



# Royal College of Science Union

## Term 1 Report

### 2023-2024 Executive Committee

Trinity Stenhouse (*President*)

Kye Bong Choo (*Treasurer*)

Clarisse Bonacina (*Secretary*)

Kylin Treruangrachada (*VP of Activities*)

Jasmine Chan (*VP of Clubs and Societies*)

Julia Purrinos de Oliveira (*VP of Welfare*)

Chloe Lee (*VP of Education*)

Ed Bird (*VP of Operations*)



## *The Aims of the Royal College of Science Union:*

- 1. To further the community experience of UG and PG students in the RCSU by providing sporting, social and other recreational activities.*
- 2. To build a stronger relationship between RCSU and departmental societies and the FoNS alumni association.*
- 3. To represent the welfare and education needs and concerns of students.*

## **President's message**

TRINITY STENHOUSE

### **Recent Activity**

The RCSU has had an excellent start to the year, especially celebrating increased engagement with postgraduate students.

This year has been slower than usual with engagement from undergraduate freshers, likely due to mailing lists not including them until midway through November. Aside from this, students who attended our events have thoroughly enjoyed them, and if anything, remarked on the niceness of increased intimacy of events, and fewer freshers! The Autumn Ball has been described as the highlight of year so far, and attendees praised the inclusion of an A Capella performance. Our postgrad pub quiz was a great success with over 50 attendees and set precedent for our postgrad events scheme going forwards. We are very proud of this and hope to continue these successes with our new VPA, Kylin.

We have continued focusing on education and welfare representation, with Julia and Chloe working hard on new initiatives for mental health awareness and LGBTQ+ inclusion, and supporting students disadvantaged by MAB. First years not being included on mailing lists also caused issues for the elections, as many were unaware this was happening.

Our alumni relations are going particularly well, with regular meetings with RCSA going ahead, and a planned bar night in term 2. We intend to have a big end of year dinner with the alumni in summer.

The RCSU Shop opening was a great achievement, and we are looking forward to releasing more products soon.

Overall, I believe the RCSU has a bright year ahead, and I am extremely excited to see what we can achieve this year now that we have a full committee!



# Finances

KYE BONG CHOO

This year RCSU exec started off with 31k remaining from 2022-2023 year. Our budget for this year is running with an expected expenditure of £26,750, which has been fully negotiated and funded by the College (an increase from last year’s £21,000 in funding). The increase from last year comes from our desire to improve the quality of our events: i.e. not just hosting club nights, pushing for a better sports league, solidifying a postgraduate events scheme, as well as working on building community by increasing the welfare representation budget and creating a budget for committee team building events.

