



Royal College of Science Union

Start of Term Council Report

Tuesday 3rd November, 2020

Aparna Pillai, RCSU President

Summary

The first few weeks of term 1 have been successful; we have been able to increase the social media engagement on all platforms with plans to provide incentives to increase the engagement further, we have run 9 events for Freshers Fortnight with varying number of attendees and we have also created a timeline for the launch of the RCSU alumni network. We are currently also in the process of organizing more events for the rest of the term that are fully remote, as well as focusing on the representatives' network and events related to that.

Executive and Subcommittee reports

Societies & Finance:

- The RCSU's societies mostly consist of departmental societies so we have been having discussions on how to improve our relationship to be mutually beneficial by means such that:
 - o Having a shared events calendar
 - o Helping advertise events
- We are also currently working on securing a budget from the faculty for the academic year.
- We have also recently elected a sponsorship officer who will be working on securing sponsorships for the RCSU.

Activities:

- The Activities team is currently planning a giveaway for our members that involves students following all of our social media.
- We have a few ideas in the works such as art contest, a cooking show event, and a cocktail event.
- We are also going to be working heavily on implementing a sports structure within the RCSU potentially between the departments.

Operations:

- As mentioned, we have a newly elected sponsorship officer, and all the documents have been prepared by the previous sponsorship officer and a

handover has taken place, so we should soon be sending all the documents off and receiving responses.

- The Alumni event that we have in mind for the end of the term to celebrate the launch of the young alumni network is a pub quiz style event where the teams will be mixed between alumni and current students. This should be a good way to get some interaction between both groups.
- We have had a broadsheet induction during Freshers Fortnight where the editors introduced what Broadsheet was about as well as getting signups for the various roles that are involved in creating the magazine. We currently have around 3 volunteers for each type of volunteer position involved in making the magazine, so we are set to go ahead and discuss plans for what it is going to look like this year.
- We have yet to discuss details about the Science Challenge and what it is going to look like. It will not be taking place this term, but we will be discussing what the launch of the Science Challenge will look like in the upcoming weeks.
- Regarding the RCSU's website, the webmaster is currently working on updating all the details of the RCSU on our online platforms so there is no inconsistent or outdated information. Regarding the future of our website, we are thinking of coding our own website so that is a fresh look to it but also, so it has more functionality.

Academic and Wellbeing:

- Almost all year reps have been elected, the few remaining positions will most likely be elected in the current by-election. The VPE and VPW have been coordinating with the dep reps to encourage people to stand for the positions that are currently unfilled.
- The Welcome talk to reps took place on the 28th of October to academic and wellbeing reps and there was a virtual social after the event.
- The VPE and VPW are also currently in the process of organizing an online "Meet your reps" for which we are thinking of incentivizing attendance by using a giveaway.
- Both the VPE and VPW have worked closely with DPE and the dep reps in the RCSU regarding the NSS comments and plans for the academic year.
- The welfare subcommittee is also planning to organize a wellbeing month style event with a theme for each week that corresponds to a specific activity that contributes positively to students' wellbeing.
- There are also discussion forums and other such forums set up in each department to encourage discussion and positive welfare messages.