KCLSU Annual General Meeting
Thursday 7 February 2019

6pm registration for a 6.30pm start

New Hunt’s House, Lecture Theatre 1

The venue is wheelchair accessible – please contact representation@kclsu.org if you have any accessibility requirements.

Chaired by Ahad Mahmood, KCLSU President 2018-19

Agenda
6pm: Registration – Don’t forget your King’s ID card

6.30pm: KCLSU President, Ahad Mahmood, opens the AGM

The first part of the meeting is the Annual General Meeting. Quorum is 0.5% of the membership, represented in person or proxy. This is 157.

1. For members to approve:
   - Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 8 February 2018 (approved)

2. For members to receive:
   - The Trustees’ Annual Report and Accounts for year ended 31/7/2018. These will be presented by the CEO of KCLSU, Denis Shukur. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after the presentation.

3. For members to receive:
   - The Student Officer Report and Q&A. KCLSU’s six full-time Student Officers will report on their work this year. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after their presentations.

4. Access break

The second part of the meeting is the Student General Meeting. Quorum for this is 100, including people present and votes submitted online before the meeting.
5. For members to discuss and vote on KCLSU proposed policy to NUS National Conference. If a motion passes, it goes to NUS to be discussed at the NUS National Conference, which involves students coming together from across the UK to decide on national policy and campaigns.
- **Motion** proposed by Oliver Brotherton to End Precarious Work *(approved)*
- **Motion** proposed by Oliver Brotherton to Fund Free Education by Expropriation *(approved)*
- **Motion** proposed by Antony Sangha for Interest-Free Loans for Postgraduates *(approved)*
- **Motion** proposed by Robert Liow to Use Strike Savings for the Student Benefit *(approved)*
- **Motion** proposed by Robert Liow to Make Xenophobia a Hate Crime *(approved)*
- **Motion** proposed by Momin Saqib to Restrict the Rents *(approved)*
- **Motion** Proposed by Akshaya Rajangam for Equal Access to Faith and Wellbeing Resources for Students From non-Abrahamic Faiths and Traditions *(approved)*

6. Any other business

Close of AGM
KCLSU Safe Space Policy
This policy covers any KCLSU space, or KCLSU event.

KCLSU is committed to providing an inclusive and supportive space for all students. This policy is applicable to our whole student community, whether an individual or a member within a group, KCLSU ratified student activity group, representative forum or sport team. KCLSU believes all students should be free from intimidation or harassment, resulting from prejudice or discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, marital or maternity/paternity status, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, trans status, socio-economic status, or ideology or culture, or any other form of distinction.

KCLSU will arrange mitigation to ensure the safety of our members and ensure a balance of opinions at any academic discussion or debate. Freedom of speech is important, yet intention to incite hatred is never acceptable.

Any events held within KCLSU spaces must be in line with the KCLSU External Speaker Policy to ensure the safety of KCLSU members.

KCLSU recognises discrimination can occur wherever it is not consciously challenged. Therefore the event organiser is responsible for upholding this policy at any event, and KCLSU venues staff or elected full-time officers may act in accordance with this policy within KCLSU spaces.

Any person in a KCLSU space or attending a KCLSU event is accountable for their own language and behaviour. If behaviour is reported that is not in accordance with this policy, members may be asked to leave immediately by staff or an elected full-time officer.

Student activity group Presidents will receive specific training on KCLSU Safe Space Policy at the start of each academic year or when they are elected. These presidents have the responsibility to ensure this policy is enacted at their event and if needs be may ask individuals to leave. If presidents are not in attendance the lead committee member must take responsibility.

Complaints received may result in disciplinary action by KCLSU in accordance with the KCLSU Member Disciplinary Procedure.

External speakers and KCLSU students attending a debate, KCLSU Student Council, a Members Meeting or the Annual General Meeting must be briefed on KCLSU’s Safe Space Policy.

The Chair, member of KCLSU staff, KCLSU elected representative or student activity group President may immediately act upon a complaint through a number of ways including:

- Giving the complainant a platform to express their complaint.
- Reiterate to speakers and those in attendance of the Safe Space policy and issue them with a warning that they can be asked to leave an event.
- Ask any speakers or students complained against to leave.
- Work with any security put in place to remove speakers/attendees.
- Make KCLSU aware of any complaint or incident that has violated the policy.

Any complaints after an event should be reported through the KCLSU Complaints Procedure.
Agenda Item 3: Officer Updates

Ahad Mahmood, President

More Awareness for the student’s union

KCLSU can only support students if we are representative and have a large campus awareness. I have started to work on this with the officer team by continuing initiatives like Sabbs on tour

Signposting

In Kings there is a genuine issue of not enough signposting of all relevant services provided by both KCL and KCLSU. I am currently working with the personal tutor reform to incorporate more information to be provided to personal tutors to increase their effectiveness.

