

Deputy President (Welfare)  
23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011

## **Deputy President (Welfare) Report**

### **A note by Charlotte Ivison**

#### Projects

We have one potential project currently – scheduling for a New Projects Committee is underway.

#### Wardens Review

The results of the Wardens Review have been announced. Nine subwarden positions are to be removed from Halls with warden:student ratios of 1:31 or lower. This is an economic measure as 50% of the College's welfare budget is currently spent on paying for the wardens, and that money can instead be spent on other welfare staffing within College such as the recent staffing increase in Counselling and the Disability Advisory Service. Through looking at the expiry dates of all of the subwarden contracts we know that no subwardens will have to leave their post prematurely, but some subwardens will have to be transferred from their current Hall to a new one.

#### Halls Committee

I chaired the fourth meeting of the Halls Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> May. We discussed the scheduling of a second application software focus group, and reviewed the criteria wardens use to match roommates. There was more discussion on the outcome of the Hall rent survey, including looking at cleaning going forward, and a discussion on managing expectation of what the rooms will be like, with features and size explained in more detail.

#### Early Years Education Centre Committee

I sit on the committee that oversees the running of Imperial's daycare centre. This was about money. They're trying to reduce the large waiting list by ceasing to offer new places to non-Imperial parents. To compensate for the loss of income from these higher fees, they're having to charge Imperial parents more. We also talked about giving students more of a discount to bring them in line with the discount staff currently receive. The Union gives £4,000 to the EYEC towards bursaries for student parents.

#### Subwarden Interview

I sat on the panel for subwarden interviews in Beit on the 9<sup>th</sup> May.

#### Representation and Welfare Board

I chaired RWB on the 12<sup>th</sup> May. We nominated RWB members to sit on the Union Awards committee. We also received representation and welfare reports from the Faculty Unions and the welfare officers, although it was noted that some of these reports were missing sections which is disappointing. We looked at the results of the Welfare Week survey and the disability part of the Welfare survey. We changed the role of SHAG Week Coordinator to Healthy Living officer in line with the changing demands on the role, and we approved a funding request for a new batch of IQ Freshers' Guides. We also took a look at the Recommendations for the Administration of

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Coursework and Feedback – College's rewritten version of what was previously the Feedback policy that College and the Union had been working on together.

#### Flat Dating

The flat dating will be happening on the 9<sup>th</sup> June in the Southside social space. I'm helping Commercial Services design and run the event.

#### Student Switch Off

Eastside won the Student Switch Off competition for this year – I've been helping their rep organise the party they get as a prize.

#### Disabilities

I've been talking to College about signing up to the DisabledGo online access auditing and the initiative has received lots of praise from College senior disability committee, which means that College funding for the scheme looks likely. Signing up to this will allow anyone studying at Imperial to easily view details accessibility features for any building on campus, which should be really useful.

The student disability focus group is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> June from 12pm-2pm in G61 of SAF. Please encourage anyone you think would be interested to come along – they'll get a £10 shop voucher for participating.

I'm working with the Operations Manager, the senior Disability adviser and the Representation Coordinator to create an action plan for making the Union building more accessible, to include more accessible doors. As is stands, there are already plans to convert storage space on level 1 into a disabled access toilet. In other refurbishment news, the toilets on the East side of the building are being refurbished by College, a plan which will include replacing all the condom/sanitaryware machines across the building. Any suggestions for what we should put in them can be directed my way!

#### Bike User Group

I had a good meeting with Commercial Services and Sport Imperial on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> regarding communication with Imperial's cyclists. It is likely that Sport Imperial will be taking over moderation of the Bike User Group mailing list to enable the moderator to act as more of a conduit between cyclists and College, proactively creating changes based on feedback. We're also working on centralising information for cyclists on one easy to use website with links off to different services – I and Lottie Holmes from the BUG will be working on content for this.

#### Food Feedback

The undergraduate college catering forum is scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> June from 6pm-7.30pm in the Queen's Tower Rooms.

#### Bees

We should be introducing the new colony to the hives in the next week or so. Anyone looking to get involved tending them should contact Environmental Society.

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#### Equality and Diversity

I'm working on incorporating some equality and diversity training into the officer training for next year. I'm also having a debrief session with this year's welfare officers to create a plan for next year's campaigns, which will hopefully include more coordinated planning of campaigns between groups.