

Deputy President (Education) Report

A report by Jason Parmar

IDEA League (15th – 18th Dec)

The Union (in the form of myself, Scott, Phil, Suzie and Rebecca) attended the IDEALiSTiC conference in Aachen, Germany for 4 days. See Appendix A for a short debrief and a paper my group put together in Appendix B.

SOLE

Autumn SOLE finished on 20th December. I've collated a table for data from 16th December and am waiting for the final data set. As of 16th December however, SOLE was down 3% on last year's final results and up 1% on two years ago (see Appendix C).

London Mayoral Election

The London students manifesto has been finalised in a small team of representatives (Imperial DPE and President, Queen Mary VPA, LSE President and Kings President). This is to be sent out for approval and signatures to all London Students' Unions while London College of Fashion design the manifesto and LSE use the funding to create the website and find a launch venue. ICU are tasked with creating a FAQ and "how to vote" section of the website and finding venues. The next meeting is scheduled for later this month.

Student Charter

The Student Charter has been finalised and is to be presented to QAAC tomorrow (17th Jan) for approval.

Calendar High/Low-Lights

| Date | Meeting | Notes |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| 12/12/2011 | Academic Forum | Meeting of all dep reps and myself to share best practise as well as verbal update. |
| 12/12/2011 | Student Experience Project Board | Plans for 2012 – DSS/KIS/Timetabling/Outreach/PhD Process/Student Accommodation/Finance and Student System replacement selection |
| 12/12/2011 | Q&A with Blackboard | Discussion with Blackboard 9.0 team – part of VLE Review. |
| 13/12/2011 | GLA Mayoral Election | ICU, LSE and Queen Mary met at ICU to finalise timeline and plans for London Mayor Election. |
| 13/12/2011 | Student Charter | Finalised student charter for approval to QAAC |
| 14/12/2011 | College Senate | Rubber stamping papers. |
| 14/12/2011 | Meeting with Pro-Rector and College Secretary | Updates including set up of Survey Working Group. |
| 15/12/2011 18/12/2011 | IDEALiSTiC Conference, Aachen, Germany. | Please see Appendix A |

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|--|--|---|
| 19/12/2011 | ICT Senior Management Meeting | President presented ICU ideas for ICT: Proposed “dream systems” include an online feedback system, centralised timetables, more app functionality, OpenCourseWare and student ICT focus groups. |
| 20/12/2011 | Meeting with Principal of Engineering | Discussions and updates including AMP break out student space and Civ Eng failure rate. |
| 23/12/2011 02/01/2012 | Christmas and New Year “break” | Banter was had. |
| 04/01/2012 | Meeting with Director of Enterprise Strategy | Further discussions on Imperial Entrepreneurship. |
| 05/01/2012 | Finalised OCW paper | See Appendix B |
| 09/01/2012 | Imperial Mobile | Discussion on progress and action plan (top priorities set as VLE and timetable integration) |
| 09/01/2012 | Elections Delivery Committee | Planning for elections. |
| 09/01/2012 | PG Open Day Planning | Debrief of 2011 PG Open Day and planning for 2012. Set strategic aims and revamp of the day. |
| 10/01/2012 | Meeting ICT | Discussions of future work together. |
| 10/01/2012 | Rep Planning | Goal setting for AAO Medicine |
| 10/01/2012 | VLE Review meeting | |
| 11/01/2012 | Principal of Natural Sciences | Discussions and updates with the Faculty of Natural Sciences |
| 11/01/2012 | NSS Meeting | Set strategy and promotion of NSS 2012 with college. (Live now). |
| 11/01/2012 | Rectors Ambassador Tour | Used lunch break to show around prospective students. |
| 11/01/2012 | Student/Finance | Catch-up and discussions with College Finance. |
| 12/01/2012 | Masters Quality Committee | n/a |
| 12/01/2012 | Executive Committee | n/a |
| 13/01/2012 | Periodic Review of UG Civil Engineering | Full day (external examination) periodic review of UG Civil Engineering |

Appendix A

IDEA League (15th – 18th Dec)

Background

The IDEA League is “a network of five leading universities of technology and science”. It was founded in 1999 and is basically a collaboration project of five leading technical specialist universities in Europe. The members are:

- Imperial College London
- TU Delft
- ETH Zurich
- RWTH Aachen
- ParisTech

The Students’ Union of Imperial College London and its equivalents at the other member universities meet up biannually to discuss best practise and work on collaboration, called IDEALiSTiC. ICU hasn’t had the highest attendance at this conference in the last few years so ICU went to this conference in Aachen, Germany in December and while in attendance, agreed to host the summer 2012 conference alongside the IDEA League Sports Event (also arrange for summer 2012).