Getting ready for lecturer strikes

Earlier this year, lecturers and academics at KCL balloted to strike as part of a proposed nationwide strike by their union, the UCU. I worked with the rest of the officer team and KCL to make sure procedures would be put in place to maximise the mitigations of any negative effects of the strikes on students. Whilst the ballot was unsuccessful, procedures have now been discussed further if the re-ballot on the same issue, which is due to close on 22nd February, leads to more strikes.

More student representation on all decision making bodies at the university

There is currently no student representation on some of the important decision making bodies at King’s. Additionally, I am currently the only student member on College Council (the highest decision-making body at the university) and whilst the addition of another student seat has been internally approved and is awaiting the privy council, I am working with King’s regarding the mechanisms of the appointment.

Working with faith group societies to make sure all faith groups on campus are adequately represented

This term I started working with some of the student faith groups to assess whether there are appropriate provisions and facilities in place for all faith groups. One of the key action points was the development of a handbook which all faith groups can help with to give information and map out all faith and cultural centres near all our main campuses.

Student statistics

Research bureau. After a decision regarding exam timetabling was to be made, I trialled a last minute survey which gathered significant data. Working with VP Education Health Hannan Baddar we are creating more platforms for data to be gathered in this way. We are also developing more research tools to be utilised in this way as well

Reducing the wait time for external speaker bookings

I am currently leading on developing a joint Risk Assessment process for external speaker events. There are currently two processes: one for KCL and one for KCLSU. This should significantly reduce the current maximum wait time. Furthermore, I am working to reduce the time taken for our internal RA process as well.

Flexible payment options

I have been working with Hannan for a third instalment for all students. I have also been working with KCL Finance to collect data regarding the current process as it is done on an adhoc basis. I am also working to improve the communication of these processes to all academic staff so there is a better signposting procedure for students that need these services.

Graduating students’ guests

 Managed to get a more relaxed sign-in procedure around graduation days so students can show their parents/carers and friends around campus.

Brexit

I have been working with VP Welfare and Community Robert Liow on the Brexit steering group. We have been working to help the university support all students and stuff in the months to come as well as lobby the government.
Jessica Oshodin, Vice President Postgraduate

Postgraduate events

One of my manifesto points was more KCLSU led social events for postgraduate students. I initiated and organised KCLSU’s first postgraduate events during Welcome Week, across campuses and externally. The four postgraduate events included a film night, meet and greet, coffee morning and trip to Ballie Ballerson. This was followed up by monthly Burger and Board nights. I also planned a Christmas party which was well attended by the postgraduate students.

Postgraduate community

In the aims of building a postgraduate community I have planned regularly postgraduate events, such as PGtea, which is a chilled out weekly drop in for all postgraduate students. This takes places every Tuesday across different KCL campuses including campuses. This is so that we engage with students at smaller campuses that may not be able to attend events held at Strand or Guy’s campuses. I have also organised a postgraduate forum – Let’s Talk- for postgraduate students to give feedback, discuss issues pertaining to the college and the postgraduate student experience. This form is held every month.

I have helped build closer relationships for postgraduate student interests both within and outside KCLSU. I have cultivated a relationship between KCLSU and the Centre for Doctoral Studies, meeting regularly to discuss and solve issues pertaining to PGR students. I support KDSA with their events and initiatives to engage with more PGR students. Additionally, I have set up a network for Postgraduate Officers in the UK.

Liberation

I led the student union in planning 7 events for Black History Month including events such as an opening night celebration; panel discussion on race and resistance; a movie night and a trip to the Black Cultural Archives. This was a collaborative event with different societies and associations.

I have also initiated a campaign inspired by Sheffield SU titled #sheshouldrun to address the gender imbalance in women students running for leadership positions in the SU, particularly sabbatical and trustee roles. The main campaign was launched on 22nd January in time for the spring election. For the Autumn 2018 elections I invited current women trustees to create a video explaining why they got involved in student politics and why other students should. I am working with the Women’s Officer on this, there will be a range of events and workshops.

Finally, I have been working with Diversity and Inclusion on the university’s staff/student misconduct policy. I worked with D&I to refresh parts of the policy and gave recommendations based on best practice from other institutions. I am also working with D&I to explore how it Stops Here promotional material can be refreshed so that more postgraduate students are engaged. We have also worked together to submit a funding application for a virtual reality bystander training.

