

The logo consists of the letters 'TL' stacked above 'SU' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are a vibrant pink color and are centered within a white square. The background of the entire page is a solid pink color, with a white diagonal shape at the bottom and a vertical bar of teal, maroon, and purple on the right side.

**TL
SU**

**ANNUAL REPORT
JUNE 2023**

Presented by Adriana Garcia Pinilla

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THE TEAM



Administrator
George Lewis



President
Adriana
Garcia Pinilla



Euan Holwill
VP Music
Jul 22-Jul23



Elena Marinova
VP Dance
July 22-August 22



Keith Corprew
VP Dance
Nov22-July23



Emma Gerrett
VP Welfare
Nov 22-July 23



Niamh Carr
VP Events
Jul 22-Dec22



Jesse Musson
Societies officer
Nov 22-July 23



Lewis Chinn
UG Music officer
Nov 22-July 23



Nivanthi Karunaratne
PG Music officer
Nov 22-July 23



Olivia-Rose Deer
MT officer
July 22-Feb 23

THE TEAM

When the current team ran for the elections for this tenure, there were 15 positions to be filled. President, 2 academic VPs, 2 student experience VPs, 2 academic officers under VP of dance, and 3 under VP of music, and a further 5 under the student experience VPs.

Only 5 positions were filled. VP of Music by Euan Holwill, VP of Dance by Elena Marinova, VP of Events by Niamh Carr, and MT officer by Olivia-Rose Deer.

Even though this was a small team, 3 of us had worked together in the SU the previous year.

When Freshers came around, MT officer had shown no presence nor interest in collaborating (and showed no presence for the rest of the year), and Elena, VP of Dance had quit, and was no longer part of the SU exec. team. By the time Freshers rolled around and students filled the institution, we were a team of 3 and an administrator. This was not without its challenges, causing quite serious burn out in us all.

TLSU held by-elections in October, and recruited a new VP of dance - Keith Corprew, and VP of Wellfare - Emma Gerret. We also acquired a societies officer - Jesse Musson, a UG music officer, Lewis Chinn, and a PG music officer - Nivanthi Karunaratnate.

These additions lifted some weight of the my shoulders and were able to help the workload and stress. The executive team exhibited different degrees of engagement, and after a term where the bar had been neglected, the VP of Events quit in December. Taking the Christmas break to reflect on how the SU would move forwards with no VP of events, the team returned to the spring term refreshed and renewed.

THE TEAM

With the change of the constitution taking place at the end of January, we had a system in place where we could remove members of the exec team who had completely failed to engage, which was the case for the MT officer, so we removed them from the team in February

Our VP of Dance took some leave during the last term and we were left without representation from the dance department. This was something that I did struggle with, as I felt that this caused neglect of the SU at Laban, as I didn't have sufficient time or resources to put towards the dance students

In reflection, all the team but one being final year students, meant that they would be focussing mainly on their final recital, and therefore less engaged with TLSU.

This year we acquired a new Administrator. This is a part time position working for both TLSU and Trinity Laban. Unlike the previous administrator, the incoming administrator had never been part of the SU. This year conversations have been raised about the relationship between TLSU, and by extension, the Administrator. Perhaps moving forwards it is important to put in writing and discuss this relationship, which will in turn help clarify the roles of the administrator and the SUP, and their involvement in the SU. These boundaries will allow for smoother running of TLSU.

OVERVIEW

This year the focus of the SU has been to settle into the institution. We used this tenure as a transition into a more established Students' Union. We have had a strong focus on questioning the methodologies and systems or lack thereof in the SU so we can help the students better. Changes to the constitution reflect this, and so does our proposal for the SU to become an ICO.

With the aim of being established, we hope that the students see us as a constant, a support, and a place to go for entertainment.

With this in mind we have put in place different systems and failsafes which will hopefully ensure that everything is run smoothly and with transparency.

Adequate and thorough training for the incoming president, including the explanation of all the tasks, will ensure a thorough handover, and a new team will take the SU reins confidently.

My hope with this year's effort is that the SUP and the rest of the exec. team can focus on those tasks and campaigns that they want to achieve throughout the year.

In order to do this work and leave the SU in the best possible position, I deemed that the SU's biggest gap was in the relationships it had with both the college and the students. It was essential to return to the fundamentals and work on communication.

With the sole purpose of students benefiting from the SU's work, we have been active and present in the different buildings, talking to students, and sometimes even taking work to the cafes to integrate with the student body.

