

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

Welfare Officer's Forum

We've tried to streamline Representation and Welfare Board (RWB) by creating Representation Academic Forum (RAF) and Welfare Officers' Forum (WOF) as subcommittees to meet before RWB in order to hash out their specialty-specific details.

WOF Highlights

- Disability officer has finished a project that will be used College-wide to improve the experience of students with disabilities
- Disability officer had a Dyslexia Awareness Day
- International Officer – International Student Forum – Guest speakers and practical advice
- Bike User Group is now represented on WOF
- Anti-bullying Week is next week – Disability and LGBT creating posters examining language
- Interfaith – First big event – Jewish festival Sukkot.
- Interfaith – Holding frequent small group dialogues between faith groups.
- Equal Opportunities – Drinking Awareness.
- Healthy Living – STI Clinic on Campus

Green Week

The Environmental Officer and I have gone for a multi-society approach this year, engaging the Energy Society, VegSoc, BookSoc, EcoSoc, Bike Users' Group, StepChange and College Comms,

Events will include:

- Meat Free Monday
- Book Swap
- Union quiz night
- Clothes Swap
- Felting
- Composter visits
- Chutney-making
- A green element on every page of Felix

Campaigns

A campaigns bid form has been passed by WOF and will go to RWB. The final version will be available online and will enable students to run campaigns in any area about which they feel passionate. These will be eligible for Union support as long as they support the aims and objectives of the Union. Students will then undertake e-learning which has been created to increase the effectiveness of their campaigns.

Catering Forum

There will be a catering forum on the 25th of November attended by the Healthy Living Officer, Head of Catering (Imperial) and the DPW. Students will be invited to a free dinner and the opportunity to help Imperial improve its food offerings.

Manifesto Review:

- Make prospective freshers and postgrads more comfortable through a dedicated online forum with a Mums and Dads tool
 - See other paper specifically on Mums and Dads/Buddies
- Support and further Welfare Officer Information Packs and Training
 - First Welfare Officer Training Packs have been created. Officers were trained at the beginning of the year. E-learning has been created for the first time and will be used for any new officers/next year. Have negotiated with Counselling who are offering training next week.
- Cut down on but improve campaign weeks
 - Campaigns training e-learning has been created
 - Campaigns bid form has been approved by WOF and will go to RWB
 - We are offering funds and central Union support (posters/training/strategy) that have never been offered to campaigns before.
- Set up a Union Accommodation Website
 - This did not need to be done as College set one up. I will be organising a user group to assess how effective the Imperial Home Solutions website is.
- Continue Charlotte-The-Previous-DPW's efforts to set up a GUM clinic at the Health Centre
 - Have followed up on this. It cannot be done. There was talk of NHS funding for this but it appears certain that this will not happen now. Am working with the Healthy Living Officer to bring external charities to campus to provide free STI testing. Watch this space.
- Target postgraduates and ensure that the GSA continues its excellent efforts
 - Either the DPE or I have attended every GSA exec meeting. I have also worked with some postgraduate students on campaigns.
- Revamp volunteering at Imperial so that you can do what you want to do, despite the closure of the Volunteer Centre.
 - DPCS, President and I have been in talks with Student Hubs, an external charity who will provide a staff member to help us coordinate volunteering at Imperial. We have also been working out how to accredit volunteering hours (including working as a club/education/welfare officer). This is an enormous project that brings in every strand of the Union. We hope to be finalising plans by December and to be implementing by January.

In Summary, four of my seven manifesto points are effectively achieved, though they'll be reviewed before next year examining what can be improved for next year. Two are very much in hand (Volunteering and the GUM clinic) while I think my weakest area has been GSA engagement.