

DPEW Report

A note by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)

Higher Education Funding Survey

Has been analysed and discussed at great length (about two hours) at the last meeting of the Representation and Welfare Board. The final draft of the policy is now presented to this meeting of Council to be debated. Special thanks must go to RWB for their patience and practicality in dealing with this very complicated issue, especially when trying to represent and justify views that they did not all agree with. Also thanks must be given to Felix, especially Tom Roberts, Andrew Somerville and Kadhim Shubber for their extensive coverage of this debate and tireless commitment to ensuring the policy and the processes remained transparent. This paper is a result of a lot of hard work and effort from a lot of people and I am extremely appreciative of their support.

NUS Conferences

Vicky Erriksson, RCSU Welfare Officer and Women's Campaign Portfolio Officer, attended NUS Women's Campaign Conference on behalf of Imperial College Union last week. The Conference sounds to be very inspiring and Vicky will be reporting on her experiences to the next Representation and Welfare Board after Easter. Many thanks to Vicky for attending at such short notice and for finding the time and courage to be Imperial's first representative at an NUS Liberation Conference.

RWB has allocated funding for three delegates to NUS LGBT Summer Campaign Conference. This will cover two Open Place Delegates and one Women's Place delegate. I am actively searching for alternative funding for our fourth delegate to make up our full allowance for this conference.

Safe Campus Survey

The online consultation has now closed and I'm pleased to say that there were a total of 1671 responses. The headline stats from the analysts at Met Police are:

- It was filled out by 955 undergraduates, 551 postgraduates and 22 members of staff
- Of the students, 61% were UK students, 39% international
- The vast majority, 97% felt very safe or fairly safe on the south Kensington campus compared with 94% in the South Kensington / Knightsbridge area and 54% in London generally
- 21% had been a victim of crime in the last 12 months although only 49% these reported it.

Meetings

Meetings have been coming out of my ears and somehow College have now decided that I should need to be in three places at once. In some cases I have managed this but in others I have had to proxy for which I am very grateful to Steve, Ally and Chris for stepping in when needed! Important meeting outcomes to note are:

Student Opportunities Fund Steering Committee

Some great news here with income from alumni exceeding that which was expected allowing additional scholarships to be created and money to be put to one side to fund two annual scholarships indefinitely. A decision has been made to significantly increase the percentage of additional tuition fees income that will be targeted directly to Student Support Bursaries and the committee approved changes to the bursary system which will see more support for students from middle income backgrounds.

Quality and Academic Review Committee

This meeting was a lot longer than expected but mostly because the divisions of Biochemistry and Epidemiology Public Health and Primary Care got a very thorough grilling on the outcomes of their external reviews. It is very promising to see that chances to take on board

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external suggestions for improvements, comments from students and shared methods of best practise within the college are treated with such high importance.

Additionally in this meeting we discussed future applications of POLE (Pastoral Online Evaluation). POLE is an extension of SOLE (Student Online Evaluation) which is filled in by first year students looking at the induction process and at personal tutor systems, facilities, support and other aspects of student life. An alternative version of POLE catered for older students (third year) has been proposed to look at developments throughout the time spent at Imperial and changing opinions of the current pastoral system. ROLE (Research Student Online Evaluation) is going to be discontinued in favour of a National Postgraduate Evaluation which will allow comparisons to be made across the Higher Education Sector.

e-Learning Review Committee

The results of the 'Departmental Visions of E-Learning' questionnaire have now been collated and analysed and a report is being produced by this committee. I will be summarising the student responses over Easter for the final report and the committee are very pleased with the response rate from students (probably aided by the promise of free caffeine). On the whole the student responses have been far more conservative than those of the departments and ICT will be looking closely at a lot of the problems that have been highlighted. There will be an opportunity to view the full report during next term at Council.

Other meetings included Medical Welfare Committee, Student Experience Stream Board, Medical and Dental Advisory Committee, Student Accommodation Project Board, Court and Senate.

Individual Case Work

Either due to the time of year or an unfortunate accident resulting in the temporary absence of the Student Advisor I have been dealing with far more individual student cases and of a much more serious nature than usual. I am currently working on seven individual cases ranging from academic appeals to court summons and student finance issues. This is over and above the normal level of queries that come through the Student Union. The Post Graduate and Faculty Union Coordinator and myself are currently dealing with any casework from the Information and Advice Centre and for the near future queries should be directed to wards us.

Campaigns

Healthy Living Week.

Healthy Living Week saw events jam packed into Ethos despite problems with the weather! Special thanks must go to the team at Sport Imperial who really bore the brunt of the activities when I got snowed under with meetings and appointments.

Union Catering has received many compliments for their extended range of options during Health Living Week with the variety of meals at a very high standard.

KMP 14/03/2008