It has also been important to work on the TL - TLSU relationship, where our common interest is the student experience. Working with, rather than against TL has proved helpful in building this relationship. Hopefully in the long run, this will benefit not just the SU, but the student body.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

Freshers

The start of the year threw the team into the deep end straight away, with a small team of 3, and no access to the bank account until mid November, we were confronted with the mammoth task of planning a two week Freshers. We managed to organise a range of successful events, and students seemed to enjoy them. We did have some issues with scheduling day events, as despite having asked TL for the induction timetable, we were not sent it until a couple days prior to the arrival of the freshers. This meant that some of our day time events clashed with some already scheduled activities.

- We have raised this as a concern, and have shown TL an interest in collaborating and being more involved in induction so that events and activities can more smoothly roll of each other. Things have been put in place for a more exciting freshers week

Freshers did not make as much money on the bar as expected. We found out that this year's freshers are not as inclined towards drinking; they did not drink anywhere near as much as in previous years. This was reflected throughout the year. Perhaps this was a side effect of COVID and the lack of socialisation, but could also be influenced by the cost of living crisis.

The World Cup

As per the request of a number of students, we showed the World Cup. The TLSU exec. team acknowledged the controversies that might arise putting the games on, discussed how we could create a safe space for everyone at TL, and proceeded to show the games. However we had not expected the amount of backlash from some members of the LGBTQ+ community. Only England games were shown, and TLSU tried to ask for a safe space. We did not receive any protestors during the time of the matches, and some supporters of the football were proud members of the LGBTQ+ community.

All ended with a complaint against the SUP, which was dealt with by the VP of Welfare, and logged for posterity .

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

From this event conversations were raised about the apolitical nature of an organisation such as an SU, and how to maintain its apolitical stance while supporting and acknowledging all the students.

Seasonal smaller events

Oktoberfest - We ended up celebrating this event in November, due to the small size of the SU (at this point we still had 3 people in the executive team), and our burn out from freshers. This was not a succesful event- it costing more than the total intakes. This was not the best received event, and next year there needs to be something more that appeals to all the students.

Christmas Carols - This was an event run alongside Christian Union. When organising this event we wanted to ensure that everyone felt welcome and safe in the space. There have been instances in previous years where non Christians have felt not welcome, so we wanted to rectify this. In the end this turned out to be a rather quaint evening with some carolling, readings from the nativity, some mulled wine and some minced pies. This was a small event, but it was very community centred and overall succesful.

Burns Night - This was the only time we took the bar to the Laban building since freshers this year due to the costs it incurs. This was a fantastic evening. We took over a studio at the Laban building, we had a band, including a caller calling and explaining the dance moves. We had a ceilidh, and we had a bar. This was a fantastic evening, and the event made a sizeable amount, both in tickets and in bar, however, the costs exceeded the takings of the event.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

Saint Patrick's night - Folk society was adamant in celebrating St. Patrick's night. The society did not, however, want to celebrate it on the day, as they wanted to be able to do other celebrations and other gigs on that day. Perhaps the set up for this evening was already a failure, and an afterthought. This event, despite our wishes for it to move forwards never came to fruition due to some tensions within the society in regards to cultural appropriation of the event.

Perhaps this sort of time specific events have to be celebrated in the day in order for them to be successful

Jazz Jams

TLSU, as per other years, has collaborated with the Jazz department to put on the weekly Jazz Jams. This year, the jams were organised by 2 second years, and the agreement was to open the bar every monday for them to have drinks.

Unfortunately, not all Jazz Jams were busy, nor when they were did the students buy drinks.

In addition, towards the end of the first term, our VP of Events, and main bar organiser, stopped organising shifts. We had real issues in staffing the bar, and in November and December the opening of the bar during jazz jam was quite inconsistent. This improved from January, where we made some decisions and changes around the bar staffing and organising.

The bar

After the inconsistencies of the VP of Events, and their quitting, the SUP made the executive decision to shut the bar for the whole of January, restructure its running, and relaunch it. Because of the promise we had made the Jazz students to open the bar during Jazz Jam, the SUP ensured to open the bar themselves on these days, however, these were the only days that the bar was opened, with the big reopening on Burns night.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

During January we took the time to hire 10 members, organised a way to maintain stock count, and organise shifts in a more timely manner.

One of aspects the team was keen on this year, is to create a better performance space in the SU space. We hoped to secure some funding from the Jazz and the Bampi department, as they are the departments that request the bar space the most. However, we ended up funding this renovations ourselves. However, Facilities did pitch in, and TLSU is very grateful for their help and contribution with some LEDs in the SU space as part of the refurbishing. This constitutes as part of the estates policy to reduce electricity usage, and reduce TL's carbon footprint.

