 Dress Code: Black Tie
Albert's at Beaufort House 10.30 PM

**£15
ENTRY**
£20 on Door

QR CODE

+44 7865661664
for Table Bookings

The Last Event
of the Year!



**HAWAIIAN
NIGHT**
BEDFORD'S BAR

DRESS CODE: FLORAL/
TROPICAL

22
JAN

7 PM
ONWARDS

*BY ATTENDING THIS EVENT YOU AUTOMATICALLY AGREE TO GETTING YOUR PHOTOS CLICKED AND USED FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES.



NSS
National Student Survey

**Jazz
NIGHT**

7th February 7pm

The Brasserie

Band : The Mississippi
Swamp Dogs



8. Improving the sense of belonging on campus:

This area became the part of a strategy of student mental health which is currently in development. We delivered numbers of academic and social events we are proud of. Regent's SU President participated in the development of the University's Strategic Plan and have fostered many areas around the University to activate a close cooperation. "Easy access" has been an area of interest this year, as well as on of the University's top strategic.

9. Support of Regent's Sports:

This year, the SU have championed increased access to sports and sports development with two main events:

- *The Annual Sports Awards:* Initiated by the SU President and the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean Humanities, Arts & Social Science and organised by student engagement -sports officer. During this event we celebrated the sports success. On Thursday 28 March the inaugural Regent's Sports Awards were held to commemorate the sporting achievements of the student body. The event saw students and coaches from across Regent's sports teams including men's and women's basketball, men's and women's football, mixed volleyball and polo coming together to celebrate team and individual sporting achievements. More than **50 people** were awarded and recognized.



- *Royal Cup Maastricht:* Student Union in collaboration with Student Engagement supported 40 students were sent to the international sports competition based at Netherlands, Maastricht, where they represented the Regent's University for the first time. "The best universities fought to win the biggest international sports competition among Universities in the south of Netherlands" and... we were part of this.



10. Activation of the Student Voice:

Together with stakeholders across Regent's we have helped shape a collective response in bringing the student voice into a higher level and making sure "easy access" is firmly on the agenda at all levels. Our highlights from the year are the connections we have brought between students. We continue to believe that students are Regents' greatest asset. This are a few examples of our work in this area:

a. Creation of a new SU website:

This is a clear example of our work in generating an “easy access” for our students. We develop a friendly, attractive and easy webpage for students to have access to all the information they need to make the most of their experience at Regent’s. The webpage includes not only essential information but a chat and a blog for students to ask questions and share the information that is important for them.

Working closely with council presidents and representatives:

the SU has harnessed the power of the collective student voice on issues students care about most.

b. “I care” campaign:

During the election campaign “I-Care”, as part of the SU Presidential Elections, students were filmed promoting the importance of the participation in elections, which dramatically increased the students’ awareness in the election process. More than 20 people were agreed to contribute.

Thank you note:

Dear Trustees, Directorate and Regent’s Staff,

Student Union would like to thank all of you for the continuous support and understanding of the vital problems of students they have throughout the year. We are extremely appreciative of the huge amount of time, skills, care and attention we received from the majority of departments to support and challenge us as leaders, so our University thrive and our students have opportunity to succeed. We do not underestimate what a great responsibility it is.

Student Union recognises your remarkable contribution in dealing with the challenges facing our University, and we share the commitment to speak out over these issues on behalf of students we serve to.

It is an exciting time at Regents SU and we are looking forward for year ahead.

^{i i} The student’s Union effectively represents students’ academic and social interest