

Deputy President (Education) Report

A report by Jason Parmar

Video Podcasting

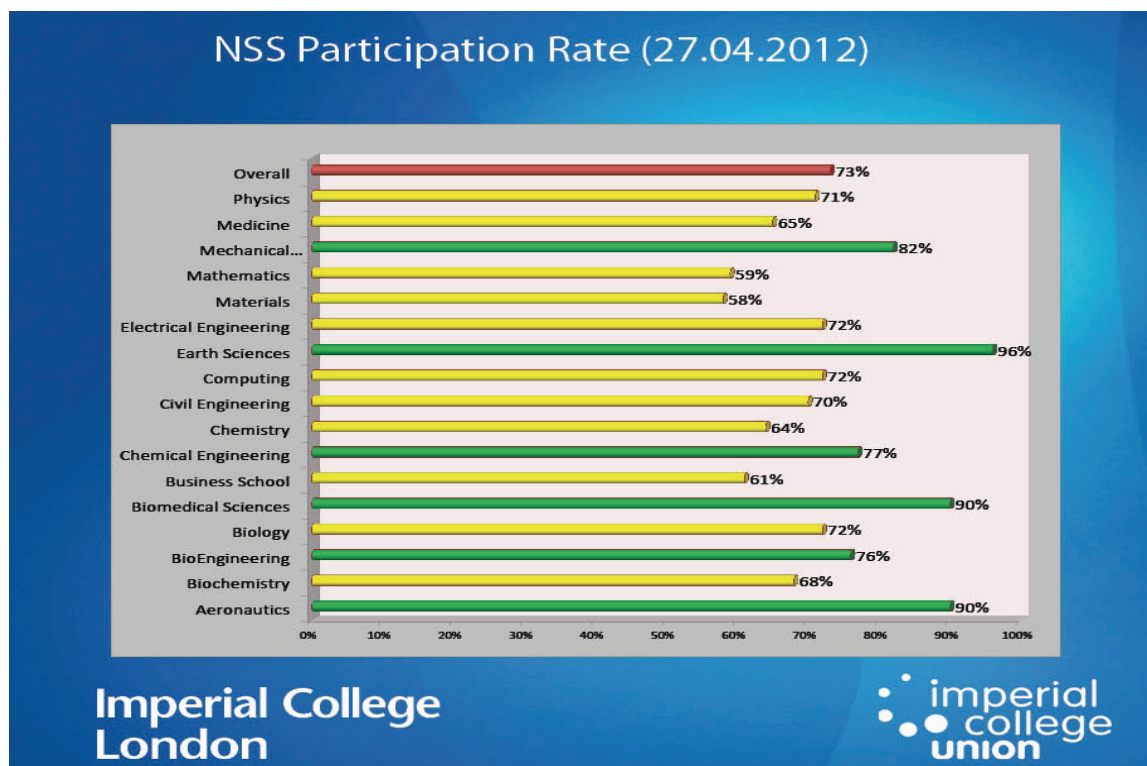
As I said in my manifesto: “Vote J.P for D.P.E for podcasts of lecture courses”.

The e-learning strategy committee has chosen a system called panopto for the Imperial College choice of podcasting to be supported by ICT. There are plans to make it available before the end of the year, but to be realistic, we don't expect the system to be used regularly until the next academic year. There were 229 successful recordings using panopto from October 2011 to January 2012, in lecture theatres Skempton 164, SAF G16, LTUG, ME542, LT1 & LT2 and Pippard LT.

It should therefore be possible for any lecturer wishing to video record their lecture to do so next year.

NSS Statistics and feedback

I'd like to thank all the reps (and others) who were involved in making this years NSS participation rates super high this year (73% compared with 64% last year). The Pro Rector (Education) Julia Buckingham and Dean of Students Denis Wright also send their thanks to all reps who helped.



Now I just hope the results are encouraging so we can see all the efforts made to improve the student experience paid off (although realistically this will take 2-3 years).

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Rep Week Debrief

Rep week ran from 13th-17th February with the tagline #loveyourrep. There are two blog posts on the Union website:

<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/blogs/2012/02/14/rep-week/>

<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/blogs/2012/02/28/rep-week-2012-winners/>

In summary we had stalls in the JCR, SCR and Computing as well as going round and talking to people during the week to get them to write down what they would like to see done to improve the Imperial College student experience with the top 4 recommendations getting Union Shop vouchers as well as many of them being tweeted live to our storify wall (see blog). We had 347 recommendations from students ranging from ""make the Huxely building less Communist" #loveyourrep #loveyourcomrade" to "MIT get online lecture courses, Two institutions in the top ten, worlds apart!"

