

Deputy President (Welfare) report
Report by John James

Communicating with Freshers

I have produced an entry for the freshers handbook and an article for the freshers felix. I also filmed couple of videos both for our own website and for the college website on A-Level results day, the College Interactive map and a welfare video to be shown to all new students during freshers week. I've written a letter to all of the freshers in halls (The President has written to the living out freshers) giving a warm welcome and some essential advice. We've also made it possible for halls to sell products and event tickets on the union website which will save everyone time and effort.

The freshers packs we sent were an envelope to each and every new student with different information depending on whether they provided a UK address or not, and which faculty they were from. Packs included the letter, a freshers felix, a Union Handbook, the Welfare Handbook, a Student Support Facilities leaflet, an NHS free prescription form and a term planner. Many thanks to the SAC staff for doing all the pack and helping me distribute them to halls.

Website and Welfare Handbook

The Information and Advice pages on the website have been all updated except for Diversity and Equality which I will continue to update with the help of the equal opportunities officer. The text was then used to produce the Welfare Handbook, printed in house.

Sub-Warden Interviews

I have been part of the panel for Sub-Warden Interviews for Garden and Weeks, Eastside, Beit and Fisher Halls of Residence

Case Work

While Nigel Cooke (the Student Advisor) was away on paternity leave and Jon Silver (Deputy President Education) was on holiday I took over responsibility for casework.

Chlamydia Screening

I've booked in the Terrance Higgins Trust and Brook to come in on a weekly basis to the Union, SAF or JCR. They're coming to campus from the second week of term so keep an eye out and make sure you get tested at some point.

Eastside and Tower Rooms

Eastside has opened in all respects. I've tried to find problems in the bar, essentials, the rooms and the social spaces; the biggest issue I encountered was that the Real Ale pint glasses are a little on the heavy side. This is a credit to the construction, facilities management, commercial and Wardening Teams, who have given Imperial a first class community in Princess Gardens.

The Tower Rooms have also now opened (aka MDH) and I was thoroughly impressed with quality and cost of both the meals being provided and the building project as a whole. The team has done very well to produce a dining hall of such a high standard during such a tight schedule and judging by the custom in the first few days it has been well received by the student body.

Green Week

We're planning to have a different theme everyday; Meatfree Monday, Energy Forum, Water and Waste, Green Fair and Clothing. For more information come to RWB or ask me if you can be put on the campaign team.

New Offices

The new offices are finished! We're now on level 2 in the union building. You can access them through the main reception on level 2M and down a flight of stairs at the west end of the building. They're very swish, come visit!

Training

Training for Department Representatives and Welfare Officers took place on the 28th September but had quite a poor turnout. In future I'd like to run training sessions during the summer term alongside the C&S sessions, giving our new officers plenty of flexibility and notice. Myself and the Student Advisor undertook the training for all the reps, it was well received and the officers interacted enthusiastically. Thanks to those who undertook the training in the morning which was joint with CSC Officers.

Council
12th October 2009

Disability Capital 2009

On the 25th I attended Disability Capital 2009. This was a conference run by the Mayor of London and proved to be an eye opener for this Welfare Sabbatical. There were talks on various topics from public transport to the London Games. Most questions were aimed at TFL and why improvements were so slow or not even scheduled. I was surprised by the repeated aggressive nature with which the questions were asked and felt that something was deeply wrong for so many people to feel aggrieved.

Last Minute

The day before freshers moved in I was requested by residences to move a bed. They didn't have the beds over 6'6" in the right locations and were unable to secure transport so I was called in as a last resort. I'm quite glad it's not part of my role to deliver accommodation to students one bed at a time!

Events

I attended the introductory talk for new Wardens, helped freshers move into the hall I'm living in, went to both Mingles and Freshers Fair after parties and went to the International Students welcome to make my face known and to answer any union related questions that came up.

Posters

I've also replaced the poster in the gents next to the Union Bar. The contract with HMV ran out several years ago and the posters hadn't been removed so I thought some information and advice posters would be more useful to our student body. Hopefully our blokes should now be more informed on alcohol, depression and chlamydia.

Get involved

We're looking for People to get involved with Green Week and SHAG Week if your interested please contact me.

Stonewall are launching their LGBT Recruitment Guide 09/10 from Imperial on the 29th October. For more information please visit www.startingoutguide.org.uk