Campaigns

I have set up a campaign ‘fair funding for postgraduates’ to lobby the university to alleviate the financial burden of postgraduate students. The aim of the campaign is to get a third instalment for postgraduates, cut deposit fees particularly for international students and lobby for more scholarships and bursaries for postgraduates. A survey has been set up to obtain a clearer picture of how funding is effecting the postgraduate student experience at KCL. Along with my fellow officers, I have been working closely with KCL SMT to explore our options including the proposal of alumni discount. I am preparing a paper due to be presented later this year, the survey will help inform the paper.

I have supported the Fair pay for GTAs campaign by lobbying on behalf of GTAs at College meetings and working with the campaign leads to meet college leads and other relevant KCL staff. The campaign has successfully requested withdrawal of the 2018/9 GTA policy which is now on hold until the wider PGR body have been consulted.

Denmark Hill

With Hannan, Education Health Officer we have inputted into the Denmark Hill Student Space project due to open in 2019. Ensuring that students voices are heard at each stage.
Mohamed Salhi, Vice President Education (Arts & Sciences)

Liberating our Education campaign

This is a campaign which looks at tackling structural barriers to education. One of the aims of the campaign is to ensure that the College is conscious of the different ways that students experience King’s and is committed to ensuring that you are all receiving an education without limitation. Since coming to King’s I noticed the disparity in the ways that students navigate King’s and how the institution contributes to creating an environment which left students like me feeling like we merely study at King’s as opposed to being “of” King’s. This campaign will be launched next week and we will be looking for students to get involved in shaping what a liberated education at King’s will look like, and turning that into a reality. The aim is to prepare, with students a presentation to the College of our findings and commit them to incorporating it within their education strategy. As part of this we have joined a Steering Group with the College, to look into the ways that students experience King’s and work together on the issues you care about the most, consultation for this will be out soon if not already, depending on when you read this report.

Academic representation

I believe that the start to a liberated education doesn’t start with me, it starts with you. That is why alongside the College, we have launched an review into our academic representation structures. Our aim will be looking at how to empower reps in their role of creating communities within their cohorts that are then able to mobilise and take action on issues affecting your educational experience. By the time you view this report, there would have already been consultation with students and reps regarding academic representation and will be feeding in that feedback into the review.

I have tried to meet with as many Student Staff Liason Committees as possible and so far I have visited the NMS, SSPP and Arts and Humanities faculties to hear what issues are affecting you the most. Examples of what we discussed were; more funding for department trips, more opportunities for women and non-binary students to get into STEM careers and creating a more diverse curriculum, greater flexibility in assessments and more constructive feedback. By this time, I will have already met with all faculties within the Arts and Sciences, and I have introduced drop-in sessions every couple of weeks for students to meet with me, discuss their issues and plan their solutions.

Prevent and Islamophobia

Last semester, I invited Moazzam Begg (Outreach director for CAGE) to speak about the structural Islamophobia that manifests itself in policies such as the Prevent duty. This is part of a campaign I will be continuing in this year to explore the different ways in discrimination against Muslims is manifested, from gendered/racial Islamophobia to the ways Prevent has affected the educational and healthcare system. We will also explore how the college’s restrictions on protest, increased securitisation, the monitoring of international students and along with the Prevent policy contribute to creating a hostile environment on campus. In light of the independent review into PREVENT, we will be working with student groups and the College to ensure we have influence within the review.
Hannan Badar, Vice President Education (Health)

Study Spaces
Looking to convert unused classrooms to become informal learning space and social space. As a result, we are looking to pilot the conversion of classrooms into informal and social study space to several classrooms across Waterloo and Guy’s campus and leave them to see what students think. We have launched a survey to see what students would want from this space. We are also looking at KCLSU Activity Rooms to see if they can be converted in study spaces as well when they are not in use during specific times of the year.

Also looking to implement study space strictly for PG use and we are planning to create and pilot more PG study space at Strand. Working with KCL on redoing the Wills Library at Guys, seeing where we can make more efficient use of the space in Wills and the space around it. I’ve been in conversation with the Library Service on how best to make the library space efficient. Started work on how Denmark Hill can be made into a more student friendly campus, developing it so services such as Careers and Counselling can have a permanent presence. Also looking to create more social spaces around our campuses.

Slice the Price
Carrying on from the Slice the Price Campaign that was started up last year. We have an objective to lobby KCL to have a 3rd instalment for all students who are self-funded to ease the burden and stress on self-funded students who have to pay all the tuition fees by January of the Academic year. Open meeting has been set up to discuss issues students have and their experiences with KCL Finance. Collecting quantitative and qualitative data on what students would like for a flexible payment plan and have a business plan to KCL on how and why a 3rd instalment plan should be implemented to all students.