All 347 recommendations were typed up and each student was sent a personalised e-mail detailing the rep structure and how their issue will be resolved via staff-student committees or above, telling them their Dep rep name and e-mail, their message and finally thanking them for their contribution.

These recommendations were combined with the rep planning I did with each rep and put on Rep Drive (more on that further on).

ICT Student Forum

On Monday 27th February senior ICT staff came to Imperial College Union for the first ever Student-ICT Forum. This forum was set up to help ICT understand their role in the student experience at Imperial and to Provide ICT with input from the Student body about what their IT needs and priorities are and also to provide feedback to ICT on potential new initiatives.

We covered SOLE for mobile, Imperial Mobile, Podcasting, OpenCourseWare, Outlook Calendars, Student e-mail service, File Space and Personal Web Pages.

For more information please read my blog:

<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/blogs/2012/03/19/student-ict-forum/>

The next forum will be on Thursday 17th May lunchtime in Meeting Room 6 in the Union. Please feel free to come along, there's a free lunch for everybody that comes (even though it is college catering).

Rep Drive Launch

Rep Drive is much like the new Google Drive, but better.

Rep Drive is the new online resource for Reps. It's a loadable folder on the Imperial network that contains all the information that you need to be a better Rep, and gives you a place to store important information and communicate with the Representation team at Imperial College Union.

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Rep Drive offers online storage for rep materials – meaning you don't have to save SSC papers on your drive and then waste time moving them around to the Union, your successors or other reps. It also gives you instant access to all of our Exchange distribution lists for reps, and has template emails for contacting your students – saving you the bother of manually adding names to emails, or rewriting the same emails each semester.

One of the principal ideas for Rep Drive was so that documents don't get lost in e-mails and personal laptops.

There's a whole lot more on Rep Drive too, with even more exciting stuff in the pipeline for the future. <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/blogs/2012/03/23/rep-drive/>

Aldwych and IDEALiSTiC

Since last council the president and I have attended two meetings of Aldwych and one IDEALiSTiC conference.

In Bristol the Aldwych Group (the Students' Unions of the Russell Group) discussed Widening Participation over two days (10th-11th February).

In Glasgow the Aldwych Group discussed bursaries, local campaigns, higher education and the effect of our four new members from August 2012 (Durham, Exeter, Queen Mary and York) over two days (13th – 14th April).

For IDEALiStic, we went to Zurich for three days (2nd – 4th March). This trip was actually in a personal capacity, but we all took the celebration as an excuse to do some work. We met up with our partners from Germany, Switzerland and France (our Netherlands partner couldn't make it) for the celebrations of ETH Zurich's students' union 150th anniversary (150 Jahre VERBAND DER STUDIERENDEN AN DER ETH), which included 1,000+ of us with torches walking through Zurich, a lecture and fireworks (<http://goo.gl/bXb0r>).

After this, we began work on a rather large and significant proposal to the IDEA League Board (the Rectors of all IDEA League members, except Imperial where it was Pro Rector (International)) which was presented 22nd March by our partners in Zurich.

The presentation was for an IDEA League collaborative OpenCourseWare which can be seen here: <http://www.ocw.vseth.ethz.ch/> (I recommend watching it as it's quite cool).

Penalties for Late Submission of Coursework

Unfortunately council hasn't had the chance to meet to form an opinion on this. But after Imperials QAA institutional audit in 2010 they were recommended to introduce such a policy to ensure consistency across all departments. Although not formally passed, parts of college believe that university should be preparing us for the world of work, and as such, the initial wording is: *"Marks for late submissions will be capped at the pass-mark. This penalty will apply from the deadline for five days (week-ends and bank holidays included). Work received over five days late will receive a mark of zero. This is the default penalty for late submissions and should be deviated from only in exceptional circumstance at the discretion of the Senior Tutor (or Course Director for taught postgraduate courses)."*

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This has not been passed by college, but is being circulated around the college for consultation. I will provide a further update at next council.

It is interesting to note that Essex students' union lobbied their university to introduce a zero marks for missed deadlines.

VLE Review Decision

On 16th March we had a long meeting to make the final decision behind the college's new VLE. It marked the end of a very lengthy and thorough review which began before I even took office as Deputy President (Education). After weighing up all the data, evidence and student usability testing for the systems piloted it was decided that we will upgrade over the next 2 years to Blackboard 9.0 (the new blackboard). The process was extremely thorough with Blackboard 9.0, Desire2Learn, Moodle, making our own as well as others being considered. The next process is a lengthy migration period of just over a year minimum to get all departments on the new VLE.

