

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A note by Jenny Morgan

Training

On 18th November I attended a day's training course at 170 Queen's Gate on "Conducting Investigations and Managing the Complaints Process." This was very informative and useful especially as the Chief Executive Officer of the Union with little prior experience in staffing and discipline issues which I am ultimately responsible for.

Wye

Lily, Phil and I went to Wye Campus on 19 November. We had a tour with the Head of Wye to see what parts of the campus they are still using now only the last cohort is there (120 students). We sat in on a Wye exec meeting and met this years committee and offered them advice on the topics being covered. I am currently chasing up a few requests they had which included longer opening hours of the gym and sports hall facilities and a coach trip to be arranged to London as they feel somewhat isolated.

Ask the President

On 21 November I did a recorded interview with Jaimie Henry for STOIC TV entitled Ask the President which I believe is now in its third year. The interview is online for viewing at stoictv.com and live.cgcu.net.

Teaching Award Ceremony

On 24 November I went to the Teaching Award Ceremony at 58 Princes Gate. The Union President sits on the panel who nominates and decides which members of staff get these awards and they were given out at this small quiet ceremony. **The winners of the Awards for Excellence in Teaching in 2008 were:**

Dr Mitch Blair - Paediatrics, Medicine
Dr Steve Cook - Biology
Dr Richard Dashwood - Materials
Dr Helen Dowker - Physics
Dr Leroy Gardner - Civil and Environmental Engineering
Dr Kate Hardy - SORA
Dr Klaus Hellgardt - Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology
Dr Roger Kneebone - SORA
Prof Karim Meeran - Investigative Science
Prof Geoffrey Smith - Investigative Science
Dr John Tippins - Cell and Molecular Biology
Prof Dimitri Vvedensky - Physics
Prof Dominic Wells - Neuroscience and Mental Health
Dr Lynda White - Mathematics

Of these winners, the following three were selected as the 2008 Imperial College Teaching Fellows:

Dr Steve Cook - Biology (Teaching Fellow for Innovation)
Prof Karim Meeran - Investigative Science
Dr Lynda White – Mathematics

ULU Senate

On 25 November I attended ULU Senate. Students here which have chosen to have University of London degrees are represented by ULU and so we still have representation at ULU senate. The sabbatical reports were frighteningly bad and just showed a list of

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meetings, it was recommended that they amend accordingly. The second thing that came up was a change to their constitution (untracked) which they wanted to change using the methods described in the constitution that hadn't yet been passed. It was also suggested that amendments couldn't be made. So it was not voted on because it was not constitutional as per the current constitution. It will be coming back constitutionally, as per the current constitutionally to the next one. It is also possible that ULU could lose their building as UCL Union has made a bid for it but this wasn't discussed as the details were not available.

SEC

I facilitated Alex Grisman to take a paper to the Strategic Education Committee regarding Imperial Students being rejected by online job applications if they didn't have a 2:1. I went with him and he presented his excellent paper brilliantly and it was received very well and he can update.

Education Day 2008: From Strategy to Action

Julia Buckingham, the Pro Rector (Education) hosted this event which was held for the first time this year. All of the Sabbs went to as much of this afternoon event that they could, which was on 26 November. There were poster presentations and speakers including Robert Winston. The event proposed "to bring together people from around the College who have a strong interest, a creative attitude and/or strategic role in educational matters."

MDH refurbishment

The whole MDH is being refurbished and I have been speaking with college managers about what you want as they want to have all your ideas from the start to make it as good as it possibly can be according to what the students want to have in there – what types of cuisine especially. I will be holding a discussion about it early January so if anyone is interested in that then please let me know.

Water Availability

I am meeting with the Head of Building Operations next week to discuss water availability on campus and so if anyone has any suggestions where it is currently difficult to access water then do please let me know.

Elections

Elections are currently taking place for the International Students' Officer. Nominations were open last week and voting will open tonight, however there is a technical problem regarding only non-uk students voting but that is to come to council as a separate agenda item for decision.

DPEW splitting focus group

The week before last several people (Hannah Theodorou, Jenny Wilson, Kirsty Patterson, Alex Grisman, Jov Nedic, Lily Topham, Christian Carter, Tim Barrett, Edward Poynton, Rhys Morgan and myself) met to discuss DPEW splitting. The result of which is the paper that is a separate agenda item for decision. I deferred the sabbatical role review, which I proposed, to look at the job descriptions of each of the sabbatical officers, so that we could concentrate entirely on the education and welfare discussion which could effect the elections and hence we are strapped for time of. I shall continue with that next term.

Thanks

I would like to thank you all for your hardwork throughout the term and continuing dedication to the Union. I would especially like to thank the other sabbatical officers for their added hard work last week in my absence whilst I was away fighting the flu! A very Happy Christmas to all and best wishes for the New Year!