The campaign is also looking at how there can be more access to bursaries and scholarships to students, specifically for students who self-fund as well scrutinising the method at which bursaries are given to students and looking at how to make the process as simple, clear and easy for all students.

Assessment and Feedback
Discussions with the University on how students find it difficult to cope with the stress of having all the assessments at the end of the year counting towards a big total for the year and for the exams all to be one type of assessment. The University willing to looking into spacing the weighting of the work that you do as well as looking at different assessment types. There is also conversation about how coursework can be more spread out instead of being bunched near each other.

Working with KCL Timetabling looking to issue a rule where students can have no more than 3 exams per week to reduce the stress on students during the exam season. Successfully discussed with KCL Timetabling to release the August exam timetable 3 weeks in advance of the August exam period.

Mental Health
Alongside Robert (VPWC), we’re part of KCL’s Student Mental Health strategy implementation group. We have had discussions on counselling sessions and whether students get the best use of that time as well as looking at how there can be culturally competent counsellors.

I’ve been supporting a Wellbeing project developed by students on tackling loneliness, called OurSharedHealth and seeing where I can support those students.

SU representation on campuses
Myself and Jessica (VPP) have been part of the discussions around the KCLSU space at Denmark Hill. The plans for the space look amazing!

With SU space at St. Thomas’ Campus, there is a principled agreement of space allocation to KCLSU. Finalization of how much space we can have for KCLSU should be determined by next academic year and that space will be tailored for students at that campus.

Digital Transformation
Formed the Digital and Communications Committee at KCLSU, this Committee is used to discuss a new website that is being developed we are focusing on ensuring it looks great, that it’s simple and easy to navigate and has the relevant information for students. From there we are hoping to move Digital Transformation forward by creating and developing an app.
We are also setting up digital kiosks around KCL. We are looking to pilot this next academic year. In terms of the functions that will be part of the kiosks, we have a list of ideas that we would like to include and have discussed with among the KCLSU Hubs Student Staff to what they thing students would like.

**KCLSU Research Bureau**

Working alongside Ahad (President), I'm operationalising the KCLSU Research Bureau. The Research Bureau is focused on assisting the KCLSU Sabbatical Officers and students with the manifesto pledges and campaigns. We aim to have tablets that will enable students to be able to answer quick questions that will allow KCLSU Student Officers to be able to gain an insight into how students may feel about certain. This also may be part of the KCLSU Digital Transformation Project.

**Academic Representation**

Working alongside Mohamed (VPEAS) and Jessica (VPP) on seeing how we can create a more impactful academic representation system. We've been brainstorming ideas on what academic representation is, the role of Academic Associations and how KCLSU can support reps on every level throughout the university as well as creating events and platforms to allow for more collaboration between reps from different departments and faculties.

Looking to exploring creating a separate funding stream for Academic Associations due to having different operational remits in comparison to KCLSU Societies and Sports Club. In the latter half of the semester myself and Shauria (VPAD) will see if this can be implemented.

**Careers and Opportunities**

Discussed with KCL Careers department on having another part-time job fair in the second semester of term for students. Also looking to see if part-time jobs can be closer to accommodation for students who live in KCL associated accommodation to ensure there is less travel time.

Future plans look to see if there can be any support for students from a Widening Participation to help them in applying for internships and careers after university. Also looking to see how King's Health Partners (KHP) can support UG and PG Health Students in giving research and job opportunities throughout their degree and post-graduation.
Shaurya Vig, Vice President Activities & Development

Wednesday Night at Vault

The famous KCLSU Sports night is back at the Vault. This has enabled KCLSU to expand its commercial operations and utilize our beautiful spaces at Bush House efficiently. Credits to the commercial team at KCLSU as well who have worked relentlessly for this.

External speaker form wait time to be reduced from 15 days

I have received a lot of complaints from societies who face difficulties in inviting external speakers for events on campus. The primary reason has been that the external speaker form needs to be filled up at least 15 working days before the event. I have been working with the Freedom of Expression Advisory group to reduce this time by forming a single risk assessment process for KCL and KCLSU.

Sleeping Pods at KCL

I have been working with the estates team at KCL to get nap pods on Campus. This will be beneficial for students who study late nights at the library especially during exam period. The project will start with a pilot for some time and if successful feedback is received from the students we will have them installed in all our campuses. We are at a stage where we need to finalize on the locations of the pods.

Team King’s

Have been working with KCLSU and King’s Sports to form a community for our sports clubs so that the students feel a sense of pride while playing for our university. No matter whatever sport you play at King’s, a student will be a part of Team King’s.

