

Officer Updates

AGM 2020

Shaswat Jain, President

Update Topic 1:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Better Career services

Progress made so far:

Worked with Kings careers on expanding career opportunities for students. Worked to break the stereotype that KCLSU is only a “fun” organization, through career events in KCLSU spaces. Opened up KCLSU channels to career services to boost engagement from students. Held targeted career events for women, LGBTQ+, international students and people of colour. Worked with KCLSU commercials to create exclusive KCLSU career events involving companies like Barclays. Currently working on holding a KCLSU career fair.

Update Topic 2:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Volunteering services

Progress made so far:

Worked extensive with KCL and KCLSU volunteering to create a unified platform for volunteering services. Current offerings from KCL and KCLSU are not streamlined, and therefore it is hard for students to navigate. Therefore, worked on a platform which enables students benefit from joint service-led volunteering. Platform to be funded by KCL and working to get it in place by the end of this term.

Update Topic 3:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Funding:

Progress made so far:

Working on the KCL Go fund your campaign along with Nafiza. Through the campaign, I worked on various aspects such as the third instalment, the alumni discount.


Currently collaborating with Entrepreneurship Institute on one of their projects aimed at accessible funding for PG

Update Topic 4:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Student Representation

Progress made so far:



Student representation was a concern and risk as faculties are working on their own ways of student input, therefore currently looking to understand the nuances of the rep review and implementation in various faculties. Currently working on holding a rep meeting, with reps and trying to understand what works and what doesn't.



Nafiza Mamun, Vice President Postgraduate

Update Topic 1: KCL Go Fund Yourself

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

To create a campaign about the difficulty in financial accessibility at King's, especially for postgraduate students. These include:

- 3rd instalment in fee payment
- More scholarships for postgraduate students
- Transparency on hidden fees in the life of a student at King's

Progress made so far:

A campaign has been created, called KCL Go Fund Yourself, where we conducted a research with the help of the research bureau through a survey. We have also created an open meeting for students to come in and share their thoughts on the financial strains at King's and further invited them to join our protest/march the following week in front of JCMB.

Update Topic 2: Postgraduate Mental Health

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Better postgraduate mental health

Progress made so far:

At the beginning of the year, I conducted a research with KCLSU wellbeing where we interviewed 18 postgraduate students to find out what mental health looks like to them, where we found 9 recurring themes, which includes:

1. Isolation and support
2. Self-Doubt, Self-Worth & Imposter Syndrome
3. Induction and Expectations
4. Interruptions
5. Lack of support for fieldwork or working outside of King's
6. Funding
7. Language
8. Work-life balance
9. Academic culture

After that, I worked with counselling services at King's to improve this alongside with planning and hosting events for awareness and wellbeing for students, where I am currently in the process of planning a PG mental health open mic. I pushed the university for more mental health support for students and they have provided with more funding in mental health, with which there will be faculty wellbeing officers for the upcoming year.


Update Topic 3: Sleep and Wellbeing

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Create initiatives around sleep and wellbeing for students

Progress made so far:

At the start, I created some bookmarks on the importance of sleep and used them in goody bags handed to students who attended the events I hosted as part of wellbeing week, which include a PG coffee morning in the KCLSU Denmark Hill space and a bath bomb making session in the Studio, with conversations on the importance of sleep and often students expressing that they liked making a bath bomb to calm down at the end of the day or that they don't sleep enough since starting university. More bookmarks were printed and were distributed around Hubs desks.



Meanwhile, I and Julia Haas (KCLSU Wellbeing coordinator) went to Greenwich Students Union to get some information and inspiration on their wellbeing checks they conduct during their induction period, in which it was expressed that this was highly successful and students are better signposted to the services in the union and university. From then, we translated the services into King's services and trialled a King's version of wellbeing checklist with the January enrolment cohort, with a small number of students participating and demonstrating a positive attitude and the need of these checks. Later, this was presented to Trustee Board, where positive attitude was demonstrated towards the initiative but it was decided to improve some of the details and bring it back to the following Trustee Board in April. Following on, the changes suggested will be made and should be ready to go ahead during Welcome 2020.

Update Topic 4: Postgraduate Engagement

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Improve postgraduate engagement from comments on postgraduate students' dissatisfaction

Progress made so far:

I have held various events throughout the year, with a theme with my other objectives and some other ones, such as PG board games and pizza evening. I am in the process of planning some other events, one of them being PG food festival.



Gurbaaz Singh Gill, Vice President Education (Arts & Sciences)

Update Topic 1:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Reevaluating the Assessment cap at King's and devising a more considerate system of capping.

Progress made so far:

We were able to meet with key stakeholders across the college and identify colleagues in charge of assessment and feedback policies. We identified King's Academy as a stakeholder group with continued interest in this sphere. We then worked closely with King's Academy and KCLSU research bureau to produce a paper for the Assessment Standard Sub Committee, recommending the formation of a working group to report back with recommendations. The presentation has been successful and a working group has been formed. The working group will present its recommendations and findings to ASSC in May.

Update Topic 2:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Evaluating King's position on unethical investments and evaluating wider measures around sustainability at kings.

Progress made so far:

Worked with Kat Thorne from kings sustainability to obtain king's divestment data. Then we met with key stakeholders to understand University's stance on sustainability. Negotiated to accelerate divestment which is down to 1.3% and we are on track to divest completely by the end of the year. Currently involved in creating a sustainability guideline document for KCLSU with Tom Davis and also in the process of launching a campaign with Key student sustainability groups. Also co-presented a paper to the academic board that proposed to offset travel that academics undertake on behalf of the university.

Update Topic 3:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

To improve consistency of assessment and feedback across the board.

Progress made so far:

Launched the On your marks campaign that aimed to tackle the inconsistency of assessment and feedback. Spoke to various vice deans of education to understand how assessment and feedback works in their faculty. Also established links with student experience managers and attended SSLCs to understand state of Assessment and Feedback. In the process of holding a rep-meeting to discuss methodology and share best practise (delayed repeatedly due for various reasons).

Update Topic 4:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Improve consistency and presence of Lecture Capture in various Faculties

Progress made so far:

Met with James Toner to understand the lecture capture policy at kings and understand the Gaps. Further met with the Vice deans of education to understand and identify problematic departments. Launched the Capture this campaign. Yet to hold a rep meeting and share findings. Steered the decision at Learning Environments Oversight board to refurbish teaching rooms at Bush House to better enable lecture capture. Currently in the process of negotiating for an audit of rooms in the strand campus, to better understand use of lecture capture. Also aim to put together a guidance document for academics on the use of lecture capture.



Nakul Patwa, Vice President Activities & Development

Update Topic 1:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Increase the number of Nap Pods on campuses in addition to Waterloo.

Progress made so far:

Got 4 new nap pods, 2 at Bush House SE Wing and 2 at Chapters Café Strand Building. Looking for a space at Guys to get some there.

Update Topic 2:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Create a prayer space for Hindu students on campus

Progress made so far:

Identified a space and have started working on a plan to see what it should look like. Hoping to have the space open to students by the end of the academic year.

Update Topic 3:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Increase intercultural collaboration among societies

Progress made so far:

Created a fund called the 'Internationalisation Fund' for all societies to promote collaboration and celebrate diversity. The fund has been successful and popular as it is the only fund open all year round.

Update Topic 4:

Commitment in manifesto/at start of term:

Esports Varsity and Varsity on campus

Progress made so far:

In contact with other universities to find scope to include esports into varsity. Suggested places on campus to have Varsity fixtures and was able to have Pole Fitness in Bush House.