Representation thank you from the Rector

We got the Rector to write a note to all student representatives thanking them for their time and efforts in improving the student experience (<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/blogs/2012/03/14/a-thank-you-to-reps-from-the-rector-sir-keith-onions/>).

Mayoral Election

Mayoral Election is only in 2 days time, make sure you go out and vote, and check out www.visionforlondon.org.uk for the student manifesto and also check out <http://www.londonelects.org.uk/> for more information on the election.

Also, it's crucial to remember you're voting for the Greater London Authority and not just the Mayor of London so make sure you do some research beforehand.

For Mayor of London you will get a pink ballot and you can choose a first preference and second preference (and that is all). For constituency London assembly member and London-wide assembly member you will have a yellow and orange ballot respectively and have a single preference vote.

Higher Education Commission Consultation Response - PG

We responded to the Higher Education Commission on their call for evidence on Postgraduate Education. The full response can be read here:

<http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/blogs/2012/04/20/postgraduate-education-inquiry-response/>

White Paper Response Acknowledged

Thanks to our response (being one of 3 student groups to respond to the government) David Willetts and BIS confirmed that there will be no system changes introduced for early repayment of student loans. <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/blogs/2012/02/28/higher-education-win/>

Calendar Summary

Date	Meeting	Notes
13/01/2012	Periodic Review of UG Civil Engineering	Full day (external examination) periodic review of UG Civil Engineering
16/01/2012	ISE Rep Planning	Renaming of ISE, improve feedback (lecturers take responsibility), clickers and Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UTA's)
17/01/2012	Civ Eng Rep Planning	UTA's, Buddy Scheme, Feedback, Video Podcasting, Exam Questions, Good Practise
17/01/2012	Quality Assurance Advisory Committee	3 hours of fun. Student Charter progress – delivery method, revision of roles and responsibilities of various college positions, Key Information Sets, Student Surveys Update and a whole lot more on regulations.
18/01/2012	Meeting with Pro Rector (Education)	Discussions on general educational areas.
18/01/2012	Prevent Workshop	Talk from Prevent.
18/01/2012	Chinese Ambassador	A talk by the Chinese Ambassador to the UK on Innovation. It was interesting – very...politically correct.
18/01/2012	GSA Exec	Second PhD Movie showing and Hammersmith facilities for PG students
19/01/2012	Imperial Digital Accelerator	Attended launch of Imperial Digital Accelerator.
19/01/2012	BioMed and Y4 Medicine Rep Planning	
19/01/2012	Computing Rep Planning	Freshers handbook/video, open academic forum with DUGS, sofa in common room etc.
19/01/2012	Biology Rep Planning	Mark schemes, online timetabling, effective buddy scheme, exam feedback
19/01/2012	Representation and Welfare Board (RWB)	Initial passing of podcasting and opencourseware policies, Rep Week funding and road safety on exhibition road.
20/01/2012	Mayoral Election	Hosted by LSE, this was more planning before the release of Vision for London for the GLA Mayoral Election.
20/01/2012	ESE Rep Planning	
22/01/2012	NoteBox work with Sysadmin	
23/01/2012	Y1,Y2,GE Medicine Rep Planning	
23/01/2012	Elections Delivery Committee	
23/01/2012	CSB Tours	
24/01/2012	Materials Rep Planning	
24/01/2012	Biochemistry Rep Planning	
24/01/2012	Mechanical Engineering Rep Planning	
24/01/2012	VLE Review Usability Testing	
25/01/2012	Meeting with Principal of Medicine (Jenny Higham)	
25/01/2012	Meeting with the library	
25/01/2012	Meeting with Deputy Director of ICT	

