**Trustees’ Report**

This is a report outlining the Union’s activities since the last Annual General Meeting in November 2015.

**Strategic Plan**

The Students’ Union wanted to set a vision, guiding where we would be by 2020. The University also were putting together their own Strategic Plan, meaning we could have these strategic conversations of how we want to impact students together. Our plan, entitled Vision 2020, was influenced by student opinion, taking into account student opinions from focus groups and surveys, and the more employability and careers focus that the Higher Education is moving towards. Our Vision, covers 5 key areas:

* Developing a strong Student Community
* Becoming experts in our students and understanding their needs
* Impacting on students’ academic experience
* Helping students plan for their futures
* Supporting students in their journey at City, University of London

We set ourselves strong targets, in academic completion rate of students, increasing our NSS score and increasing student involvement in our core processes – democracy, representation, activities and welfare.

Our main objectives tie in with those of the University, meaning we can strengthen our relationship and work together to achieve these aims. Staff have already sat down and written operational plans, so we can start delivering and working towards our visions.

**Rebrand**

As part of our Vision 2020 and the University joining the University of London, we wanted to make our own mark. We commissioned a rebrand on the Students’ Union, running a series of workshops so that we could set our message and understand ourselves better as an organisation. We concluded that our Image needed to reflect that we are inclusive and broadminded and we are bold. Our new logo represents a historic battle horn and the support we provide to students – we lead and we support.

Our new slogan is “we’re making history” as we are driven and want to make a strong impact on students and their time at University. We are not afraid to be bold and try new things to engage students and to deliver a positive experience.

**Segmentation Project**

Part-funded by the University, we commissioned an independent study to learn about who our students are and the different ways we can communicate with them. The purpose is to make us the most relevant we can be to the students’ we represent. From this research, we have found that we need to offer more opportunities, employability and networking skills development and look to offer social events to build communities amongst our commuter students.

**Trustee Board Recruitment**

Following a recent round of applications for Student Trustees and Alumni Trustees, we are pleased to say we now have a Full Trustee Board of 10. This means we have a broader expertise on the committee, with a wealth of knowledge and experience to help us deliver on our Vision 2020.

**Governance Review**

We are currently undergoing a Governance Review, looking at how we operate as a charity and what can happen to make us more effective as an organisation. This is tying in with the Democracy Review we are conducting during this year, to ensure that our democratic processes are functioning to meet students’ needs and that students are effectively represented. This includes looking at the Officer Positions we currently elect, and whether we need to change or expand these.

**Staff**

We are currently recruiting for the final position to fill our staff vacancies. We are also exploring the opportunity of hiring a 0.6 FTE Advisor, to expand our Union Support Service provision.

**Update on progress of Policy Passed at the Annual General Meeting 2015 & General Meeting 2016**

**Access to CitySport for the Students' Union**

CitySport have given City students, societies and sports teams’ priority access to bookings over external bookings. We are still exploring resolves 1 and 2.

**Provision for Halal Food at all City University London’s Food Outlets**

Halal food is available in all food outlets on campus and the University have taken steps to assure that halal sandwiches and hot food options are available. They have extended this to catering hire, which is available to staff and societies.

We are still consulting with the University on their consultation with the UK Halal Monitoring Committee (HMC). The University provided us with copies of their certificates for their halal provision, which we forwarded to students.

**Reforming the Representation and Implementation of Students’ Faith Needs on Campus**

The Students’ Union and University both hold a regular Friday Prayer Group, formerly the Friday Prayer Working Group. This has representation from the Students’ Union, each Muslim Faith Society on campus and the University Imam. The Group is looking to expand to have 2 places for independent students, who are not in any of the Muslim Faith Societies. The Group is co-chaired by the Students’ Union President and University Imam. There have been no further Chaplaincy Team appointments since the last AGM.

**Rejecting the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and tackling Islamophobia**

2 Student Prevent Working Groups were set up to engage students who were interested in the Prevent Strategy. The resolve was to split the campaign into 2: one looking at Prevent and one to tackle Islamophobia. The students who put forward the motion have been consulted along the way. The NUS delegation proposed a motion to the NUS National Conference on changing the channel with Prevent. The Union Officer Team have been engaged in the University’s Prevent Strategy Committee and have been campaigning against Prevent outside of this.

The 2 campaigns are still being worked on and are planned to keep rolling out as developments further.

**The Right to Education without Discrimination of Religious Needs**

The University is currently offering 3 Friday Prayers, with the idea that this means students won’t need to miss classes. There is no progress on this motion as written.

**Women Only Gym Sessions**

CitySport trialled Women Only Gym Sessions for a period last academic year, however these were withdrawn due to lack of uptake.

**Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment & Lad Culture**

No progress to report.

**Designated Smoking Areas**

Currently being looked into by the University. This has been slightly disrupted due to building works. Outside of the University is a smoke-free zone, but Northampton Square is property of Islington Council.

**The Right to Organise an Event Facilitating Students to Observe and Celebrate Friday (Jumu'ah, the holy day for Muslims)**

The Students’ Union has been working with the University to put on 3 Friday Prayers, with the Islamic Society, AhlulBayt Society and Madinah Society each leading a prayer. These are taking place in the Great Hall each Friday.

**Fairness and Transparency for Research Student Teachers**

The Graduate School Officer carried out research with students who teach, looking at areas such as pay conditions, contracts, training and support. The research report went to Senate, and progress from each School will be reported on at the next Senate. The Union has been presenting the report at each Board of Studies to find out how each School is progressing in dealing with the issues presented in the paper. The Graduate School will be looking at the report and seeing where they can address issues raised.

The Students’ Union will keep lobbying on resolves 2 and 3, pending the progress with Senate.