Funding and Best Practise

We learned a lot in the relatively short time we had in Aachen about the fantastic opportunities available for our students offered by the IDEA League.

IDEA League Student Research Grant

This is a €1,000 a month scheme set up to encourage collaboration of student projects. If a student has an idea for a project they want to do, they can apply for this and receive funding. Each university has an allocation of 36 months’ worth of funding and the project should try to focus on Energy, Environment, Health, ICT or Mobility. At the moment not enough applicants, the money is there and nobody applies for it!

Meet ups

Also, the IDEA League has a fund whereby they will give €3,000 (per application) for Faculty Unions and their equivalents at the other member universities (Student Associations) to meet up either in Europe or in the UK. All the students need to do is apply and write a 1-page summary report on what they did when they met up, preferably a mixture of social and academic sharing of best practise/research project.

Sports Event

The IDEA sports event is being held in Hyde Park, hosted by Imperial College London in June. This is arrange by Sport Imperial, but should be good fun.

Podcasting

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With regards to video recording lectures, TU Delft has had this for over two years. Students see two video streams in their interface and can click and drag the size of the videos. One stream is the lecture slides, the other is a video in the lecture theatre, where a student (who's paid €10 an hour) is responsible for sound/video quality and zooms into white/blackboards when the lecturer is using it and back out when not.

There were no legal issues in TU Delft's case and students love the service, using it as an essential revision tool and also to enhance further learning of other modules to expand their academic horizons.

ETH Zurich have overflow lecture theatres like Imperial, but again, like Imperial, they don't record these and make them available to students.

Our group then discussed the excellent projects at TU Delft who are following in the footsteps of Stanford and MIT with Open CourseWare.

Open CourseWare

The talks about Podcasting on Friday led to one the activity I worked on, on Saturday where we split into groups of three focus areas: networking, communication and open courseware.

In the Open Courseware group we discussed what currently exists. Stanford for example have complete courses of 1,000+ just online, they even have an entirely online lecture course with over 160,000 attendees online studying Mech Eng (Stanford AI – it's called).

Only 1 day after the conference MIT announced MITx (http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/19/education/mit-expands-free-online-courses-offering-certificates.html?_r=1) where "online students" can gain diplomas in a subject area, due for release in Spring with a course. MIT OpenCourseWare has existed for over a decade with nearly 2,100 courses and over 100 million users over this period.

I was in the Open CourseWare group and we managed to write a paper together on what we believe the IDEA League should be investing in (**Appendix B**).

Mobile

We also discussed mobile applications shortly, comparing "TU Delft" with "Imperial Mobile".

Idealistic Paper
Aachen 17.December 2011

Introduction of OpenCourseWare (OCW) to the IDEA League Universities

This Paper goes out to:

IDEALeague Operational Board
Dr. Thanh-Tâm Lê, Paris Tech
Dr. Ulrike Hillemann, Imperial College London,
Dr. Christoph Niedermann, ETH Zürich
Prof. Amrin Schnettler, RWTH Aachen

Dr. Ulla Bidian, IDEA League Secretary General

The Paper is written by the Idealistic representatives of:
RWTH Aachen, Allgemeiner Studierendenausschuss der RWTH Aachen
ETH Zürich, Verband der Studierenden an der ETH
Imperial College, Imperial College Union
TU Delft, Studentenraad TU Delft

To whom correnspondance should be adresses to:
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IDEALiStiC

Introduction

The IDEA League is a European focus network of world leading universities specialising in science, engineering and technology and as such, they will provide some of the best specialised insights into these fields of study.

An OpenCourseWare (OCW) is a free and open digital publication of high quality university level educational materials. These materials are organized as courses, often including course planning materials and evaluation tools as well as thematic content. OpenCourseWare is free and openly licensed, therefore accessible to anyone, anytime via the internet.

OpenCourseWare (OCW) seeks to capitalize on the potential of the internet to eliminate borders and geographic distance as obstacles to the instantaneous exchange of knowledge and new ideas. Unlike distance learning programs that charge tuition, provide formal instruction and limit participation, OpenCourseWare offers all course materials free to everyone with online access. Educators from around the world may improve their classes; students may enhance their coursework or pursue independent study; the general public can gain an insight to the depth and breadth of what leading universities are offering and can benefit from the reading lists and lectures.

