

## **DPEW Report**

*A note by the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)*

### **Summer Training**

I am currently organising Summer Training for Sabbatical and Volunteer Officers. This involved lots of emails and appointment booking for which I am beginning to feel a bit like a glorified secretary. Could all members of Council please inform their successors that a training day at Silwood will be taking place on 2<sup>nd</sup> July so please keep this day free. More details will follow nearer the time.

### **Library Complaints**

I have received a large number of complaints from irate library users regarding noise levels and over-crowding during the refurbishment. I will be investigating the need for a campaign to extend opening hours in departmental libraries, to have quiet study spaces allocated in all departments and to ask for building work to stop during exams at RWB this week.

### **Representation Network**

I have spent a lot of time over Easter writing an equivalent to the Finance Manual for Representatives. Anything you think should be in it? Let me know!

### **Strategic Education Committee**

Coming up soon! Presentation is going to be based on:

- PhD Writing-Up Status
- Assessment Feedback

These issues are based around an excessive amount of casework that has arisen around PhD Writing Up students and the assessment feedback forum that was held during the autumn term. A draft Presentation will be shown at RWB on Thursday.

### **NUS Conferences**

I went to NUS Conference. I'm going to say nothing else here other than – join the disaffiliation referendum facebook group and read Live! It's a bad idea to get me started.

All four delegates for NUS LGBT Conference have been registered and are heading off to represent us this weekend. (By the time we get to Council they'll be back...) RWB has allocated funding for three delegates and the fee for the fourth place was waived by NUS due to our lack of budget allocation for this conference.

### **Meetings**

For once I haven't actually been to any College Meetings. But I have had individual meetings with Sharine Brown to talk about residences and a termly catch up with the other Sabbatical Officers and Julia Buckingham.

### **SAF Space Proposals**

I was approached by estates to get a 'student opinion' on proposals to alter the use and layout of a series of small seminar rooms on the Ground floor of the Sir Alexander Fleming Building. I was accompanied to this meeting by Tim Wills, ICSMSU President; Jen Morgan, ICU President-elect and Hannah Theodorou, ICU DPEW-elect. I am grateful to all three who, having a better knowledge of the area and its value to student, were able to analyse the proposals much more critically.

The proposals would see 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the space converted into a demonstration lab to be used for prestigious lectures and outreach work for about two afternoons a week. The lab would hold approximately 30 people and is sponsored by Lord Robert Winston. The rest of the space would be converted into flexible teaching space with folding interior walls to allow rooms to be altered in size according to purpose. The plans would also see better use of the current area which includes a lot of wasted space in the doorways around the seminar rooms.

**ICU Council**  
**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

The proposals on the whole were quite positive and we agreed that the area could do with some rethinking. However, we have major concerns with losing the number of rooms as they are often used for Tutorials in both life Sciences and Medicine and Problem Based Learning Classes. Less rooms would have a knock on affect on tutorial sizes and as student representatives we felt that the proposed plans would have a detrimental affect on teaching quality and contact time. We would like to see some changes or more thought given to the plans before we will give them our backing. A bit less tip-toeing around and open consultation would be nice.

**Individual Case Work**

I have continued to work on individual casework since the last meeting of council. Of the seven cases I was dealing with then four have been resolved. I have also acquired an additional nine cases of which three have been resolved and the rest are ongoing. This, rather than meeting, is now my main priority as many of the cases can be quite serious in content and urgency.

KMP 24/04/2008