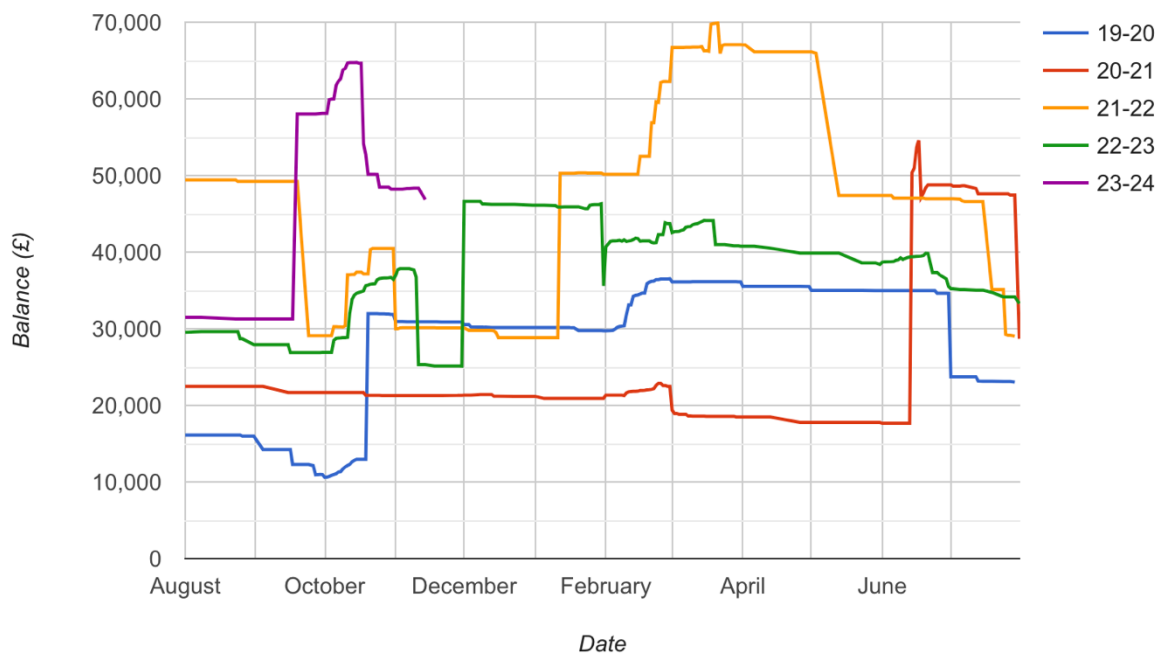


Fig.1. RCSU Expenditure over the year for the past 5 academic years. This year we are in the best financial position we have ever been.

Due to our increased funding, RCSU is in a stable position financially and has managed to deal with being overbudget for some events. Our largest events organised so far has been (1) RCSU Autumn Ball 2023, (2) Mums and Dads Live Music Bar Night, and (3) Postgrad Pub Quiz. We are also in the process of setting up the (4) Union Shop to sell RCSU merchandises.

## (1) RCSU Autumn Ball:

The budgeted expenditure for this event is GBP 12,029.67, with an income of GBP 15,208.33, assuming full attendance at 1000 pax.

The actual ticket sales are GBP 7,517.50 and the actual expenditures adds up to (GBP 13,988.00), resulting in a net loss on this event of (GBP 6470.50), which is to be subsidised with the Faulty Grant. We noticed a higher number of older students attended than usual, with fewer freshers. This is likely due to the faculty mailing lists not being updated with freshers’ email addresses until after the Autumn Ball. We hope that now this has been fixed, we will have increased attendance from freshers.



#### (2) Mums and Dads Live Music Bar Night

This event is budgeted to be subsidised with GBP 569.41. There has been no income on this event.

#### (3) Postgrad Pub Quiz

The budgeted expenditure for this event is GBP 150. However, the actual expenses are lower at GBP 97.50.

#### (4) Union Shop

The budgeted sales income is GBP 2,500, and the actual expenditure totals up to GBP 1,707.59.

#### (5) Other Expenditures

Other expenditures relating to the operations of RCSU such as stationary, freshers fair, pub crawl T-shirts, transportation costs, etc totals around GBP 3,000 to date.

## Departmental Societies

### Biology Society (Charlotte Cheung)

The current state of BioSoc is in a financial surplus. An £80 donation was made to BioSoc for a collaboration PubQuiz event with BioChemSoc and roughly £250 was spent on this event. We are still waiting for the union to process this. Claims have been made during Freshers' week for banners and prizes. More recently, there has been an expenditure of roughly £450 for the purchase of BioSoc Hoodies but this shall generate a small amount of revenue. So far, we have not been able to find a sponsor, however a Sponsorship officer was elected this autumn to take over the process. Our planned upcoming events involve a Kew Gardens visit in collaboration with BioChemSoc which will be free due to association with a professor. We have other smaller events going on such as guest speaker talks and a craft event which will also be free in which small claims will be made for materials and refreshments.

We are currently planning an Ice-Skating social, potentially at Battersea Power Station with BioChemSoc, in which we will be subsidising tickets for however the planning for this is currently underway and a conclusive number cannot be given yet. In term 2, there are ideas for a formal dinner in collaboration with UCL and KCL BioSoc/BioChemSocs at the Natural History Museum – this is just an event idea proposal and is inconclusive for now.

### Biochemistry Society (Ivy Xue)

#### A) Financial Health

The Biochemistry Society currently holds ~£7000 in our account. The build-up of income originates

from the large amount of funds obtained from sponsors from previous years. In the autumn term, we have focused on small-scale academic and social events, which have resulted in an expenditure of ~£450 so far. Since these are all free events, we have not made any profit and are relying on departmental contribution. Since the beginning of the academic year, we have spent our funds on publicity materials for freshers' fair, and for complementary snacks



for our academic and social events. We work closely with RCSU BioSoc, and some of our events, such as the Pub Quiz have had shared funds, requiring internal charging.

