

Trustee Board
8 November 2012

Trustee Board Report
A note by the Union President – Paul Beaumont

Much of this is the same as was reported to Council.

Finishing off preparations for Constitution changes

The documents presented tonight have taken some writing – thanks go to all who have helped or made input into the proposals. The constitution, bye-laws and standing orders are 20,000 words; the covering document (written jointly by myself and the Managing Director) is 4,000 words and my Felix article last week was 2,000...).

The Constitution has passed the first stage of approval at Union Council, and has been preliminary passed by College at the College Management Board, which will propose it to the College Council.

The Constitution changes will form part of a discussion later in this meeting.

Meeting with all interested parties in the constitution changes

I have held several consultations and meetings to ensure all parties involved – or affected by – the changes are informed and consulted on the changes. Again, these are detailed in full in my paper that proposes the constitution and bye-laws.

Sending IPPR response last approved to MPs

The approved response from the last Council was branded by the Central Services Manager and was sent by myself to our local MPs. It is also on our website for the general public to view.

Working on the NSS 2012 response

Between myself, the DPE and the E&W Manager, we have analysed this year's NSS results and written an update to last year's NSS response. I will present this, should the Council pass it, to the College Council in their next discussion on the 'student experience'.

Graduation

Commemoration Day this year was in three services, all of which I attended and spoke at as the 'Student Orator'. This – plus the preparation for the event – took up a couple of days of time, but saw 2,500 new graduates of the College.

Looking at new halls of residence

The DPW and myself have visited proposed sites of halls of residence for future years, with College Commercial Services. My response to the College Accommodation Strategy was given to the College Council which will hopefully prove useful for the College and students who will be living in College accommodation in the future.

Finishing putting together the Bursary Survey and helping put together a survey on proposals for a new walkway

The annual ICU Bursary Survey has undergone a revamp this year and will be launched in January given it has now been approved for use by the College's Financial Aid Working Group.

Returning Officer duties – main elections & by-elections

In addition to being the RO for the Council & Year Rep elections, I have been the RO for a society by-election in Charing Cross following an annulment of their AGM. The Council elections saw a 20% voter turnout.

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New flag scheme

OSC societies are now able to 'book' the flag pole for a week in order to encourage international students to integrate more and feel welcome at the Union. I personally felt that a flag should *always* be flying on the Union building – not just on Commemoration Day. As such I purchased a UK flag, for general use and have offered all OSC societies the opportunity to fly their flag too. The College Standard will still fly on days of importance to the College. Other societies (if they have a flag) may fly theirs later in the year if demand from international societies dries up.

Hosting Aldwych

The Aldwych Group is the Student Union counterpart to the Russell Group (the twenty-four largest, most research intensive universities in the country). A meeting of the Aldwych Group took place at Imperial on 26-27 October and had talks by the Deputy Rector, Pro-Rector Education and College Secretary. 14 Unions attended, plus Liam Burns of the NUS. All were impressed by ICU's facilities and Friday night in Metric. Our bar prices were also confirmed as the same as Manchester Union's.

Higher Education Commission Report Launch

29 October was the launch of the Higher Education Commission report, in the House of Commons. David Willetts and the chair of the report launched the event. It was very pleasing to see that the report contained recommendations made by Imperial College Union, as well as recommendations for a postgraduate loan system and removal of students from net migration figures.

Interviews for new staff members

College increased the Union's subvention for the specific purpose of hiring more staff to help with the union's operations. I have been part of the panels interviewing for these positions.

Support system clean up

My Sundays are now known as 'support system Sundays' where I go through trying to answer as many of the support system queries as possible. Finance and Membership services are also regularly going through answering all student and associate member queries.

Development on new parts of the site

In my 'spare' time, I have started coding the 'policies' and 'representation' sections of the website, to be launched soon, but still a way off... I code slowly...