

Council
14th November 2011

Imperial College Union Council report to meeting 31 October 2011

Imperial College Union
Deputy President (Welfare) Report
A note by Nicolas Massie

Non-halls freshers

Freshers not in halls are traditionally underrepresented in activities and some say overrepresented within the welfare services. Some reasons posited have been a lack of a social support network, lack of sense of inclusion within the college community, etc. I created the initial 'get to know each other and the area' event → Idea to create society. Non-halls freshers presented a paper to NCC and now have a society. I've presented a paper to the Student Welfare Committee which should now be on Julia Buckingham's desk.

Welfare Survey

This has now been re-branded the 'Student Experience Survey'. This aims to increase support from students and staff. A paper containing questions was presented and passed at the Quality Assurance Advisory Committee (QAAC) and I have met and spoken to several key inputters (Informatics, statistics, survey design, welfare) in order to make it as effective as possible. Will be rolled out with SOLE.

Volunteering

Very excited to start working on this in earnest with DPCS now that we know exactly where we stand with our new partners, Student Hubs.

Green Week

Steaming away. Most activities are confirmed, including a trip to the composter, clothes swaps, shoe swaps, cycle repairs, spectacle donations, visits to the bee hive, 'guess your carbon footprint' competitions, etc. Still waiting to hear from Halls on who the hall green reps are. Once that's happened, should have a veritable army of volunteers to call upon. Working with College Comms for the first time on this. Should improve visibility. Have also been in talks with Felix.

Bikes!

Have been working closely with the Bike User Group (BUG) and Environmental Officer to ensure that college and Union policy is favourable to cycles. The BUG was mentioned on the posters for the Cycle Auction and will be mentioned again in Felix. BUG should be the main, unified voice of cyclists at Imperial and I will aim to raise its profile.

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Bike auctions

Preliminary report: circa seven thousand pounds. Thank you to all volunteers. Bikes ranged from 7 to 350+ pounds. Special thanks to RAG Chair, Jack Hewitt who has worked very hard for this. It was a combined effort of RAG, Sport Imperial (Neil Mosley, head of Sport Imperial was the auctioneer) Facilities Management, Security (who provided the cycles and cycle locks at a 30 pound subsidy), and the Police.

Halls Applications

Have been in talks with Commercial Services. Am expecting specific details on proportions of students who received accommodation they applied for and those who didn't. They have agreed to improve information provision on their applications next year re: 'This is not a ranked preference list'. Will keep Council updated.

Management Board Applications

Have spent dozens of hours on this in the past two weeks. The Equality and Diversity Committee (Student Subgroup) have created proposals for Management Board, the college board that allocates funds, for Widening Participation and Disabilities. These are exciting proposals that total in the hundreds of thousands of pounds and will benefit hundreds of students. One creates a new position within the Disability Advisory Service specifically tailored to the international students who do not have access to local government funding and the other sets up an enormous outreach programme that works well with what outreach is already doing. Please do see me if you're curious about either.