

**April 2026**

# **KSU Insight & Policy Update**



**Kingston  
Students'  
Union**

**[www.kingstonstudents.net](http://www.kingstonstudents.net)**

# KSU activities in April

## ‘Students Who Work’ Research Project

On 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April we conducted focus groups with students as part of our ‘Students Who Work’ research project.

The purpose of the focus group was to dig deeper on the survey findings and explored student’s experiences in balancing work and study and how it affects them - whether positively or negatively - across their wellbeing and academic life.

The findings from the survey and the focus groups will inform the recommendations of this research project. We plan to publish the final report in Summer 2026.

## Planning for 2026/27

We have kicked off our project planning for 2026/27 with a Staff Planning Day on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

The day involved a briefing on project management cycle from our CEO Annabel Mabin, an engaging session on marketing and communications delivered by our Marketing Team, and an Insight session by our Research Team, in which we reviewed how we engaged with students in the past year and discussed what we should do differently in the coming year.

## Submission for Student Loans Inquiry

KSU has submitted evidence for the Treasury Select Committee’s inquiry into student loans and the broader taxation of graduates. We will share more details about our submission in due course.



# What's going on across the HE sector?



## Safe Adventures Report

Organised Fun, NUS, and Howden published a report that looked at the current practices of adventure activity student groups at 16 students' unions from across the UK.

Some key insights:

- It typically takes specialised or technical knowledge to plan and carry out safe adventure activities. When it comes to student group activities, SU staff members don't always have the specialised knowledge or technical proficiency in the activity field.
- SUs don't always offer structure and support that student groups can reasonably and usefully comply with.
- The report proposes a new set of principles to improve the standards of practice of student group activities, :
  - Competence: activity leaders need to be competent to fulfil their roles & responsibilities.
  - Risks: need to be identified & appropriately managed.
  - Technical advice: all aspects of activity provision should have access to technical advice.
  - Operation: policies & procedures implemented, regularly reviewed, and are responsive.
  - Communication: important both internally and externally, and effective to all.
  - Equipment: needs to be fit for purpose, especially safety critical.

KSU is paying serious attention to these principles and is engaging with the sector to ensure the support we provide to all our student groups continue to meet the required standards of practice.



# What's going on across the HE sector?



## Audit of Student Representation and Voice Practice

A team led by the University of Westminster published a report of audit of student representation and voice practice in higher education.

Some key insights:

- Based on feedback from 78 higher education providers.
- Most providers (69%) had more than one level of representation including course level, while the remaining 31% only had course level of representation.
- 62% providers reported having student representation at higher levels such as Faculty, School and/or Institute Representatives.
- 82% providers use module level or course level evaluation surveys as a method to gather student voice.
- Participants emphasised the need to support and empower both student reps and staff who support them. They also spoke of the importance of meaningful student-staff partnerships and collaborative culture.

Academic representation practices at KSU are largely in line with the sector. We are reviewing our student academic representation system and continues our work in improving student representation at Kingston and support for all of our academic reps.



# What's happening in May?

## Kingston, Have Your Say! Survey 2026

Our 2026 Kingston, Have Your Say! Survey is open until 17th May.

This is the annual survey to gather student views, experiences and satisfaction with KSU and the services we offer, including events, advice, societies, and sports clubs.

There are one £250 One4All Voucher and three £50 Vouchers to be won by students who completed the survey.

The link to the survey is up on our [website](#).

## KSU Awards 2026

Shortlisted nominees for KSU Awards 2026 have been announced.

The Awards ceremony will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> May at the Town House, where we will have:

- An awards presentation with awards & shields for the winners
- Canapés & Bar
- DJ & Live Performances
- Black tie dress code
- A Photobooth

All info and tickets are on our [website](#).