University Challenge

This year we had one of the most successful university challenge trials in our history. We had over 150 people attend it out of which top 8 were selected for the second round which was the buzzer-round. This was the first time we had a 2nd round in the university challenge trials. The top 5 then formed a team and entered the competition. KCL has never won the university challenge but, I hope we change the history this time.

Commercial Surplus at KCLSU

Despite having great venues and cafes, KCLSU has not made a commercial surplus for several years in the past. I have been working with the commercial team to introduce new events and to encourage societies to have events at our spaces by giving them better deals than any other venues in zone 1.

Affordable accommodation at King’s

Our VP Welfare and Community Robert Liow and I have been active members of the Rent Setting Group and have worked closely with King’s residences to make accommodation more affordable for students at King’s.

Better deal for International Students

Being an international student myself, I have experienced the various difficulties we face, first-hand. Thus, I have been closely working with College International Committee and KCL Vice Principal (International) Dr. Funmi Olonisakin for better representation of international students and ensuring a smooth Brexit for the student body.

Robert and I have also had the chance of working with the university to make a joint submission to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for International students. We had submitted a statement to include KCL in the tier 4 visa pilot scheme and the good news is that the Immigration White Paper has accepted the recommendations of the MAC committee to grant visas for 6 month after the course end date to UG as well as PG students.

Digital Transformation at KCLSU

I have worked closely with our Digital and Communication team at KCLSU in building a new website for KCLSU. We also had an app for the Welcome fair which received a great response with almost 5000 downloads and students using the app on average of 14 times (Total of almost 70,000 visits). We are now working to see how we can improve our services by providing a full-time app to students.

Our VP for Health Faculties Hannan Badar and I have worked with our Director of Digital and Communications to form a new subcommittee to the trustee board called the Digital and Communications committee. This will oversee our whole process of digital transformation at KCLSU.
Lessons from Auschwitz

I had the privilege of joining student and university leaders on a Lessons from Auschwitz trip organized by the Holocaust Educational Trust. I was joined by President Ahad Mahmood and VP Education (Art and Sciences) Mohamed Salhi. It is our collective responsibility to eradicate all types of hatred from our campuses and we will put our learnings to practice while combatting anti-Semitism at campus.

Bush House Quad

I have had conversations with the college about societies using the Bush House Quad and the college has been receptive of the idea of allowing the KCLSU societies to use the Quad Space. We hope to get the booking framework soon.

Disabled Sports

At KCLSU we have made arrangements for training personnel to visit and train the coaches of sports teams at King’s on how to make sports more accessible for students with disability. We hope to put a structure in place to make sports at Kings as inclusive as possible for all students.

I have been working on a lot more things. If you have any issues or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me on vpad@kclsu.org.
Robert Liow, Vice President Welfare & Community

Mental health

As part of my manifesto, I pledged to campaign for KCL to provide better mental health support for students, particularly marginalised students. Together with fellow students Lux Step and Maya Biswas-Whittaker, I launched the Mind What Matters KCL campaign. We have held a couple of events and launched social media pages. One of our objectives was to get mental health support information translated into other languages for students for whom English may not be their first language and may not be comfortable to use in times of distress, and I have started discussions with the university on translating some pages on the Counselling and Mental Health support pages into Mandarin and Spanish, to better serve Chinese- and Spanish-speaking students.

I also sit, with VP Education (Health) Hannan Badar, on the working group on KCL’s student mental health strategy. This group is planning, among other things, a review of KCL’s counselling and mental health services. Among other things, I have advocated for any assessment of mental health provision to take into account the needs of marginalised students, including international students, and this suggestion was taken positively and seriously.

Getting a better deal for international students

My experience as an international student and as an advocate for international students came in handy when submissions opened for the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Students. Together with our VP Activities and Development Shauyna Vig, I worked on a joint submission with KCL to the APPG. One of the proposals we included was that KCL should become part of the Tier 4 Visa Pilot scheme, which allowed postgraduate international students on courses of 13 months or less to remain for 6 months after the end of their course, instead of the current 4 months. The Immigration White Paper developed by the government in response to the process of consultation (involving not just the APPG but also the Migration Advisory Committee’s recommendations) has said that this should apply to all eligible postgraduate international students in all universities, and proposed to extend it to undergraduate international students too. While not all our recommendations were accepted, international students now have a better deal.

Getting ready for lecturer strikes

Earlier this year, lecturers and academics at KCL balloted to strike as part of a proposed nationwide strike by their union, the UCU. I led the Officer Team on developing a prompt and independent response from KCLSU in the event that strikes happened. While turnout was insufficient to support a strike at KCL, KCLSU is now better-prepared if the re-ballot on the same issue, which is due to close on 22nd February, leads to more strikes.