Bampi

Taking lead from the Jazz students, BAMPI students took the initiative to organise some jams, and the students helped them organise some parties. Although these have not yet been established as well as the Jazz Jams, and happen more occasionally, they have, in my eyes been more succesful. TLSU has made leeway into forming a relationship with the acclaimed course, and I believe this will be beneficial in due course. Further to this, JAMPI nights have been some of the best attended nights throughout the entirity of the year

Second Boat party

We had a number of students approach us in regards to holding a second boat party. TLSU executive team thought that if students were intetrested in a second boat party, we could make sufficient ticket sales to partially fund the summer ball, with that in minda, we planned a second boat party which would take place on the first wednesday of the summer term after the student loan dropped, and before the beginning of final examinations.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

However, we had not anticipated for one department to have assessments on that day. The date was also not great, as it was just after a big break and students might not have been aware of the event.

Only half of the tickets were sold, and we ended up making a loss on an already tight budget.

Despite an incident free night, perhaps this event should only take place once a year.

Summer ball

At the beginning of the year my idea for the summer ball was to hold it elsewhere from the Painted Hall, with a Canapé reception rather than a sit down meal. This would mean that costs were reduced, guests could mingle, and it would be easier for the SU, as there would be no issues with sitting arrangements, and there could be canapés to satisfy a range of eating requirements.

The rest of the exec team was not keen on this idea, and we ran out of time to be able to organise this, so we did end up holding a summer ball similar to previous years, with a sit down meal, and a band afterwards.

The event ran smoothly, although it was not sold out as in previous years, as the ticket prices were expensive due to the costs for the event itself.

Not many more people purchased tickets for the after party, regardless, the whole night was a success.

It was a struggle to manage the workload of the summer ball administration just prior to the event, as the administrator was on leave, however, this was managed. Despite this, it would be very useful to note that this is a heavy administration period, and an extra hand is useful during this time.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

Merch and sales

This year we started to look at replenishing and redesigning our merch, and we did not have approval on our designs at the beginning of the year.

We decided to wait and return to the conversation at a later time in the year. The suggestion was to look at options where we didn't hold too much stock.

We did hold a merch sale mid June to finish any merch we had in stock. This was mainly popular in the dance department where we sold just under 1.5K of merchandise, and there are only 2 joggers left in stock.

The MT department have asked for MT specific hoodies and joggers. I will leave these designed and approved so next team can just order them for the beginning of the next academic year.

The clothes exchange

One of the things I wanted to put in place was a corner for a clothes exchange. Similar to a street library, I wanted to create a place for students to be able to leave clothes that they no longer use, and take those clothes they might use.

Conscious of the cost of living, I recognise dancers needs for new clothes due to changing bodies, as their shapes shift through training. I wanted to create a space for those students who might not be able to afford clothes to feel comfortable to take some clothes at no cost. I cannot comment on the success of this campaign, as it is fairly recent

Trans allyship conversations

On trans awareness day 31st March, we held a small event. Student services member, and previous president Lauren McKillop was invited to host a conversation about trans allyship. This was attended by a handful of people, however, all the attendees felt very grateful for this event to take place. This event allowed for conversations where we unpacked how to best support trans people.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

Sports massage and physio for musicians

Something that I am very passionate about as a dancer is the wellbeing of the physical body using knowledge to maximise efficiency. With this in mind TLSU organised a wellness day where 3 physio and sport massage workshops were held at different points throughout the day for students to drop in. They learned about their bodies, got tips on strengthening or easing tension, and even got a free massage from a certified sports masseuse. This was a very successful event.

- Now that there is a new administrator at the health clinic at TL it would be beneficial to have a conversation with them about organising some inhouse events of this sort for next year.

Dance classes

This year, and with the help of the VP of Dance in the second term we managed to organise a range of dance classes. This year took a different approach. Our dance classes were kept more in-house with current students that have background in different disciplines, and alumni. With the aim of creating a community that supports each other, we hoped to raise the numbers. This however did not happen. As usual, it was hard to get people in the door and join the classes. Despite this, I do think this classes are essential, as they are a constant in the dance faculty, and it helps students feel the SU presence in the dance faculty

Observations on students behaviour

Students have been less inclined to drink this year. There has been a shift in the drinking culture in students at TL. A number of factors could affect this, namely COVID culture on the freshers, cost of living crisis, general drinking culture changing.