#### B) Income Breakdown

This year, we have secured one potential sponsor, although the contract has yet to be signed and transfer of funds have not commenced. Our sponsorship officer will follow this up in due course, resulting in a sponsorship fee of £700 Ex. VAT. In addition to sponsorships, most funds we receive are donations from the Life Science department. We request ad-hoc funds per event we organise,

although most are traditional events such as the Mums & Dads event and potential formal events later in the year. We expect to begin our Society hoodie sales in January, which will generate some profit to supplement some of our other events.

#### C) Planned Large Upcoming Events

In March, we are hoping to host a ball at the Natural History Museum, co-hosting with the Biochemistry Society of KCL and UCL. This will be a large expenditure and will require meticulous finance and budgeting. However, we aim to break-even to maintain our financial health, while ensuring a good student experience for the event.

### Chemistry Society (Ison Ngai Son Hau)

#### Financial Overview:

I am pleased to report that Chemsoc has maintained a sound financial position, with no reported issues to date and £14,612 in our account. The prudent financial management strategies implemented by our team have ensured that we operate within our means while delivering valuable programs and events to our members.

#### Income from donation and sponsorships:

This term, we are thrilled to announce that the Chemistry Department has made a generous donation of £20,000 to the Chemsoc. This substantial contribution will play a pivotal role in bolstering our initiatives and expanding our capacity to provide enhanced academic and extracurricular support to our members. Furthermore, we have received sponsorships from TPP and P&G of £1,400 and £1,600 respectively.

#### Events this term:

Our outreach efforts have yielded positive results, with the Careers Fair, Freshers Fair, and Freshers Events running seamlessly and within budget. The high attendance at these events reflects the value they bring to our members in terms of networking opportunities, career guidance, and fostering a sense of community within the department.

#### Upcoming events this term:

As we approach the festive season, preparations for the Chemsoc Christmas Dinner, scheduled for December 9th, are well underway. This event promises to be a delightful occasion for our members to come together, celebrate the achievements of the term, and enjoy a festive atmosphere. We are working diligently to ensure that the event aligns with our budget while providing a memorable experience for all attendees. Additionally, we have successfully taken pre-orders for merch and expect to receive the shipment for these products on the 1st of December.

### Mathematics Society (Moe Okawara)

MathSoc currently have a total of 6575.14 GBP in the account. We started with an opening balance of 5293.49 GBP on August 1. For expenditure, most have been small purchases such as snacks for event stalls. Our biggest expenditure so far has been pizza for our maths



and dads event, which amounted to a total of 1884.6 GBP (the claim for roughly 1000 of this has not been approved yet so is not documented yet on our transaction pages). Our income so far has come from grants and sponsorship. We have received 1035.08 GBP for grant – 481.67 for the annual Christmas dinner event, 176.61 for the mathematics competition and another 376.80 for ground hire. For sponsorships, we have so far received 2250 GBP from DRW. For planned upcoming events, we have the annual Christmas dinner, which we are planning to host at Jianghu London on the 14th of December. We are budgeting for 100 participants. We are expecting expenditure of 5000 GBP for food and ground hire, which is less than last year. We are also expecting tickets income of 2700 GBP.

### **Physics Society (Killai Parameswaran)**

In terms of financial health, we are at -£4,067.24 deficit. This was from the deposit on the upcoming Christmas dinner venue (Neverland) of £8738. We have also received a donation from the Physics department for £12,000 (letter of confirmation: 24/10/23)

Our income breakdown is shown below:

- Jane street - £750 (+ 150 VAT)
- Phoenix Partnership - £750 (+ 150 VAT)
- Physoc Christmas dinner donation from department: £12,000

Upcoming Events:

For this term, we have our annual Physoc Christmas dinner on 4th December 2023 and have a treasure hunt planned in December (details TBC).

For next term, we have our flagship Physoc boat party planned.

