

## **DPEW Report**

*A note by the DPEW*

### **Training**

During handover the sabbatical team attended numerous training sessions and meetings to introduce us to our roles.

I also attended two external training courses, Active Political Leadership and Action through Advocacy, with NUS. These were very relevant for the role of an Education and Welfare Officer and were of huge benefit. I have already started to implement some of the skills and ideas I developed on these courses to improve our representation provision.

### **Accommodation**

I attended a walk around of the Southside Building project with Paddy Jackman (Head of Commercial Services) and Sharine Brown (Head of Residences) to measure the impact that portacabins, which have been erected on Watts Way, would have on students living in the North facing rooms. I managed to negotiate a £5 a week rent reduction for the 26 students living on the first and second floors that look straight out onto the portacabins.

I have arranged regular meetings with the Head of Residences, the first of which is on Tuesday before Exec. I will be seeking clarification on the current situation with Freshers' not receiving their accommodation offers or any of their first seven choices. I will also be chasing up the issue of inadequate laundry provision in several halls of residence.

### **Meetings**

External meetings have included discussions with Nightline, the Imperial College Health Centre and a TUC representative to advise us on how to better represent part time student workers. Internal meetings have so far been quite informal.

### **Representation Network**

I have been concentrating on ways that we can improve the network of academic and welfare reps throughout our faculties and departments. So far this has involved organising external training (although take up is somewhat lacking) and writing a basic guide to help support all Representatives in their roles. I am also setting up a mailing list to aid communication between reps.

### **Fresher's Bed Drops**

All rooms in halls will contain a pack from the union when Freshers arrive on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. I have ensured that these packs will not contain any overlap with those from the Health Centre and Residences to cut down on unnecessary twaddle. There will also be a 'special' copy of Felix for all Freshers in their bed packs.

### **Campaigns**

I am currently working on skeleton plans for campaigns in the autumn and spring terms. This has involved attending RISE Week Planning Board meetings at City Hall; working on ideas for SHAG Week; contacting the National Blood Service to organise blood donor sessions on campus (after several requests from students) and liaising with Sport Imperial and the Health Centre to organise a Healthy Living Campaign.

### **Fairtrade University Status**

I have the application form to become a Fairtrade University. College is about to accept a formal policy similar to that of ICU completing the award criteria. I have also been invited to join with other Westminster Student Unions to support Westminster becoming a Fairtrade Borough.

### **Felix**

I am coordinating with Nigel Cooke (Information and Advice Centre) and David Hayton (Imperial College Health Centre) to write a regular 'Welfare Section' in this years Felix.

### **Sub-warden and Warden Interviews**

I have sat on the interview panel for Subwarden Interviews at Southside, Fisher, Garden and Weeks and Southwell Halls. There are still another two positions being advertised.

I also interviewed for assistant wardens at Orient and Piccadilly. The assistant warden appointed for Orient, eventually taking the Warden role.

### **Annual Leave**

I went on holiday from 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August and enjoyed a day off for my birthday last week. :D