

Deputy President (Welfare) Report

A report by Charlotte Ivison

Projects

Amended versions of both the RAG & CAG Policy and the New Projects Committee Standing Orders were passed by RWB on the 18th November (Chair: DPW) and have been submitted for consideration at this meeting of Council. The CAG Standing Orders have also been amended and all of the Projects web content is ready. In CSB on the 6th December the board agreed to suggest to Exec that the web content for Projects be under the same tab as Clubs & Socs, and that the tab be renamed Activities. This will be passed to Exec.

Elections

At the RWB of the 18th November the board elected in a new LGBT Officer (Phil Raymond), a new Gender Equality Officer (Aiman Alam-Nazki) and a new SHAG Week Coordinator (Stuart Haylock). At the RWB on the 2nd December the board elected in a new Disabilities Officer (Carla Curtis-Tansley).

Equal Opportunities Policy

I submitted the amended Equal Opps Policy to RWB on the 2nd December, which was passed and has now been brought to this Council meeting for approval.

Welfare Officers

I've met with both the Faculty and Central Union Welfare Officers to further discuss their roles. Both groups decided that in addition to being student points of contact for discrimination issues that they wanted to fulfil this role in a general welfare sense also, as in, signposting to different services. They also thought that all of the welfare officers should be quite involved in campaign weeks regardless of their focus group. However, none of this can be done without raising the profile of these officers. To achieve this we're hoping to do a large poster campaign as well as getting them all identifiable t shirts and a pop up banner for the welfare stand. We're thinking about instead of an Advice Centre Stand doing a general student welfare stand manned alternately by all the welfare officers to reduce the workload and increase efficiency. These suggested roles will be incorporated into the forthcoming review of the Rep policy.

Fairtrade Status

The first meeting of the Fairtrade Steering Group was on the 7th December, with a good turnout. The cotton issue was discussed – below is a table of the rough cost differences (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) taking a hoodie as an example:

	Non-FT	FT
Retail	19.90	25.50

The Fairtrade Foundation have confirmed that it is not compulsory for renewal for all Union cotton to be Fairtrade. Therefore, we are looking to move towards the 'offering some' option. I will submit the amended Fairtrade policy to the next RWB.

Campaign Weeks

Positively Red Week (29th November-3rd December) seemed to be really successful, with good turnout at all the events I attended. Study Skills Week (6th-10th December) was more low profile and a little bit eclipsed by the Life Sciences Restructure in terms of student awareness, but the turnout to events was nonetheless good with the Tea and wisdom session proving a nice break for students. The next CW is Drugs Awareness Week.

Chlamydia testing

As of the 15th November, the Terence Higgins Trust had tested 191 students. Brook haven't supplied me with numbers yet.

Welfare Survey(s)

I had an initial meeting with Jenny Wilson and Nicolas Massie to discuss a large welfare survey looking at all College (and perhaps Union) welfare services and which will incorporate the Disabilities Survey and the sexual health PCT survey. We are hoping to roll this out to all students early next term.

Subwarden Interviews

I attended subwarden interviews at Gabor on Friday the 3rd December.

Halls Feedback

I attended Halls Visits at Falmouth and Keogh, Beit, Southwell and Clayponds. We've also had the first meeting of the ICU Halls Committee, which was very well attended perhaps in part due to the offer of free and delicious pizza. The meeting produced some really good feedback which I've fed into College's Accommodation Services Committee meeting. I've also created Facebook groups for the Halls Reps, Halls Green Reps and Halls RAG Reps to create a platform for best practice.