

Imperial College Union Council
12th December 2011

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

It has been a busy month with many small victories and some fairly major frustrations. Highlights were Green Week and finalising paperwork to return the entire university to Fairtrade status. A significant setback with the Student Experience survey has been enormously frustrating. Exciting ongoing projects are Unseen Imperial and volunteering.

Green Week

Green went well. Our success was measured in carbon pledges. We aimed for 30 tonnes of emission reductions. We managed 48,676kg from 290 individuals. Events were reasonably well attended though we're going to focus on publicising events individually in conjunction with Green Week publicity as this was more effective.

Fairtrade

Some years ago The Fairtrade Foundation changed their requirements and IC lost its Fairtrade status. I have followed on from Charlotte's work and we should have regained our Fairtrade status by February.

Student Experience Survey

As I hope you've noticed, a Student Experience Survey has been launched alongside SOLE. This is a success for the DPW as I started campaigning for this with Charlotte in the first term of 2010. Unfortunately at the last minute senior members of college decided that some of the questions were inappropriate and withdrew the entire survey. As a concession, and because I see the value of the survey as it is, I suggested the survey run without any of the troublesome questions. I will take the questions that were refused to ICREC, the college's ethics board, and will hopefully ask the student population next term. If this isn't possible, then by term 1 2012.

Personal Safety Day

Terry Branch (Head of Security) and I have been working on ways to improve personal safety for the IC population. Students are seen as high-value, easy targets for thieves. We have planned a series of events for the rest of the year addressing different aspects of personal safety. The first event is Tuesday 13th at 12:30 in Pippard. It will comprise talks and demonstrations by the police. It will address common scams around the area and online.

Halls

The Halls Committee is active and has already changed policy – the grey bins in halls are being emptied in a different order. Excellent. I have been working with commercial services to improve the information that is sent to students before they arrive. I've also been working on the halls allocation system.

Subwarden Interviews

I have been on the interview panel for subwardens in Gabor, Holbein Willis Jackson, Pembroke and Southwell. These take three to five hours but are a worthwhile expenditure of time.

Blood Drive/Organ campaign

I'm working closely with Medsin, the Healthy Living Officer and Nicholas Holgate to create a blood drive on campus next term. We aim to have regular blood drives on campus. I am also in conversation with the Health Centre to add an organ donation opt-in to their registration pack.

Campaigns

The campaigns form and training are now online and two students have already asked for tips on filling them in. I will publicise them in Felix this week.

Unseen Imperial

This is an exciting campaign I am working on with the Disabilities Officer, Interfaith Officer, LGBT Officer, College Chaplain, Head of Imperial 600, Student Advisor and College Equality and Diversity Consultant. We want to battle unseen discrimination and improve disclosure rates of unseen differences people may have (disabilities, mental health, LGBT, faith) promoting free an open dialogue while making the college community aware of the impact their words can have. We intend to have a high profile launch event with Pro-Rectors and the Rector preceded by an intensive awareness campaign.

Catering Forum

The Catering Forum on the 25th of November was a great success. Discussion lasted for two hours and students were well fed. Some points raised were:

- The Quality of salad in venues other than the SCR
- The queuing system in the QTR
- Availability/signage of gluten free, halal and vegan options
- The sourcing of produce
- Service in some outlets
- Quality of food in certain outlets
- Plenty more.

Nightline

Nightline is an external charity that started at Imperial in the 70s. The College and Union pay them for the right to offer our students their out of hours confidential telephone listening and support service. We've been working together to improve awareness within the college.

Health Centre

I am having regular meetings with the Health Centre to improve the service they provide to students. They have recently started one late clinic per week. I am trying to persuade them to open another night per week. If there are comments to feed back to the Health Centre please email them to me.

Volunteering

We will shortly be interviewing for a new position that will help support student volunteering. Monya (DPCS) and I will work closely with the new member of staff to create a volunteer brokerage service and to set up a volunteer accreditation system to help CSPs retain volunteers.