### **Synthetic Biology Society (Annika Keshu)**

The financial health of SynBIC seems to be stable. This year, we have chosen to remove our membership fee and thus, we have income coming in from members. We do not anticipate we will run into a deficit as we have planned for all expenditures. We will be running a Frontiers in Scientific Research Summit conference, which will be open to all undergraduates and postgraduate students in the UK and abroad. In addition, we are also planning to run a bio-hackathon for Imperial students and this would be dependent on finding a sponsor within an appropriate time frame. Aside from these two events, we have a weekly SynBIC seminar series/activity for the members and thus far, the only costs from these have been for consumables. We have acquired a small amount of funding from New England Biolabs (around £600) which we hope will cover these costs. This year, SynBIC is organising the formation of the iGEM and BIOMOD teams and are currently in the midst of team selection and these would be the largest expenditures. From competition fee information and previous team's input, we have determined that we need at least £15,000. Recently, we have secured a donation of £4,400 from the Dean's Fund of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and are seeking more sources of funding. Ultimately, funding for competitions is not the primary responsibility of SynBIC although we try to aid as much as possible. Previously, members have secured their own funding to cover their expenses.



# Union Shop

CLARISSE BONACINA

In week 5 of this term, the RCSU successfully launched its online shop. We introduced a range of RCSU-branded merchandise, including hoodies available in sizes XS to XL offered in two distinct colours. The online sales have gained considerable momentum, operating on a collection basis for purchased items. Currently, we are exploring the possibility of securing designated space within the physical union shop to streamline the process further and enhance convenience for students. Looking ahead, we have plans to release new RCSU-branded merchandise later this term and in the upcoming one. As already instilled by our items currently on sale, we are committed to ensuring that our collection is accessible and inclusive, with a wide variety of items and sizes available.

We hope that this initiative will solidify the RCSU as a distinctive presence on campus and increase the sense of community of our student body.



# Activities

TRINITY STENHOUSE, DUE TO VPA ELECTION IN LATE OCTOBER

## Fresher's Fortnight

This year our events included a presence at the Welcome Fair, the Annual Pub Crawl and a Mums' and Dads' Open Mic Night, as well as a Postgrad Freshers Pub Quiz. We used the Welcome Fair to publicise our events; handing out an events calendar and freshers handbook to students and added fun to our stall by having a spinning wheel which determined which merchandise we would give out to each individual that visited us. The pub crawl was without smaller than usual, with only around 100 attendees. This is likely due to the issues with the RCSU mailing list not including the freshers. Students enjoyed rides on Jezebel, and at least 30 remained at the crawl until it ended at 2am. The Mums' and Dads' Open Mic Night was great, giving students an opportunity to perform, with musical acts and some comedy such as the 'electromagnetic spectrum song'. We found the event to be an intimate but overall successful affair. We offered free drinks if you bring your departmental family due to a lack of participation in previous years, which did seem to be engaged with. We had a great success with our first ever Postgrad freshers event – the Postgrad Pub Quiz – with over 50 sign ups! Attendees thoroughly enjoyed the event and praised RCSU for nurturing its postgrad community.

All in all, our events have been successful and have made students excited about what we will have to offer throughout the rest of the year.

## The Autumn Ball

This is the RCSU's flagship club night event. We auditioned bands over September and chose 5 acts to perform, including IC A Capella's 'The Scopes'. This was the first time we had an A Capella performance, and feedback was that this was generally well received.

We decided to host it at the same venue as last year, the Steel Yard in Cannon Street, due to the uniqueness of the venue, and its capacity to stage live music and cater for 1000 people. We distributed a total of ~700 tickets to our members (and plus ones), performers, and students who won the raffle for discounted tickets. This year, the tickets scheme for Bursary students to help with the cost of living crisis required a fee of £5, which we hoped would discourage students from winning the raffle and not attending the event, or giving tickets away to students not part of the raffle. Unfortunately, we saw far fewer students claim their raffle tickets, with only 41 of the 100 winning students buying this ticket.

We think the reason the tickets were not sold out this year was largely due to freshers not being on the RCSU mailing list when we sent out emails advertising the event. We noticed a far greater presence of older students (year 2 – 4 undergrads and postgrads), which was fantastic, but as this is meant to be a welcome event, the presence of freshers was sorely missed.





Additionally, we hope that in future the Union Shop will provide us with a QR code, since this is far easier for venues than checking through lists of up to 1000 names.

