

Deputy President (Education) report
A note by the Deputy President (Education) Alex Dahinten

SEC Presentation

On 19th May Alex and I gave our annual presentation to SEC (Strategic Education Committee). For information, SEC is the only senior college committee which the Union does not have a form of representation on; we were invited to their "Away Day" earlier this year and gave our annual presentation last week. The presentation contained three main discussion topics:

1. How the Union's relationship with college will change with regards to the changes to HE funding;
2. Provision for personal development (both academic and extracurricular);
3. Different perception of Imperial (prospective students vs. current students vs. graduates)

The presentation was very well received and the discussion which followed was constructive. The overall atmosphere in the room was one of collaboration and partnership. If you would like a copy of the presentation, please email dpeducation@imperial.ac.uk

Aldwych

On the 26th and 27th May we are going to be hosting the Aldwych Group meeting on Postgraduate Students. For these events, the Sabbatical Officers for all Russell Group institutions come together to discuss current issues and share best practise. Both Kendall and I have been working on this and it's shaping up to look like a very promising meeting. The GSA will also be actively participating during these two days.

College Day Working Party

Since Council met last time, there has been a further meeting of this working party on the 13th March (3rd meeting). Following proposals are being discussed (I would like to stress that no decisions have been made yet):

1. Saturday exams would be permissible; however the department would need to justify reasons for this. Many students and staff will not want to come in on a Saturday anyway; this option would only be used for unexpected events e.g. Eyjafjallajökull as well as potentially Departments which need the Great Hall.
2. Currently, exams can be scheduled in the mornings and evenings. It is proposed that departments be able to schedule exams within 1 of 3 timeslots in the future (9-12; 12-3; 3-6). It will not be permitted for there to be more than 2 exams per day and exams will not be in succession.
3. Regarding changes to the actual college day, it is proposed that Humanities would be given timeslots on Monday and Friday (12:00-14:00 i.e. no change) as well as Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (17:00-19:00). This would free up the lunch time slots (12:00-14:00) on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday effectively enabling departments to schedule the longer lab classes without them clashing with humanities, as they currently do. Provisions will also be set in place to guarantee that students will be given reasonable breaks in between lectures i.e. no 7 lectures in a row. The extracurricular activities this would affect are those which meet during lunchtimes as well as a few individuals which would take part in C&S starting at 18:00 on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday and which have to take a humanity which starts at 18:00 on one of these days. We are anticipating that the number of these students is very low; they will be dealt with on a one-on-one basis. Also, basically all current humanities options will remain (there are a few which are highly undersubscribed which may have to go).

Council
23rd May 2011

I would like Councils opinions on these proposed changes, since I do not want to be seen as solely representing my personal views. I have also suggested during the meeting to use the Great Hall as a lecture theatre during the day, which received a mixed reception. **What does Council think about this?**

Furthermore, College is currently investing in software called "Event Map" and "Cel Cat" which will ease timetabling and room bookings on campus. It will also allow departments to book lecture theatres in other departments; however this will be beneficial mainly to smaller departments. Larger classes, for obvious reasons, need larger lecture theatres; the number of these is restricted on campus and they are often fully booked.