Using ring-fenced strike savings

UCU members at KCL struck for a total of 14 working days in February and March 2018. KCL promised to ring-fence the money saved through salary deductions for the student benefit. The officer team and I have secured a commitment from KCL that the ring-fenced money will be put towards the student benefit with the advice of KCLSU. The proposal was written by me and submitted to the Senior Management Team by the previous officer team on my behalf before I took office, and we as a team are working with KCL on it.

Promoting our free sanitary products

I worked with our Operations and Marketing team, as well as with KCL’s Estates team, to secure clipframes outside our toilets where we could signpost students to the free sanitary products that KCLSU provides. The location of the clipframes was intentional, as not all students who menstruate are women and use the women’s toilets. The campaign to get free sanitary products was won in 2015 by former Interfaith Officer Noor Khan and Hareem Ghani, a KCL graduate who was our KCLSU Women’s Officer and then the NUS Women’s Officer. Building on the successes of this campaign, we encouraged more students to take advantage of our free sanitary products.

Safe Space Review

As promised in my manifesto, I have launched a review of KCLSU’s safe space policy, in order to update our approach to student safety in a way that works for everyone and protects the right to freedom of speech as well as the safety of marginalised communities. I have received a few written submissions so far, and will be seeking more feedback and developing a proposal based on what students have told us. I aim to finish the process in time for students to enjoy a new, updated approach to student safety by the next academic year.

Supporting trans students

One of the first things I did as was get KCLSU to print optional pronoun stickers to encourage people to declare their pronouns at Welcome Fair. These stickers helped make Welcome Fair more inclusive, and serve as a reminder that people shouldn’t assume others’ gender based on their looks.
Additionally, I am working with KCL’s Diversity and Inclusion team to help make it easier for trans students to know how to change their name. Currently, the Trans Toolkit available on the Diversity and Inclusion webpage has been updated with helpful instructions on who to contact, and what may be required of trans students wishing to change their name.

**Lecture capture and beyond**

As part of my manifesto, I promised to expand lecture capture provision as far as possible. To this end, I’m working with the university on developing guidance in consultation with, and for, students and staff to make the best out of lecture capture. My objective in doing so is to encourage more productive and frequent use of lecture capture, to the benefit of all students and staff.

**Drug safety guidance**

While KCLSU does not condone drug use, it is inevitable that students will come into contact with drugs during their time at King’s. As such, I have pushed for KCLSU to provide links to honest information and the facts about drugs on its website. In particular, in order to support our LGBT+ student community, we will provide links to London Friend’s Antidote service (a support and advice service for drugs and alcohol, run by and for LGBT+ individuals) as well as Friday Monday, which is specifically for gay and bisexual men.

**Elections reform**

I made the case at KCLSU’s Governance and Policy Committee that students should be allowed to do election lecture shout-outs by video. This has been implemented for the Spring 2019 elections, which will make it easier for students to campaign.

**Brexit**

Together with the KCLSU President Ahad Mahmood, I sit on the KCL-KCLSU Brexit Strategic Oversight and Advisory Group, and provide student input on KCL’s response to Brexit.
Agenda Item 6: NUS Motions

A motion is a proposed policy. It states what we believe about an issue, and the action we will take. Any students' union that is affiliated to NUS can submit a motion or amendment to National Conference.

The motion is discussed and debated by King's students at AGM, and if it passes, it is sent to NUS National Conference. There, it will be discussed and voted on again, and if it passes, will become NUS policy, so will set out NUS' political stance and work for the year ahead.

Motion debate: how it works

1. Chair introduces the motion.

2. The proposer or their representative talks about the motion.

3. There is a short open Q&A, with an opportunity for students to ask for specific points of information or clarity from the proposer (or their representative). These questions shouldn't be used to agree or disagree with the motion.

4. Chair asks any student in attendance if they would like to say why they disagree and agree with the motion, with one student selected by the Chair for each side (if a pair of students do not wish to speak, it goes straight to a vote).

5. Further points made to agree and disagree with the motion, at Chair's discretion.

6. Vote on motion.

If you have already voted online, you may not vote again.

NUS has a word limit of 1400 for the total of all motion submissions from KCLSU. If the total word count of all the motions passed is higher than this, the motions with the greatest majority of votes in favour will be prioritised, and will be sent until we fulfil the word count.