Guests thoroughly enjoyed the event, and praised RCSU for not just organising another club night. The planning that goes into organising an off-site live music event, however, is incredibly stressful, especially as the Activities full committee was not elected at the time. We hope this event can continue in future, but the costs incurred by hiring live music equipment and the time required for sound checks before the event must be taken into account.

## **RAG**

We have plans to organise a Christmas RAG event for stocking making. We are in discussions with IC Union regarding how we choose charities to support.



# Clubs & Societies

JASMINE CHAN

The departmental societies have had a fantastic start to the academic year's first term, showing outstanding performance and strong member engagement. Many societies reported higher levels of participation compared to the previous year, and the Mum's and Dad's scheme has proven to be a valuable resource for freshers in terms of both welfare and academic support. The spirit of collaboration between departments has also been remarkable.

Within the RCSU, we have organised an exciting interdepartmental sports league, bringing together participants from various societies to compete in a thrilling Chess competition. To ensure inclusivity, we introduced multiple skill levels, accommodating students with varying levels of expertise. Additionally, we have organised an open-mic Mum's and Dad's Bar Night, providing a welcoming space for parents to bring their children and enjoy some quality bonding time. This initiative has further strengthened the sense of community within the RCSU and contributed to the overall success of the first term.

## Biology - BioSoc

BioSoc has excelled in member engagement, mainly through its successful collaborations with BiochemSoc. Joint events, such as the Pub Quiz and Halloween Club Night, witnessed an impressive turnout from both societies, along with other biology-related non-departmental societies. Additionally, BioSoc and BiochemSoc partnered to organise an immensely successful Careers Fair to forge strong connections between academia and industry, where representatives come from esteemed companies like P&G, Royal Society of Chemistry and Oliver Wyman. As a delightful addition, BioSoc hosted a tea social for Biology students to socialise and unwind.

## Biochemistry - BiochemSoc

BiochemSoc has seamlessly complemented BioSoc's efforts with its achievements. Beyond the joint events mentioned earlier, BiochemSoc has enriched the academic landscape by hosting insightful talks, shedding light on UROP opportunities and faculty research. The society is also planning an exciting crafting social event for the current term and exploring the possibility of an enchanting ice skating gathering in December to foster a festive spirit among Biochemistry students.

## Chemistry - ChemSoc

ChemSoc has made an impressive start to the academic year with two weeks of consecutive freshers' events, including a Quiz Night, Games & Pizza Night, Movie Night, and Freshers Seminar. Due to the overwhelming success of these events, ChemSoc plans to continue organising similar gatherings throughout the term, catering to both freshers and non-



freshers. These events provide valuable networking opportunities for Chemistry students across different year groups.

In addition to the Careers Fair mentioned earlier, ChemSoc organised a book sale for second-hand Chemistry textbooks as well as an exclusive behind-the-scenes lab visit at the White City Incubator. The society's annual black-tie Christmas Dinner, hosted at De Vere Connaught Rooms, is eagerly anticipated and expected to be a grand success. ChemSoc has also ventured into merchandise sales, offering a variety of items, including T-shirts, quarter zip sweatshirts, and hoodies in various colours and sizes.

### Mathematics - MathSoc

MathSoc has maintained an active presence with two Mum's and Dad's events, as well as Games Nights featuring a wide array of board games, card games, and Nintendo Switch and Wii games. The reintroduction of 5-a-side football has engaged mathematics students from different year groups. Collaborating with PhySoc, MathSoc revived the Integration Bee, providing an intellectual challenge for both societies.

On the academic front, MathSoc organised a successful Careers Fair and an interactive workshop on "Trading with Da Vinci," enriching the educational experience of its members.

### Physics - PhySoc

PhySoc faced some initial challenges due to a shortage of experienced committee members but still managed to host several engaging events for Physics students. These included two Mum's and Dad's events, a Star Gazing Session, Pumpkin Carving, a Family Pub Quiz, a Movie Night, and the Integration Bee in collaboration with MathSoc. They have also organised a careers event with ExxonMobile, discussing their trading programme.

While PhySoc had a slower start, their commitment to providing meaningful experiences for Physics students remains evident. With time, the society is expected to gather momentum and continue contributing positively to their student body.

