

Report to ICU Council  
Jonathan Silver, Deputy President (Education)

**New Representation Policy**

To follow on from last month, I have written from scratch\* an Academic Representation Policy, weighing in at about 2,500 words. It's a paper for this meeting of Council for discussion, and is likely to be ready for approval at next Council.

It's in two parts: the actual policy text, and an appendix with a list of rep positions. The appendix isn't finished, because I need to spend several more weeks in consultation with the GSA and Directors of Postgraduate Studies to ascertain which positions need to exist, but I have the undergraduate positions down and most of the postgraduate positions down.

\*I may have used a few headings from Jenny's C&S policy as cues, but that's all, promise.

**GSA**

There's a lot to fix in the Graduate Students' Association, but it's happening. I would like to mention in particular Deena Blumenkrantz (Medicine PG Rep) and Caroline Hargreaves (Transferable Skills Tutor from College) for being instrumental in this. I would also like to welcome Llewellyn Thomas and Joe McKenna as our new Business School and Life Sciences PG reps respectively.

**TARDIS**

The online student system called TARDIS is coming on nicely. Susan Eisenbach, Dean of Learning and Teaching, is taking a particularly active role in the project team and ensuring that not too many bells and whistles are added to the software before it achieves its primary purpose: to give staff and students somewhere to put and see marks as work is assessed. It should still be on track to go live in October, but there's much work to do still.

By the time of this meeting, I should have had the chance to play with a pre-alpha of the software hands-on, so I'll be able to report verbally if there's anything interesting to say.

**Academic Fora**

With help from the sabbs and Phil Power, the GSA held a Postgraduate Academic Forum on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February. There was some useful feedback out of it, and it was a good opportunity to discover and meet some reps. If you've been reading my reports avidly you'll know that departments sort out their postgraduate reps themselves, and don't bother telling anyone (least the union) about them! The Undergraduate Academic Forum is scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. If you're a rep, I hope you'll be there.

**NSS**

I've been doing lecture shout-outs for the National Student Survey this week, in between the plugs from election candidates in the same lecture theatres. If you are a final year undergraduate student, please fill it in! This is why:

- NSS is important: the results are seen by Management Board, ICU and published online
- NSS is government-funded and goes into league tables
- Google 'NSS' and it's the first result, and takes 10 minutes to complete
- I'll give you a free pen or beer mat so you remember
- Not convinced? Prizes are 4 life memberships to ICU and 4 summer ball tickets!