

## Welcome from Danni



Hi, my name is Danni Youziel and I am the current academic affairs officer at UCL Union. Now I am a second year failing my Physics degree, but I'll save that explanation for later.

I ran for academic affairs officer because I felt students do not know enough about the representation side of the Union. I mean everyone knows where to go if they want the latest edition of the Guardian, but they're not so sure about where to go if they have academic problems. At the moment I hold 'academic surgeries' where students can drop by if they have any issues that they need help with.

One of my aims for this year was to improve communication between the College and Union representatives. At the moment there is a governance review happening at the Union, so hopefully a new structure will be in place to make the role of student representatives easier.

I am also working to make your degrees more accessible online by trying to have every course online with a forum. It just makes things easier if you have a specific problem.

Well that's all for now folks. My surgery times are on the Union website ([www.uclunion.org](http://www.uclunion.org)) or you can drop me an email.

Danni Youziel, [ucl-academic.affairs@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ucl-academic.affairs@ucl.ac.uk)

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## BIG Results

### Sabbatical Officers 2007/8

Clubs, Societies & Student Development Officer: **Steve WHITTLE**  
 Education & Welfare Officer: **Andy FERNANDO**  
 Finance & Administration Officer: **Dominic TARN**  
 Media & Communications Officer: **Sean CLOTHIER**  
 Medical Students' & Sites Officer: **Jules MAZOWIECKI**  
 Services & Events Officer: **Olivia ALFORD**

### Part-Time Executive Officers 2007/8

Academic Affairs Officer: **Adam BOUZLEMATE**  
 Activities Officer: **Thea FOSTER**  
 Campaigns & Equal Opportunities Officer: **Julia SUKAN DEL RIO**  
 Clinical President: **Andrew WILSON**  
 Environment & Ethics Officer: **Sherina PEROOS**  
 General Secretary: **Samantha GODWIN**  
 Postgraduate Association President: **Chibuzor EDORU**  
 Pre-clinical President: **Shaine MEHTA**  
 Promotions & Entertainments Officer: **Rajvinder MALHI**  
 SSEES Site President: **Gemma BLAKEY**

# What can we do for you?

The Democracy Support Unit is a new unit set up by UCL Union to engage and empower student representatives. We are currently looking into our support mechanisms and the resources available to you as a student representative.

As part of this development, we would be very interested to hear your views on:

- How would you like us to communicate with you?
- Would a student representation guide be useful to you?
- What would you like covered in such a guide?
- What type of online resources would you find useful?
- What areas of additional training would you find useful for your role?
- Any other things that we can do to support you.



Let us know at:  
[representation@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:representation@ucl.ac.uk)

## – STOP PRESS – UCL Exam Timetables – STOP PRESS –

UCL Union has been informed by UCL Registry that exam timetables will be available on Portico ([www.ucl.ac.uk/portico](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/portico)) from Wednesday (21<sup>st</sup> March) evening. Paper copies should be available from Thursday (22<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) and can be collected from Departmental Offices.

If any students have further problems ascertaining their exam timetables should contact the Nick Barnard, UCL Union Media & Communications Officer at [mc.officer@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:mc.officer@ucl.ac.uk)



## Student Representation Co-ordinator

Hello I'm Simon. I'm UCL Union's Student Representation Co-ordinator. This means that I am responsible for supporting and developing student representation at all the different levels of UCL, from University-wide representation to departmental and course reps.

I work alongside the Student Officers, such as Danni (Academic Affairs Officer) to develop resources and support for Student Reps, so that you are empowered to fulfil your role and take up the various opportunities available.

I am based in the Democracy Support Unit within the Rights & Advice Centre, which is located on the first floor of the Bloomsbury Theatre. Feel free to pop by to see me for a chat and cup of tea.

Simon To, [representation@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:representation@ucl.ac.uk)

# Shall we stay or shall we go?

**“Should UCL Union remain affiliated to the NUS?”**

**You decide!**

This year, you can decide whether UCL Union remains affiliated to the National Union of Students (NUS).

Join the BIG Debate at the Extra-Ordinary General Meeting taking place at 5pm on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the UCL Bloomsbury Theatre.



national union of students

## In the news...

### Facing facts

*“We need a sophisticated approach to fees and loans”* says Malcolm Grant (UCL President & Provost)

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/egweekly/story/0,,2001195,00.html>

### Brown to sell off student debt

According to latest figures, the Student Loans Company, which runs the student loan system, lent £3bn in 2005-06 because of the increase in student numbers. The loan pushed up government debt and made public finances appear weak.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/students/finance/story/0,,2034610,00.html>

### Chattering classes

Modern languages are increasingly becoming an elite subject, dominated by the middle classes and concentrated at the top universities.

<http://education.guardian.co.uk/egweekly/story/0,,2031966,00.html>

### Students' UK visa fees amended

International students coming to the UK will have to pay more for their visas - but the increase is not as large as universities had been fearing.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6428399.stm>

### CBI warning on lack of science graduates

A long-term decline in numbers of scientists and engineers will leave Britain lagging behind international competitors and force employers to look overseas for skills, senior executives of some of the country's biggest companies have warned.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/5ef7edd4-d03e-11db-94cb-000b5df10621.html>

### Education spending to reach £74bn

Government spending on education in England is to continue rising - but by less than it has been doing.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/6474789.stm>

# the National Student Survey

[www.thestudentsurvey.com](http://www.thestudentsurvey.com)

The National Student Survey is an opportunity to give feedback on all aspects of university life including course teaching, assessment and feedback, academic support, organisation and management, learning resources and personal development.

Results of the survey will be available to prospective students, and UCL is committed to acting on student comments.

Students who do not complete the survey will be sent a postal questionnaire to their term time address and may also be contacted by telephone. Students not wishing to participate in the survey should visit the NSS website using the above link, in order to opt out and ensure that there is no further contact from NSS researchers.

UCL & UCL Union have issued a joint statement on the National Student Survey, you can find this at:

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/070214>

To complete the survey, visit:

<http://www.thestudentsurvey.com/survey.asp>

## Did you BIG Vote?

Following on from election fever, UCL Union wants to hear from you about the recent elections, referendum and BIG Vote Campaign.

This is your chance to have a further say to make a BIG change.

**BIG Vote 07  
Questionnaire**



[www.uclunion.org/bigvotesurvey](http://www.uclunion.org/bigvotesurvey)