

## **Deputy President (Education) Report**

*A report by Douglas Hunt*

### **Handover**

Handover took place over the month of July. Jason Parmar is now doing his final year of Chemistry with Management but left me with a lot of advice and an updated "Handover Bible". Handover consisted of meeting countless members of influential staff in college and the Union, the handing over of projects and learning procedures. Within the first week of the position, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> July I was attending the Student Unions 2012 event at the University of Exeter, which is run by the National Union of Students (NUS). This mainly involved useful workshops and talks given by staff and officers from NUS, Student Unions and Guilds.

This was followed by a 2 day long Aldwych conference, where the 24 Russell Group Students' Unions share best practise and discuss future challenges to higher education. Since Imperial are no longer members of the NUS (National Union of Students - even though we co-founded it in 1922) or ULU (University of London Union), Aldwych is very valuable to us as it's our best opportunity to discuss best practise with similar research intensive universities. The main point of focus was the effect of £9,000 tuition fees, widening participation and how higher education will now be funded.

Over the rest of handover I attended numerous meetings with college staff and went to various committees.

### **ICT**

#### **Sole POP UPS**

I have asked ICT to make SOLE pop-ups appear when you login on Imperial's computers, which will only happen for those who have not filled in SOLE and will only happen in the second week of it running.

#### **Gym**

I also have asked ICT to look into whether they could produce a graph of when the gym is busy at different points in the week, with data being live. This has been done with laundry at student halls at other universities and is possible.

#### **TV screens**

I asked ICT to look into a long-term strategy of being able to centralise who controls all the TVs on the South Kensington campus. With this they can more effectively communicate to students and fewer emails will be sent out.

#### **Audio and visual lecture podcasts**

Below are the lecture theatres that will have Panopto running in them for the start of the academic year. The main limiting factor to Panopto being installed is that ICT want to expand it slowly because a lot of data is uploaded and then accessed in busy revision periods. Therefore they want to monitor the stress on the ICT system and use this data to slowly expand the scheme.

Lecture Theatre	Department
Clore	Mathematics
Pippard	Chemistry
LT1 Blackett	Physics*
SAFB G16	Medicine
WEC 204 (Hammersmith)	Medicine*
Skempton 164	Civil Engineering
ACE 250 (LT1)	Chemical Engineering*
ME 342	Mechanical Engineering*
RSM G.20	Materials*
ME 542	Business School
LTUG	Business School
LT1	Business School
LT2	Business School
LTG	Business School
LGS	Business School
LGR	Business School
53 PG	Business School
ACE 552	Business School
ACE 553	Business School
LT3	Business School*

Data that was available on 28/09/2012

\* means containment, which refers to the wiring required to allow installation /use of cameras. This is the most difficult part of the enabling Panopto in any lecture theatre.

#### Imperial mobile app

ICT have updated the Imperial Mobile app, so students can do SOLE on it, they can use it to see the next bus/underground train and can see where available Boris bikes are (this will prove important with the scheme being extended to Fulham and Hammersmith in 2013).

#### Business school e-learning division

I met up with 3 e-learning strategists in the Business School in September and was shown blended learning courses, online pre-study courses and their new VLE.

#### Blackboard Learn

ICT are launching Blackboard Learn, which is what the majority of the Russell Group uses. Nearly every department will be using this and I have had various meetings about the launch.

#### Poster Boards

After Jason coordinated with the Dep Reps last year to put up 16 A3 poster boards in each department for academic representation posters I have been collecting photos of Dep Reps, AAOs, Welfare Officers and Senior Tutors. I currently have collected over 95% of the required photos.

#### TV screens

To communicate more effectively with students I have found out all the people who control the 50+ TV screens across Imperial's campuses. I will use these for the academic representation posters and

for key times in the year e.g. NSS, SOLE and Rep Week. I will also work with Becky Lane so we can use them for key welfare information.