This means that if all the motions pass, the motion(s) with the lowest difference between votes in favour and votes against may not be submitted to NUS.
Motion to End Precarious Work
Submitted by Oliver Brotherton

Conference Believes:

1. Precarious employment has become a typical feature of our lives under capitalism.
2. Over 10 million people in Britain are currently considered to be in precarious employment.\(^1\)
3. Low pay, poor working conditions, zero-hour contracts and minimal rights have become standard.
4. This leads people to be barely able to live off their wages and are living in a desperate social and financial situation.\(^2\)
5. At Universities, the result of this has been recent campaigns to bring cleaners and other staff in-house.
6. The Conservative government has been promoting and encouraging precarious employment.\(^3\)
7. An upsurge in precarious work is a natural product of capitalist crisis.

Conference further believes:

1. We have the technology, resources, and ability to plan the economy so that no-one has to work in precarious employment.
2. All workers should get a real living wage, fixed-term contracts, and full workers’ rights.

Conference resolves:

1. To support, with financial help and active participation, the struggles of precarious workers.
2. To help organise a joint committee of union representatives of all precarious workers at universities, colleges, and schools.
3. To make the case for and participate in joint union action, on a national scale, in defence of the rights of precarious workers.
4. To campaign for the election of a government for the many, not the few, that will fundamentally transform society so that the economy is planned and run in the interests of need, not profit.

\(^1\) [http://www.gmb.org.uk/newsroom/millions-insecure-work](http://www.gmb.org.uk/newsroom/millions-insecure-work)
\(^3\) [https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/workers-rights-reform-new-overhaul-zero-hours-contracts/](https://inews.co.uk/news/politics/workers-rights-reform-new-overhaul-zero-hours-contracts/)
Motion to Fund Free Education by Expropriation
Submitted by Oliver Brotherton

Conference believes:

1. Society benefits from having an educated population.
2. The quantity and quality of education available to the public has always been a general measure of social progress.
3. There have been several attacks on and cuts to education in recent years.\(^4\)
4. The quality and availability of education is being limited by these attacks.\(^5\)

Conference further believes:

1. Education should be free and accessible to everyone, throughout their lives.
2. We have the resources in society to provide free education for all.
3. Profit should have no place in education.

Conference resolves:

1. To campaign for free education, to be funded by taking the entire education sector and the 150 biggest businesses and banks into the democratic ownership of the working class.
2. To campaign for the centralised and democratic planning of education and research based on the needs of society, not the profits of the rich.

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Motion for Interest-Free Loans for Postgraduates
Submitted by Antony Sangha

Conference believes:
That the current state of postgraduate education is inadequate and shambolic. Prospective students are priced out of the education market and this is hindering long term economic growth as well as productivity.

Conference further believes:
The UK Government should remedy this by offering interest free loans for all part time and full time research and taught postgraduate courses. This will increase the number of postgraduate students and create a competitive advantage in the long run for UK PLC.

Conferences resolves:
To campaign to get the UK government to commit to fully support this. This will include a petition to the University Minister and meetings with the UK government.
Motion to Use Strike Savings for the Student Benefit

Submitted by Robert Liow

Conference believes:

1. The 2018 UCU strikes over the USS pension resulted in huge savings for universities due to salary deductions from staff.

2. Universities have not agreed to refund students, but some, like King’s College London and UCL, have announced that they will ring-fence these savings to be used for student benefit e.g. by putting it into hardship funds.

3. Only some universities have spent part or all of this money.

4. One potential consequence of the ongoing USS dispute is that salary deductions may be returned to staff, following the demands of some UCU members.

Conference further believes:

1. The intransigence of university management is the reason for university strikes; the blame does not lie with striking academics.

2. Universities which do not spend strike savings in any way will financially benefit from strikes.

3. Strike action doubly affects students who are also academic staff as they sacrifice their studies and/or pay.

4. Universities should not be allowed to renege on commitments they have made to students in recognition of their responsibility for the strikes.

5. Universities using funds promised to students to instead pay academics who were on strike will drive a wedge between students and staff.

6. As only some universities have spent their savings, allowing universities to choose between spending strike savings to student benefit and returning them to academics who struck is unfair to students.

Conference resolves:

1. To mandate the VP Higher Education to call on universities to repay academics who struck from a separate, equivalent pool of money instead if there is an agreement to return salary deductions.

2. To support student unions in campaigning for universities to put current and future strike savings to student benefit.

3. To support student unions in campaigning for universities to put an equivalent amount of money to student benefit in the event that salary deductions are returned to academics who struck, and for student unions to determine the allocation of this money.

