



**Student Union Update – University of London Institute in Paris Students’
Union**

Purpose of Report	To update the Board on the Union’s activities and initiatives throughout the 2019-2020 academic year.
Status and Distribution of Report	Non-confidential
Recommendation (if appropriate)	To note

**SU OPERATIONS
Constitution Update**

- 1 In February, Queen Mary’s Student Union (QMSU) sent over a draft Memorandum of Agreement. If we are to sign it, all ULIP students would be recognised as Associate Members of QMSU which would enable them to use QMSU services in London and ULIPSU would receive greater funding for societies and support with running elections. The MoA is currently being looked at by University of London lawyers who are also assessing proposed changes to the ULIPSU Constitution.

Cash Register

- 2 The way the SU has handled petty cash in the last few years meant that payments hadn’t always been accurately recorded and therefore spreadsheets and budgets were difficult to follow. To remedy this, the SU has invested in a cash register which should help us to more effectively manage our cash flow by providing receipts every time money is moved.

Transparency

- 3 In the 2018-2019 Dites-Nous (‘tell us’) feedback, it was highlighted that many students didn’t feel that members of the Students’ Union were approachable or held to account often enough. As a direct response to this, the SU has been holding ‘Prime Minister’s Questions’-style events once a month, in which students are free to come and raise issues with us or ask questions about our activities. This has been positively received and has possibly contributed to more harmonious relations between the members of the Executive Committee and the rest of the student population.

- 4 Similarly, we have been working hard to be more forthcoming with the information we share and the methods used to do this. One example is that we now put together quarterly reports on our finances and share them with the students in physical and electronic form. We are also distributing minutes from the Diversity Committee and Student Council meetings so as to keep students updated on our progress.

WELFARE

Mind Your Head Week

- 5 In the last week of February, the Welfare Officer, Abby Doherty, ran a campaign called 'Mind Your Head Week,' which aimed to focus on student mental health. During this week our Art, BAME, LGBT and Feminist societies all held events that encouraged their members to unwind and reflect on their mental health.

Sophrology

- 6 As a sort of collaboration with ULIP, the SU paid for a sophrologist to come to ULIP and hold a session with students. This was held in January and was so popular that students requested that we hold another session in Mind Your Head week.

Tea and Coffee Afternoons

- 7 In order to reinforce the sense of community we have at ULIP, and to make new students feel welcome, the Paris Experience Working Group (Tim Gore, Catherine Duperray, SU President and SU Vice-President) have hosted a series of tea and coffee sessions. These have been hosted at times in the year when students are feeling particularly vulnerable, such as the first few weeks of each semester.

BRITISH COUNCIL

Spanish Lessons

- 8 As we do every year, ULIPSU held beginners' Spanish lessons for 6 students in the first semester. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough interest for advanced lessons or to continue the beginners' class into the second semester. Despite this, Spanish lessons are likely to start again in September.

Addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - European Universities as actors of change

- 9 The British Council is holding a conference about the SDGs and the role European Universities have in creating knowledge and starting debates around them. The Vice President of ULIPSU, Chloe Limistios, is working with a team of other ULIP students to film the event and interview people in attendance.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram

- 10 The more recent student intakes tend to use Facebook less than in previous years, which has posed challenges for the SU as this is the platform we have usually used to quickly send messages out to past, prospective and current students. As a response to these changing needs, we have set up an Instagram account, which seems to be more accessible to a greater number of students. Here, we are able to promote the SU's events and activities more easily and this has proved beneficial for updating current students as well as giving prospective students an insight into the realities of life at ULIP.

LinkedIn

- 11 Students frequently ask for more support with their careers and so at the start of the academic year, the SU set up a LinkedIn group, in which we share job offers and professional opportunities with current students and alumni.

Website

- 12 The Vice President has been working on the SU website (www.ulipsu.eu). We now share much more of the SU's operations via the website (as touched on in the Equality and Diversity report) and we are providing more support for students with Specific Learning Difficulties.