

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - A NOTE BY JENNY MORGAN

Apologies for this report being brief, I must admit it is regrettably written in a hurry and a large proportion of my work load recently has been in staffing and disciplinary matters which cannot be reported on. Please expect a more thorough report at the next Council.

Elections

Elections are open for sabbatical positions, including DP(E) and DP(W), and four student trustees. Christian Carter was appointed the Retuning Officer for the elections by the Court. Please stand! Our Media and Communications manager has created a brilliant resources for the elections at union.ic.ac.uk/elections09. There you will find things like "a week in the life of" where you have an insight into the general day to day world of the sabbaticals which I hope you will find very useful.

The timetable

Monday 9th February – Publicity Begins
Monday 16th February – Nominations Open
Monday 2nd March – Nominations Close
Tuesday 3rd March – Initial Candidates meeting
Friday 6th March – Manifesto Deadline
Hustings - to be determined (Mon 9th - Thurs 12th)
Friday 13th March – 0.01am – Voting Opens
Tuesday 17th March 23.59pm – Voting Closes
Wednesday 18th March – Final Candidates meeting

Confirmation of the funding of the additional position was received on Monday 9th February as required and is as follows:

"Dear Jenny,

I can confirm that following agreement at the January Management Board the ICU will be allowed to keep the savings made as a result of leaving the NUS and use these to fund the additional sabbatical post.

However please note the Management Board also agreed that the Union subvention for 2009-10 would be subject to the same 5% cut as the rest of the College and that the Union would have to consider how to meet this saving in the forthcoming planning round.

Kind regards, Andrew

*Andrew Murphy
Director of Finance
Imperial College
Tel: +44 (0)20 7594 8699"*

It was subsequently approved by the Trustee Board and College Council.

Aldwych Group

Sadly I cannot be with you today as I am visiting Cambridge University for an Aldwych Group meeting. (That's all the Unions of the Russel Group Universities.) Specifically today we're looking at engaging postgraduates, but there'll be plenty of ad hoc discussion as well. (Such as all the Unions other than us are in favour of nationalisation of the government funding for Universities – basically this means that the money would be very thinly spread and Russel Group institutions would face a massive cut.)

Rector

The Rector is very aware now that the Student Experience at Imperial is not as good as it could be through recent survey results and would like to work with us to improve this. The necessity to improve feedback and the personal tutor system has truly been taken on board and the College is now committed to improving these areas.

Water availability

We are fighting for improved access to fresh water on Campus, we hope that jugs of water will be available in the JCR shortly. I am meeting with the Building Operations manager to go through the results of the water audit they were doing at our request so that we can see where access is lacking (and taps etc need to be put in) and where signage needs improving where there is access but it is poorly labelled.

Council
16th February 2009

College Sustainability

Hannah and I have been meeting with Neil Varey who has recently been appointed to look at the College's sustainability, and we are helping them launch an environmental policy for the College and generally giving our feedback as to where the College needs to improve. I think you can expect to see a new website in the not so distant future dedicated to "greening" the College, but also actions being taken. They are keen to work with us to make Green Week College wide which is excellent and I think Hannah is likely to go on to be a green ambassador for Imperial.

Student Discounts

I am researching student discounts – or rather the lack of. Unfortunately there are many places which decline to give a student discount, even with proof that they are a student, if the student does not have an NUS card. Please forward on any incidences of this occurring because it should not be happening and we need to pin point the places where it is. I am hoping to work with other Universities who are not affiliated to the NUS to make this a national campaign because it is discriminatory.

University Challenge

We have received an entry form through the post for University Challenge! I am devising a way of selecting the Imperial team – I expect it will be an individual quiz to weed out our most knowledgeable and worthy candidates. Unfortunately only those who will still be students in Autumn term 2009 will be eligible. It will be widely publicised so that anyone who wants to try out will be included and anyone interested in helping or anyone who has any brilliant ideas for selecting or quiz writing should get in touch with me asap!