Overall, all the departmental societies have demonstrated outstanding dedication and creativity in fostering a sense of community and enhancing the academic and social experiences of their members. Their collaborative efforts and diverse range of events have undoubtedly enriched the academic year's first term.

## Sports League

This year we are continuing the RCSU sports league, which involves the five RCSU departments facing off against each other in five different sports across the year, including football, dodgeball, and chess. The winner of each match will be granted a certain number of points and at the end of the year we will crown an overall winner. We hope to use this league to get all the different departments to interact more and also hope to find the best



players across the union and form an RCSU sports team in the future that can play against other Constituent Unions. We are hoping to kick off with chess at the end of November, which has over 20 sign ups across all departments.



# Education & Welfare Representation

CHLOE LEE & JULIA PURRINOS DE OLIVEIRA

## Education

The Academic Representative Team has been successfully adapting to their roles and responsibilities over the past few weeks, especially the newly elected Year Representatives. All reps have undergone comprehensive training facilitated by Eve Campbell (Representation Administration Coordinator), Yi Yang (DPE), Andrea Cojocea (DPW), and me. They are actively engaged in collaborating with their respective departments, attending the SSC meetings, and effectively addressing current academic feedback.

### VPE Overview

1. Union Mailing List
2. NSS Results
3. Departmental Colloquia

### Update on Point 1. Union Mailing List

- Identified that some 1<sup>st</sup> year students were not receiving any emails from the Union, including those related to elections.
- Consequently, 1<sup>st</sup> year engagement has been slightly worse than anticipated.
- Many were unaware of the autumn elections and expressed disappointment at the missed opportunity to nominate themselves for Year Representative roles.
- This matter has been brought to the attention of the Union.

### Update on Point 2. NSS Results

- All reps rely on NSS Results as a foundational tool to assess overall feedback from students in their respective departments, covering aspects such as teaching, assessment, feedback, academic support, and careers.
- Despite the usual sharing of results before the start of the Autumn Term, a delay this year has occurred due to understaffing in the Union, as communicated by Yi (DPE).
- The faculty has received the results, but the Union is expected to share them with us; currently awaiting an update after Rebecca Middleton, Head of Education and Student Experience, reached out to the Union.
- The significant delay has led to growing frustration among the reps, as it hinders their ability to promptly address any possible issues identified through the NSS results.



### Update on Point 3. Departmental Colloquia

- Departmental colloquia have been common within the Mathematics and Physics department, and other departments have since expressed interest adopting similar forums.
- Departmental reps are in discussions with their respective departments for approval.
- Plans are underway for joint colloquia among departments in the future.
- Efforts to increase awareness and encourage attendance from students in other departments include advertising the events in the FoNS Newsletter.

### Chemistry

- Organised module choice talk where several 4<sup>th</sup> year students shared their experiences with the modules they selected and addressed questions from the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students.
- Collaborating with ChemSoc to plan upcoming joint events and aiming to reach out to other departments within Natural Sciences that have expressed interest in organising events together.
- Still working on implementing vertical tutorials to provide students with opportunities to interact with both higher and lower years, fostering a diverse perspective on issues and encouraging questions.

### Life Sciences (Biochemistry)

- Exploring opportunities to gather additional feedback to enhance the Mum's and Dad's programme, seeking ways to boost efficiency and effectiveness.
- Considering the potential implementation of professional mentorship programmes to provide additional benefits.

### Life Sciences (Biology)

- Planning a weekly UG Biological Sciences Colloquium in response to numerous requests from the Biological Sciences cohort. A team of speakers and committee members have been assembled. There are plans to expand to include Biochemistry next term if the project succeeds.
- Department has discussed plans to organise Final Year Talks for younger cohorts.

### Mathematics

- Worked closely with the department to establish the "Maths Student Leaders" programme, consolidating various student groups (MathSoc, LGBTQ+ in Maths, Women in Maths (WiM), Student Colloquium, and to some extent Maths Wiki) into a unified network. This has significantly improved communication and support for these groups, leading to smooth coordination of events throughout the department.
- Departmental reps will conduct Rep Training for elected reps from the by-election.
- The department is currently discussing the reduction of high-stake assessments and the introduction of optional, formative assessments. Some implemented reduction of assessments have been well received across all year groups.



