

Sustainability training for Programme Representatives: 29th November 2019

Introduction:

In Summer 2019, the Union committed to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. Following successful training delivered to the Union's Executive Committee, the Union Representation Team worked in collaboration with City University's Sustainability Team to deliver similar sustainability training to the Union's Programme Representatives (Reps).

The session had 2 key objectives: 1) to educate and inform Programme Reps about the UN Sustainable Development Goals; and 2) to encourage Reps to identify which goals were relevant to their courses and promote sustainable change according to these goals.

This session constitutes 'additional training' as part of the Union Leadership Academy and is recognised as an "extra Programme Representative event" towards the Union Programme Representative Letter of Recognition.

Session Engagement:

Sustainability training was held at 11am on Friday 29th November in College Building, A110, City University. All Reps were invited to attend via communications included in the 11/11/19 issue of the Programme Rep Newsletter, and by emails sent to all listed Programme Reps in the preceding weeks.

15 invitees confirmed their attendance prior to the session, and 16 attended.

Reps attended from the following schools:

CASS: 3

SHS: 2

SASS: 7

SMCSE: 4

LAW: 0

The Representation and Sustainability Teams both felt that attendance could have been improved had the training been scheduled mid-week, and intend to organise any future sessions to increase engagement accordingly.

It was also felt that this training may prove more effective if scheduled earlier in the term, which would allow Reps to apply and see the direct results of their training in their schools and campaign activity before the end of term.

Session Content:

The Sustainability Team made use of the online platform Doodle Poll to gauge the attendees' knowledge of sustainability, and pitched the level of their session accordingly. Attendees were given information about the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, outlining the purpose of the goals and why City and the SU has subscribed to them. Reps were also informed that City University is currently ranked in the top 5 Universities in the UK for sustainability. Reps were given time to see which of the Sustainable Development Goals were relevant to their course. The training also asked the Reps to record which Goals they were not directly taught about, but that they found relevant to their area of study.

Attendees left the training with planned activities to implement on their courses in order to promote or initiate sustainable practice in line with the Goals. The Sustainability Team also recorded the planned activities.

Activity proposed by Reps:

A non-exhaustive list of proposed activity in the wake of the sustainability training follows (all *sic*):

- Spread the word about the London Student Conference and ask the course director to send an email about this.
- I will promote sustainability on the economics group chat.
- Start a wildlife society (Goal 15 – Life on Land)
- Share the conference on LinkedIn / Research sustainability on my course.
- Recycling Bins in clinical rooms.
- Talk to Lecturers on SSLC about what their stance is on this and if we could learn more about this in lectures.
- Ask student feedback for a sustainability session/seminar.
- Promote surveys + campaigns to classmates.
- Organise similar workshops for all students, not just student reps.
- Promote related events and resources / Let more people know about the sustainability and what they can do / Let people know the personal benefit they can get.