

Council  
14<sup>th</sup> November 2011

## **Deputy President (Education) Report**

*A report by Jason Parmar*

### **Rectors Away Day Update**

As you can read from the Rectors blog and video

(<https://www2.imperial.ac.uk/blog/rectorsawayday11/>) the Rectors Away Day focused on the Student Experience. The Rectors comments appear to echo that of myself and Scott from the NSS Response, several meetings and at the Rectors Away Day. Although no credit has been given, it is clear that we have made an impact.

### **Helping Students Adapt**

The first of a set of events to help students adapt to university ran on 3<sup>rd</sup> November on “Studying at Imperial”. This was a pilot programme and ran successfully.

### **Faculty of Engineering - Faculty Teaching Committee (FoE FTC)**

I presented the Unions NSS Response to this committee who were very receptive and approving of the document. Some departments in Engineering have read through thoroughly and have had meetings for the sole purpose to analyse the NSS, in which they have looked into each and every recommendation we made and decided whether applicable for their department.

Each Faculty has also been asked by Management Board (and the Rector) to produce an “action plan” for the year to improve the “Student Experience” with a December deadline.

### **Representation**

We successfully ran UG and PG training on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct and 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> November respectively.

UG Rep Training – 80 reps confirmed attendance, but a massive 132 reps turn up, hitting my target to train 70% of reps by November. You can find the UG Rep Handbook 2.0, the presentation, jargonbuster etc on the Union Website: <http://goo.gl/a3sYB> & <http://goo.gl/ywd2h>

PG Rep Training – although the first session wasn't too successful and had only 35 reps turnout, the second session had 82 reps, far more than confirmed attendance originally, making a total of 117 reps trained. For the PG Rep Handbook 2.0 and presentation: <http://goo.gl/BgyWf>

Now 70% of reps have been trained, my next task is to fill 90% of all available rep positions (easier for UG than PG).

Poster Board update – Aero, Biology, Biochemistry, BioEng, Chemistry, CivEng, Computing, JMC, EEE/ISE, Materials, Mech Eng and Physics all have the posters and poster boards. I'm just waiting for (to name and shame) Chemical Engineering, Earth Science Engineering and Mathematics to reply to me and pick up them up.

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### **Student Charter**

Myself and Scott are part of a working group to create a student charter, second meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **Manifesto**

See Appendix 1 for my manifesto (that somehow got me elected). Ignoring mistakes such as “Deputy President for Education” (instead of Deputy President (Education)) and some rather vague points such as “for your voice to be heard” it’s actually reasonable decent (I was quite naïve).

The main message may be to “Vote JP for DPE”, however there are two main pledges there: “College timetabling” and “Podcasting”.

College Timetabling – unfortunately I wasn’t in office in time to ever sit on the College Day Working Party, however, as you will read have read in Felix a paper is going to Management Board that could move humanities to afternoons. It hasn’t been passed yet, and after that it needs to pass council. We don’t know how Management Board will vote, but if the paper falls I assume there will be no re-attempt to get the paper through and if there is, I will be on the working group (or I will make sure I am). If passed, timetabling will become a more departmental issue, giving departments more control and flexibility over their timetabling. If any issues arise from timetabling in departments if this passes, I am more than happy to work with **any** student who has an issue to make sure timetabling is reasonable yet efficient.

Podcasting – This looks promising and falls under the broader umbrella of my “Blended Learning Project” (or e-Learning). This is my project to encourage and implement (what I think is) the future of education, for example, tablets and smartphone use in education, along with maximising the potential of the Imperial mobile app (soon to be out on Blackberry) by integrating it with the new VLE (that will be decided in the next 6 months Blackboard 9.0 vs Desire2Learn), timetables etc.

Podcasting is well on its way, there are more pilots to be completed a few months into the new year, and, if all goes to plan, there is the possibility to roll-out a full video podcasting system (similar to Echo 360 in the Business School), I hope, by the 2012 academic year. But, it is not yet official, this is just what I believe will happen. If the pilot fails, then we’ll have to look at other options, as many departments are already taking the initiative to do it themselves instead of college-wide (e.g. audio for Biology and visual for some EEE, Chemistry etc.).

However, I am confident I can deliver on podcasting. For more information, please read my blog:  
<https://www.union.ic.ac.uk/blogs/2011/10/28/e-learning-tablets-in-education/>

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## **Appendix 1 - Manifesto**

My name is Jason Parmar and I have what it takes to be the next Deputy President for Education. I'm currently a Chemistry undergraduate studying towards a four-year degree with Management.

Being an Imperial student isn't the easiest of tasks. It's difficult to balance the demanding workload we get from our respective courses with our other commitments.

The proposed timetabling changes are something I take very seriously. I will fight to make sure that any changes are effective, yet reasonable, and are in all of our best interests.

If elected I will work with all students and staff to find a timetable structure that fits everyone's needs.

We're not all perfect; sometimes we do miss lectures, be it because of the Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption or from not knowing your limits the night before.

I believe it's time for us to bring in recorded podcasts for all our lecture courses.

We study at a world-class university; we deserve to have ALL our lecture material to be of a world-class quality so we can be world-class graduates.

**Vote J.P for D.P.E** for podcasts of lecture courses.

**Vote J.P for D.P.E** for better quality lecture notes.

**Vote J.P for D.P.E** for SOLE to have more of an impact.

**Vote J.P for D.P.E** for improved coursework and exam feedback.

**Vote J.P for D.P.E** for your voice to be heard.

Representing every demographic at Imperial.

Representing you.

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