The bar is usually one of TLSU's main sources of income, and perhaps the union should become less reliant on the bar as a form of income.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

Societies

Below are the list of societies that have been active this academic year, alongside with the TL email address

Afro Latin - Irene.M20

Apollo Consort - Kornelia.N20

Christian Union - Lydia.D21

TL Football Team - Billy.R19

Feminist Society - Erin.W22.587

Puzzle Piece Opera Company - Scarlett Jones –

Puzzlepieceopera@trinitylaban.ac.uk

Folk Society - Juliet.B21

TL Timekeepers - Cameron.S19 & Reuben.B1

We have supported and funded the societies above.

FAILURE TO LAUNCH?

We have had a few campaigns and events that we have wanted to launch, however they have not been as successful as we hoped.

TLSU float in pride parade

We were eager to support the LGBTQ+ community, and we thought it would have been fun for TLSU to go to pride with a float. TLSU did not act fast enough, and we did not secure a place in the parade. Perhaps this is something to think about for next year.

- Some presidents from London Conservatoire SUs are also eager to participate - an idea would be to join forces with them.

Book recommendations corner

With the idea of raising different topics and conversations that have nothing to do with studies, we thought we could get a specific profile of students engaged in recommending and reading books. This was, however, not the case, and despite launching it for 2 months with the exec. teams reading suggestions, we had no engagement from the student body, so we allowed it to disappear.

Food bags

Something that the SUP has been very eager to do and has researched means of running this campaign has been food bags. With the intention of providing 20 bags of groceries with a recipe for a 2 person meal, we never had the sufficient funds to make this happen.

This is a shame, as we were eager to help out students in the cost of living crisis as well as support those freshers that don't know how to cook. We tried to launch this campaign 3 times this year, with funds falling through every time.

TLSU choir

TLSU wanted to launch a choir lead by a vocal studies student that would be apt for any teacher or student to join. Something that would mean no auditions, but something more community centred. Unfortunately there have been some issues in defining whether this is classed as a society or not. Because of this, more paperwork has had to be done, and the person interested in leading it was no longer interested in leading it.

CHARITY STATUS

After some research the Union decided to invest its time and efforts into becoming an incorporate charitable organisation ICO. Here are some reasons why:

- The SU can fund a VISA for non-UK presidents - more equality in representation
- Ensuring the SU runs thoroughly, as there are more barriers for wrong-doing, and there are more check-ins in place
- Gives the SU a status separate from TL - allowing easier managing of accounts, and more ground as an existing entity
- Provides a chance for TL and TLSU to have a more concrete working relationship.

TLSU is only at its drafting stages of the proposal. This application will hopefully be carried forwards by the next team, and I continue to work on this until the end of my tenure.

OTHER

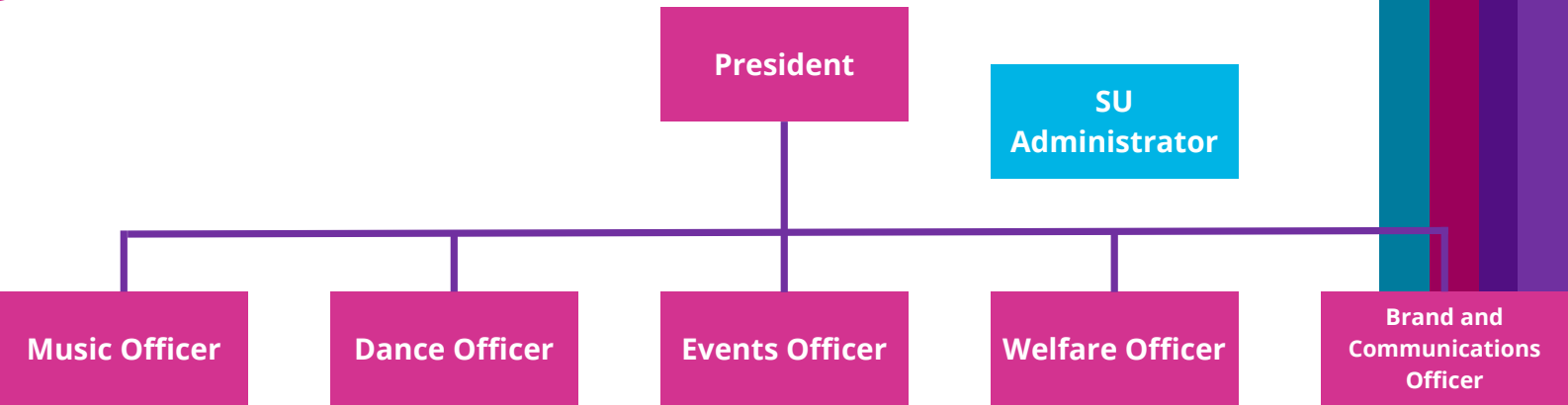
TLSU has also participated in the TEF submission for the institution, personally represented students, and represented cohort of students in a range of meetings. TLSU has been involved in a range of committees to provide the student voice and opinion to help shape TL to the best it can be.