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9 https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/partnership-fund/
10 http://www.thenationalstudent.com/Student/2018-06-23/york_and_reading_uni_are_paying_for_graduation_gown_hires_using_wages_from_the_strikes.html
Motion to Make Xenophobia a Hate Crime

Submitted by Robert Liow

Conference believes:

1. International students and other migrants face nationality-related harassment and violence (xenophobia), which includes but goes beyond race-based discrimination and harassment.

2. The Brexit referendum resulted in the largest spike in hate crime on record. Regardless of the outcome of Brexit in March 2019 there is likely to be a similar response.

3. The NUS has paused funding to the International Students’ Officer for 2019/2011.

4. Currently, while race is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010, nationality is not.

5. The Law Commission is currently reviewing hate crime laws, including “the existing range of protected characteristics, identifying gaps in the scope of the protection currently offered and making recommendations to promote a consistent approach.”

Conference further believes:

1. Regardless of race, no person, student or not, should be the subject of xenophobia.

2. Criticism, protest or boycott of a state or a person who is defending or condoning its behaviour should not be considered xenophobia.

3. If the remit of the International Officer is transferred to a NUS Vice-President, National Conference can pass policy defending international students.

4. While the ideal solution to xenophobia is to eliminate its roots, an interim solution to the problem is urgently required.

5. Recognising xenophobia as a separate hate crime will send a message that it is unacceptable and give international students another avenue of legal recourse.

Conference resolves:

1. To work with student unions and partners in the education sector and government to lobby the Law Commission for xenophobia to be recognised as a separate category of hate crime.

2. To support student unions in supporting students who are victims of xenophobia.

Motion to Restrict the Rents
Submitted by Momin Saqib

Conference Believes:

1. Nearly two-thirds of university halls cost more than the minimum student loan.12
2. Universities which rent rooms or halls from private student accommodation providers e.g. Unite Students and Urbanest are unable to lower student rents below the cost of renting from these providers without making a loss.
3. The 2018/19 Accommodation Costs Survey shows that 49.5% of student accommodation is owned by private providers rather than institutions.
4. The 2018/19 Accommodation Costs Survey recommends that “the Office for Students should require those it regulates to have an affordability policy relating to their own and partnered student accommodation, which should contain meaningful commitments to ensure affordability”.
5. The Office for Students cannot directly regulate private student accommodation providers.

Conference further believes:

1. Housing is a human right.
2. No student should have their student experience curtailed by unaffordable accommodation.
3. The amount universities can spend on renting halls or rooms from private providers drives private providers to charge higher rents.
4. Serious measures must be taken to address unaffordable student housing.

Conference resolves:

1. To campaign for the Office for Students to follow the recommendation in Conference Believes 4.
2. To campaign for the Office for Students to cap, as a percentage of university expenditure, the amount universities can spend on renting halls or rooms from private providers, while still providing a minimum accommodation guarantee to students.

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Motion for Equal Access to Faith and Wellbeing Resources for Students From non-Abrahamic Faiths and Traditions
Submitted by Akshaya Rajangam

Conference believes:

1. That there is a lack of adequate tailored faith-based support from university chaplaincies and students’ unions for students of non-Abrahamic faiths creating a distinct barrier to the proper resolution of all wellbeing-related issues that they face.

2. That most UK universities will usually have chaplains from Abrahamic faiths, namely Christian and Muslim, but chaplains from other faiths and traditions are significantly underrepresented relative to the number of students from these communities.

3. That existing multi-faith prayer spaces are not equally accessible to students from all faiths and traditions.

4. That very few UK universities have equal access to multi-faith prayer rooms for Hindu, Jain, Sikh and Buddhist students although dedicated prayer spaces are provided for students from Abrahamic faiths.

Conference further believes:

1. That university campuses today should be an environment where all students, irrespective of their faith, beliefs or traditions, have equal access to tailored university-provided wellbeing support.

2. That all students should have this access notwithstanding the size of their faith community relative to the overall student population.

3. That faith-specific chaplains can provide better support to students from their faith as they better understand the cultural and religious context in which these students navigate their university lives.

4. That the equal provision of and access to multi-faith prayer rooms is crucial in enabling all students to connect to their religious practices as a means of maintaining good wellbeing.

Conference resolves:

3. That all affiliated unions should collaborate with representatives from non-Abrahamic faiths and traditions to gain an understanding of the basic principles underlying them.

4. That all affiliated unions must collaborate with student societies representing non-Abrahamic faiths and traditions to understand the needs of these students whilst at university.

5. That all affiliated unions should provide a space on campus that can be used as a multi-faith prayer room for students from non-Abrahamic faiths and traditions.

6. That all affiliated unions should liaise with their university chaplaincies to create a strategy for recruiting chaplains from non-Abrahamic faiths and traditions.