

Officer Q&A

AGM 2020

What have you been doing to help students in regards to changes in assessments and exams in light of covid-19?

Thank you for your question. KCLSU has been actively working with colleagues at various levels in the university, ensuring that students are represented in the conversations concerning students and outcomes that are favourable to students are reached. Some of the work we have undertaken is noted below:

- We have been working with the university to establish principles of a safety net for students, such that students are not disadvantaged.
- We have been working actively to implore the university to understand individual circumstances of students affected by the pandemic, and provide appropriate mitigations such that environments conducive for study and examinations can be created at home.
- We're working with libraries to make more physical material available to students digitally.
- We're working with mental health services to prioritize students in residences currently and moving services online such that there is no operational waitlist.
- We have been having conversations with the university to ensure that the exams and assessments consider the situation of the students during this pandemic.
- KCLSU officers and KCLSU Advice have been creating prompts and posting on social media to assist with tips and tricks to study for exams and assessments, which are available on Instagram and Facebook:
 - [Remote Exam Support](#) (Instagram)
 - [Study Tips](#) (Instagram)
 - [Remote Exam Support](#) (Facebook)
 - [Top Tips for Exam Revision Video](#) (Facebook)
 - [10 Tips to Acing Course Essays](#) (Facebook)
- We conducted a survey in relation to the pandemic to gather an in depth understanding from the students about the issues they were facing so we can press the university to take actions on them.
- We ensured that all accessibility needs of students are taken care of by providing information on all mitigations available to them and have been swift and prompt in our discussions with the Academic reps.

Staff are the backbone and lifeblood of our university, and to cut their pay by making them bear the brunt of under-performing pension investments is seriously unjust. How does KCLSU defend its decision to retain a neutral stance on UCU strikes, when its support may have helped to bring about a return to talks, or concessions to staff, at least one of which is needed to bring strikes to an end?

- Thanks for your question. Firstly, for clarification, it was recognised by the UCU General Secretary that the salary of the staff members who took part in the strikes will not be deducted from them.
- As the student's union it is our foremost duty to ensure that students are supported and represented and that there is least disruption to students' education at university.
- We however did recognize that there was a sense of support for academics in the student population and therefore we came to the conclusion that maintaining a neutral stance would put us in a position where we could negotiate the best outcomes for students by working with the university such that disruptions are minimized for students.

- During the strikes, we lobbied the university to ensure students are supported and were communicated with during the strikes.
- We held an open meeting to consult with student course reps to gather their thoughts and ideas of the impact the impact of the strikes and work-out mitigations.
- From the comments provided, we held a town hall meeting with student reps, inviting Nicola Phillips and Darren Wallis to understand the student concerns and answer their questions.
- We might not have been able to do the kind of work we undertook if not for our neutral stance, as we believe that it was the stance that enabled and empowered us to make a positive difference in the lives of students.

Questions for Gurbaaz, VP Educations (Arts & Sciences):

Can you ask that it be required that all lecturers use the projector for slides or an iPad/tablet to write notes as these are the clearest methods on lecture capture. Also please get rid of chalkboards.

- Hello, thank you for all your thoughts. In the immediate aftermath of the Pandemic, teaching will have to be adapted to account for learners in different parts of the world, with principles of accessibility, inclusivity, ease of use, asynchronous learning, among others, underpinning the approach of the of the university, such that enjoyment of learning is preserved. It is likely that we will be creating and consuming academic content in varied and novel ways. Comprehensive centralized guidance is being drafted for academics with input from the union and such that best practice is established and followed. We shall ensure that consistent and coherent guidance is given to academics to maximize the available technology as you have mentioned, such that no cohort is disadvantaged.

Question for Shaswat, President:


On the KCLSU website, there are details of the other officers and what they have achieved over the course the years but what's parts of your manifesto have you achieved?

Many thanks for your question, below are some aspects that I have worked on:

- **Careers and employability:** I have worked with KCL Careers and created more part-time job fairs and targeted events for various communities and student network that particularly seek to provide equal opportunities for underrepresented student groups
- **Volunteering:** Created a steering group with the university which is currently creating a unified volunteering system that allows students and staff to be associated with various volunteering initiatives even outside of Kings to be able to contribute to the society while developing crucial life-skills
- **Contributed in creating the Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Fairness committee** that works on various policies that make KCL more diverse and inclusive for students (latest success came in form of a policy on Religious Tolerance on campus)
- **Funding:** Currently discussing with the university if it is operationally feasible to have a third instalment for fees for all self-funded students
- **Student engagement-** Increase in number of societies engaging with us by using our marketing channels like screens and website for their event advertisement

What are the KCLSU going to be doing to support the BLM movement? This is not something to stay silent on, especially as an SU of a major university.

- Thank you for your question. As you rightfully mentioned, this is not a matter to stay silent and we have released a statement outlining what we are committing to do as KCLSU. You can find this [here](#).



As Pride cannot be celebrated in person this year, there will be money saved from not paying for a float and other items and events. As a member of the LGBT+ community, I would like this money to be donated to the UK Black lives matter movement and to LGBT+ charities involved with this, as there would be no Pride without Black trans women. Can such a donation be made? Both from King's and the SU side?

- As a charity we are legally unable to donate to other charities, however we are currently looking into whether this is something we can lobby King's to do. We have released a statement outlining what we are committing to do as KCLSU for the Black Lives Matter movement. You can find this [here](#).

What are you doing to ensure that black students on campus feel safe?

- Thank you for your question. We have released a statement outlining what we are committing to do as KCLSU. You can find this [here](#).

What action are you going to take against students who have been outwardly racist to the black people, such as partaking in despicable social media challenges, in light of the recent events?

- We have received complaints from students on matters about spreading and promoting racial remarks on social media channels. We would like to reassure everyone that we have taken up all complaints via our complaints procedure and are investigating the matter carefully. We do not stand with racism of any form but at the same time need to investigate every matter carefully and completely before reaching on any action. You can also submit a complaint with us at complains@kclsu.org and with the university at appeals@kcl.ac.uk