TLSU thanks the Administrator for all the support they have provided this year.

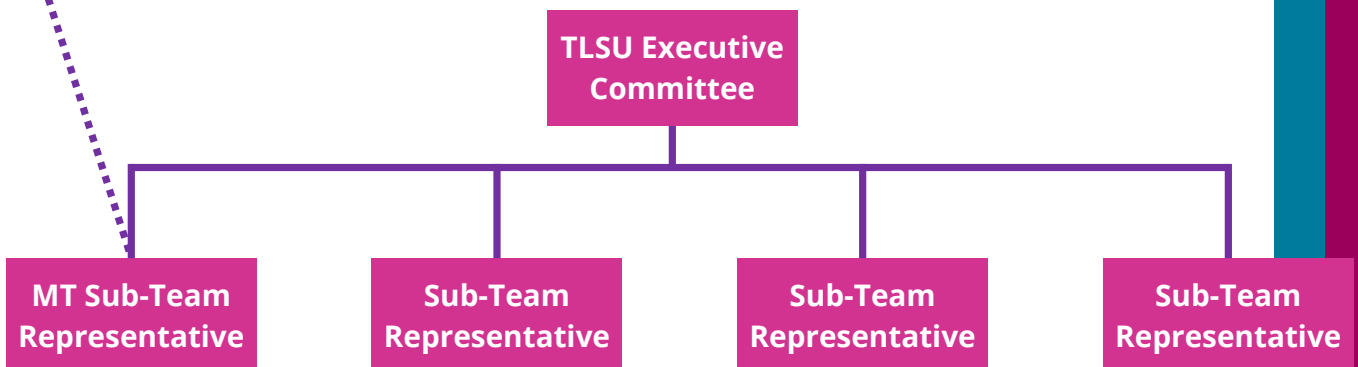
STRUCTURE OF NEW TEAM

As per changes made in the constitution on January 30th

TLSU Executive Committee



TLSU Sub-Team



The addition of Brand and Communications officer will mean that TLSU will have more promotion for each of the events, and that the promotion and brand image will be more unified, as one person will be coordinating this. A floating Sub team will mean that the subteam will be able to help the officers with the bigger workload at any given point in time. This fluidity will hopefully encourage more interaction between positions

INCOMING TEAM



President
Fenella Blue
Lawrence



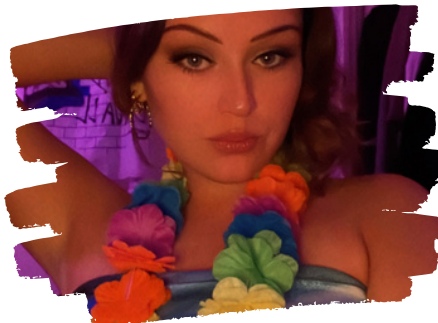
Administrator
George Lewis



Lake Howieson
Music Officer



Keith Corprew
Brand and
Communications
officer



Phoebe Higham
Events Officer

Unfilled position:

- Dance Officer
- Welfare Officer (2 candidates have put themselves forwards, with elections taking place soon)

Subteam is yet to be elected

RECOMMENDATIONS

Remove welfare position to be swapped with EDI

Through the past 2 years I have seen the VPs of Welfare get overwhelmed and sometimes quit by the role.

In many instances, a VP of Welfare is a student that is interested and passionate about helping the student and their wellbeing. This student is not often mental health trained, nor equipped to deal with some of the complex situations that students bring to them. In order for an SU to be able to work, the team must feel safe and adding some parameters to the role of the Welfare Officer will keep the SU team and the student in safer situations. This will also ensure that the SU is not having a negative effect on their students.

My proposition is that this position focuses on EDI - Equality Diversity and Inclusion, so that the SU can be prepared to help and celebrate all students - this is something that has naturally been negated this year, because the efforts of the VP of Welfare laid on the specific student.

My proposition also includes the SUP to take more responsibility over the wellbeing of individuals, and to liaise with Student Services, Registry and Counselling services to help these specific students.

This is something that works quite well in other conservatoires and allows the SU to focus on different minority groups and dedicate them a time and space within the institution.

GLOSSARY

EDI - Equality Diversity and Inclusion

SUP - Students Union President

TL - Trinity Laban

TLSU - Trinity Laban Students Union

VP - Vice-President

UG - Undergraduate

PG - Postgraduate