(Adapted from ocw.tudelft.nl)

Believes

- The general public will benefit greatly from having access to these materials.
- IDEA league students will benefit from the academically related specialisations of the lectures from the member universities.
- IDEA league universities, in providing these lectures Open-Sourced, will benefit their international reputation greatly. It will boost the university brand and significantly improve public opinion in favor of IDEA League universities.
- Knowledge transfer benefits the economy and society and should be a priority for universities.
- OCW can boost the image of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects and inspire prospective students and school students into pursuing a career in STEM studies.
- It will benefit students who are unsure whether to pursue a Masters or PhD in a subject area, and it should stimulate their interests.
- OCW will allow students with an active interest in other disciplines to broaden their academic range.
- OCW provides Europe an opportunity to catch up with the world leading American universities who are leading the way in this area (examples include MIT and Stanford).
- The IDEA League should take advantage of their network of leading European institutes of science and technology to develop the best available material to outscore other networks.

Resolves

General actions required:

1. Map current activities and contacts working on the development of OCW.
2. Bring in contact developers at the different IDEA league universities.
3. Promote the availability of the recorded lectures.

A) Making Presentations of Guest speakers and Colloquiums available on the internet

Goals:

- share inspiring lectures.
- inspire and motivate students and future students.

Proposed actions:

1. Record inspiring lectures and publish them on different media (YouTube, iTunesU, a Special IDEA League platform).
2. Make these lectures accessible on a TEDtalks style interface.

B) Make some specialized courses which are only taught at one University available to all Students within the IDEA League

Goals:

- broaden the spectra of courses offered at each university within the network.
- broaden the students opportunities to specialize in their studies.
- share specialized knowledge within the IDEA league.
- make this knowledge accessible to all IDEA league students.

Proposed actions:

1. Map complementary available knowledge. What knowledge would every university like to access at one of the IDEA league partners?
2. Contact related persons (teachers or researchers) at all IDEA partners.
3. Communicate how the knowledge can be transferred (both contents and didactical form) and embedded effectively in all curricula.

C) Make didactically excellent courses available to all IDEA League students as supplementary material for their studies.

Goals:

- Cooperate to develop top quality open course ware (OCW).
- Make the best teachers accessible to all students for a more efficient transfer of knowledge.

Proposed actions:

1. Use the best teachers of the IDEA network on the subject.

Appendix C

| Department | Participation Rate 2011 | Participation Rate 2010 | Participation Rate 2009 | % change 2011 and 2010 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Earth Science & Engineering | 100% | 100% | 99% | 0% |
| Materials | 90% | 77% | 75% | 13% |
| Bioengineering | 82% | 84% | 69% | -2% |
| Computing | 72% | 72% | 63% | 0% |
| Medicine | 67% | 75% | 86% | -8% |
| Civil and Environmental Engineering | 66% | 63% | 64% | 3% |
| Joint Maths and Computing | 64% | 83% | 79% | -19% |
| Life Sciences | 60% | 74% | 70% | -14% |
| Mechanical Engineering | 60% | 62% | 68% | -2% |
| Pharmacology and Translational Medicine (5 students) | 60% | 50% | 80% | 10% |
| Physics | 59% | 61% | 52% | -2% |
| Electrical and Electronic Engineering | 58% | 64% | 63% | -6% |
| Biomedical Sciences – Medicine modules (Years 1, 2) | 58% | 74% | n/a | -16% |
| Aeronautics | 58% | 61% | 64% | -3% |
| Chemistry | 58% | 56% | 51% | 2% |
| Mathematics | 56% | 67% | 41% | -11% |
| Chemical Engineering | 56% | 62% | 61% | -6% |
| Total | 64% | 67% | 63% | -3% |

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| | | | | |
| Life Sciences Degree Streams | Participation | Participation | Participation Rate | % change |

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| | Rate 2011 | Rate 2010 | 2009 | 2011 and 2010 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------|---------------|
| Biochemistry | 67% | 77% | 71% | -10% |
| Biology | 55% | 71% | 75% | -16% |
| Biomedical Science | 58% | 77% | 52% | -19% |
| | | | | |
| Business School BEST Modules | 57% | 59% | 52% | -2% |