(Paul Allat)		
25/01/2012	Faculty of Natural Science Departmental Actions Plans	Plans for each department to improve the student experience in their department.
26/01/2012	Rep Week Planning	
26/01/2012	Student System Replacement Meeting	
26/01/2012	Executive Committee	
27/01/2012	Student Enterprise Planning	
27/01/2012	CGCU Faculty Representation Committee	
31/01/2012	Physics Rep Planning	
31/01/2012	Aero Rep Planning	
02/02/2012	Student Charter Publication Strategy	
02/02/2012	Postgraduate Quality Committee	
03/02/2012	Integrated Master's Working Party	Possibilities of awarding MSc and BSc instead of intercalated MSci (which is unique to Britain)
03/02/2012	Undergraduate Admissions Committee	
06/02/2012	Elections Meeting	
06/02/2012	e-Learning Strategy Committee	
07/02/2012	Medical Studies Committee	
08/02/2012	Meeting with Jane Neary	
08/02/2012	RCSU Academic and Welfare Meeting	
09-11/02/2012	Aldwych in Bristol	Widening Participation
13/02/2012	Meeting with Pro Rector (Education) – Julia Buckingham	
13/02/2012	Rep Week Stall – JCR	Day One
13/02/2012	Recruitment Admissions Strategy and Policy Committee	
13/02/2012	Council	
14/02/2012	Science Studies Committee	
15/02/2012	Rep Week Stall – JCR	Day Three
16/02/2012	Rep Week Stall - SCR	Day Four
17/02/2012	Rep Week Stall - JCR	Day Five, blog also
17/02/2012	ICT Staff Meeting/Presentation	
20/02/2012	Meeting with Dean of Students (Denis Wright)	
20/02/2012	BioEngineering Rep Planning	
20/02/2012	EEE Rep Planning	
20/02/2012	Launch of Vision for London	www.visionforlondon.org.uk
21/02/2012	Staff-Student Liaison Committee	
21/02/2012	Meeting with Principal of Engineering (Jeff Magee)	
22/02/2012	College Senate	
23/02/2012	Director of Undergraduate Studies (DUGS) Lunch	
23/02/2012	RWB	Budgeting
24/02/2012	Enterprise Lab Planning	

24/02/2012	CGCU FRC Meeting	
24/02/2012	Chem Eng Rep Planning	
25-26/02/2012	Mingled with freshers on hall trip to Paris to make sure I'm still "in touch" with normal students.	
27/02/2012	ICT Student Forum	Blog on this
27/02/2012	CSB Budgeting	Famously left after pizza
28/02/2012	Student System Replacement Board Meeting	
01/03/2012	Mech Eng Refurb meeting with architect	BOSS Space
01/03/2012	ISB Presentation	
01/03/2012	Executive Committee	
02-04/03/2012	IDEALiSTiC Conference in Zurich	Our IDEA league partners ETH Zurich students' union equivalent turned 150 years old. Celebrations and plans/presentation prepared for joint OpenCourseWare project.
05/03/2012	Postgraduate Professional Development Committee	
06/03/2012	PG Open Day Meeting	
06/03/2012	Trustee Board	
07/03/2012	ICT/Departmental Users Committee	
07/03/2012	Meeting with Principal of Natural Sciences (Maggie Dallman)	
07/03/2012	Masters Quality Committee	
12/03/2012	Student Systems Demo Supplier	First Supplier – Oracle
13/03/2012	Meeting with Pro Rector (Education) – Julia Buckingham	
14/03/2012	Engineering Studies Committee	
15/03/2012	SEC Presentation	
15/03/2012	FoNS (Faculty of Natural Sciences) FTC (Faculty Teaching Committee)	
16/03/2012	VLE Review Decision Meeting	
19/03/2012	Student Systems Demo Supplier	Second Supplier – Banner
20/03/2012	Olympics training - #win	
21/03/2012	Meeting with Dean of Students – Denis Wright.	
21/03/2012	ICT/Media Forum	
21/03/2012	VARSITY	Imperial 31 – 0 Medics ('nough said)
22/03/2012	Executive Committee	
23/03/2012	PG Inquiry for response	Blog
23/03/2012	Academic Forum	All Dep Reps and AAO's meeting to introduce Rep Drive and handover.
23/03/2012	Enhancement Advisory Group	
23/03/2012	E-learning Strategy Committee	
24/03/2012	TedxImperialCollege	
26/03/2012	Student Systems Demo Supplier	Third Supplier – Tribal
27/03/2012	Elections Debrief	

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28/03/2012	Medicine SEC	
28/03/2012	Meeting with Jenny Higham	
29/03/2012	Buddies with DPW	
30/03/2012	Sabbatical Away Day	
02/04/2012	Meeting with Jane Neary	
02/04/2012	Joint Research Degree Programme Committee	
04/04/2012	Student Systems Demo Debrief	Discussions and summary of three suppliers.
12-14/04/2012	Glasgow Aldwych	New members, bursaries, elections etc.
17/04/2012	Medical Studies Committee	
17/04/2012	Quality Assurance Advisory Committee (QAAC)	
18/04/2012	Penalties for late submission meeting	
19/04/2012	Union Open Day	
19/04/2012	Meeting with Julia Buckingham	
20/04/2012	VLE Migration Working Group	After decision has been made, the majority of the work starts – the migration.
20/04/2012	SEC Away Day Agenda Planning	
22/04/2012	Failed Skydiving attempt :(for RAG	
23/04/2012	Volunteering Strategy	
23/04/2012	Enhancement Advisory Group	
24/04/2012	Olympic Training	