- The Warwick Imperial Mathematics Conference (WImp) is scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> November and students have expressed great interest. Plans are underway for another instance of WImp at Imperial in March and a conference involving London universities.

## Physics

- Module Evaluation Questionnaire feedback was notably poor last year. Efforts are underway to improve engagement for better utilisation of feedback.
- De-weighting Year 1 is under consideration, exploring the possibility of making it carry no credit, similar to practices in many other top universities. Opinions from the cohort will be sought, and internal reviews within the Physics Teaching Committee are planned to assess associated benefits and drawbacks.
- The MAB has concluded, and after off-the-record discussions with the UCU Dep Rep, promising information suggests that negotiations may prevent further strikes; if they persist, negotiations are expected to begin in January/February.

## Welfare

RCSU Welfare this year is collaborating with the Mental Health and LGBTQ+ networks since I am also campaigns officer for these committees.

- Student welfare survey to be sent out this term to FoNS students to gather feedback on what areas the student body feels we should be working on this year.

### Mental Health initiatives

- Upcoming Union social media campaign on self-harm (starting 5<sup>th</sup> December) supported by FoNS, official faculty newsletter email to be sent out detailing the campaign in December.
- Planning ways to make new student wellbeing advisors in each department more visible/approachable to students in need of support.

### LGBTQ+ initiatives

- Trans+ representation in the faculty - looking at support policies to put in place for trans+ natural sciences students. In contact with director of student services and department liaison officers about this. Only initial discussions at the moment regarding what needs to be put in place.
- RCSU LGBTQ+ welfare event next term.
- Highlighting LGBTQ+ history month in February on RCSU social media, focusing on prominent LGBTQ+ natural scientists.

### Welfare Week

- Currently planning welfare week events for w/c 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 with RCSU wellbeing activities officer Sarah Xia.
- Planning to host origami, pottery, gardening, yoga and ultimate frisbee events with an RCSU pokemon scavenger hunt throughout the week.



### Departmental Wellbeing Representatives

- Good engagement with all dep reps, no significant issues raised in departments as of yet.
- Planning a rep social with Chloe VPE for dep reps and year reps.





# Operations

ED BIRD

## Broadsheet

The event proposal, risk assessment and funding has been sorted for the broadsheet recruitment event. It is currently booked for the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. The deputy editor has also been working on social media posts and updating the logo to a more modern design.

## Alumni and Sponsorship

We have been in many discussions with RCSA members about the RCSU ties due to our current ones being incorrect and so new ones need to be ordered. This was highlighted due to an alumnus wanting to buy a tie and have it shipped to the US – this is still being sorted due to the complications of international shipping.

A meeting was organised with the RCSA committee for the 20<sup>th</sup> of November to discuss the RCSA-RCSU bar night and finalise organisation – it will take place in the new year. Regarding Theta bearer, theta is in the process of being repaired. Measurements have been taken and the lock is getting replaced and the missing spike should be getting machined – this should make Theta unstealable! On another note, Theta got stolen, after we stole CGCU's Bolt. The RCSU and CGCU presidents have agreed to take silly photos together and organise a joint RCSU x CGCU Christmas Party where they buy each other's drinks as the ransom.

There has been extensive collaboration with the RCSU treasurer to organise multiple sponsorships. Email templates for the firms we are planning to contact have been created and will all be sent off by the end of next week. We have a list of potential firms to contact, and it includes Deloitte, PwC, and NatWest. The process is following a timeline agreed upon by both the sponsorship officer and the treasurer.

## Science Challenge

An over-arching theme of **Hidden depth** has been chosen for the challenge. This theme is general enough to permit a wide range of projects and ideas to be explored, while also providing an exciting level of intrigue into the mystery of what can be discussed. Hopefully it will lead to some fascinating science being explored and deep dives into things people usually might not consider! Some other broad question ideas have been proposed including: "science in 22nd century, life without science, small is beautiful, and essential energies". With these questions in mind, a list of potential judges has been created and we will start sending out emails in the next couple days to ensure their availability. Once the judges have been confirmed, there isn't too much to do as the launch for the challenge will be in the new year.