### **Mums and Dads 2012**

I have worked with the Union System Administrator, Deputy President (Welfare), the Departmental Reps and the Departmental Societies to get a very high number of continuing students to sign up as parents (see the table below). The Departmental Society committees also set up Fresher Facebook groups and we have been promoting the Mums and Dads scheme via them, which has led to relatively high numbers signing up.

<b>Department</b>	<b>Needed parents, %</b>	<b>Fresher entry, %</b>
Aeronautics	108	48
Biochemistry	102	45
Bioengineering	109	51
Biology	106	49
Chemical Engineering	118	53
Chemistry	115	62
Civil Engineering	98	53
Computing	86	-
Earth Science & Engineering	244	72
Electronic and Electrical Engineering	86	53
Electronic Information Engineering	94	20
Joint Mathematics & Computing	25	-
Materials	138	29
Mathematics	86	31
Mechanical Engineering	113	45
Physics	92	52
Computing & JMC	73	62

I and Deputy President (Welfare) also wish to host a Mums and Dads event in January at the Union, since there are no planned events to capitalise on Chemistry, Life Sciences and Earth Science Engineering finishing their January exams.

To improve the scheme, further training will be provided to next year's Dep Socs and Dep Reps before the summer holidays. There also needs to be written guidelines by the Union System Administrator on how the allocations should be done and any potential mistakes that can be avoided for future years.

### **Rep Training**

I'll be continuing Representation Training from Jason. This year it will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> October for UG and 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November for PG (subject for dates to change). It is expected that all year reps, dep reps, AAO/AWO's and FU Presidents attend, but anyone else who wants to come is welcome. It will run 6-8pm in Physics Lecture Theatre 2. Presentations will be from myself, Andrew Keenan (Rep Coordinator), Paul Beaumont, Becky Lane and Caroline Hargreaves (GS Transferable Skills).

### Meeting with AAOs, ALO and Dep Reps

As soon as the timetables for this academic year were available I issued an invitation to all the Dep Reps, ALO and AAOs to attend a start of the year meeting. Within this meeting myself and Andrew Keenan wish to provide extra in depth training needed for the year ahead.

### AAO, ALO and Dep Rep polo shirts

After collecting all the sizes the Union has brought personalised polo shirts for all Dep Reps, AAOs and the one ALO. These have been given out on Freshers' fair and will be worn in the Rep Week.

### Studying a year abroad

One of my manifesto points was to increase the number of study abroad programmes outside Europe. I have so far mainly focused on FoNS because they are generally behind FoE and FoM with respect to this matter.

I emailed all FoNS departments within Russell Group Universities (plus St. Andrews) pretending to be a October 2013 prospective student for every subject. From this I generated a large spread sheet of data. After meeting various members of International Office and Registry staff I produced a 7 page document, which I presented to the FoNS teaching committee. **The result was that two FoNS staff accompanied the Rector in his trip to the USA (they visited NYU, MIT, Harvard, NY City and Columbia).** I will hear back at the next FoNS teaching committee.

I plan to carry out the same research for FoE and supply the evidence to the CGCU chair.

I also plan to run an international mobility survey at some point in November.

### Aeronautics Postgraduate Research periodic Review

I spent 9:00 – 17:00 on the 11<sup>th</sup> September carrying out a periodic review on Postgraduate Research in the Aeronautics department. I have wrote a report on my findings and it has been sent to the Dean of Imperial College London.

### Aldwych conference in Manchester

I attended the first Aldwych meeting of the year at the University of Manchester Students' Union. We mainly discussed issues around the UKBA, accommodation uptake and if courses have been filled. I made a list of issues and ideas, which I discussed with Paul Beaumont when I returned. I also shared a room with the Durham Students' Union President (Archie Dallas) to keep costs down.

### Planning next Aldwych conference

Imperial College Union will be hosting the next Aldwych conference on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of October and we already have started planning the event.

### Notebox

Alex Dahinten (DPE 2010/11) started a central wiki, which has been branded as Notebox. This will allow UG students to add their own notes, non-assessed worksheet solutions and up to the last 5 years of past paper questions. It will also allow students to learn material from other courses, which will make our graduates more multi-disciplinary. I have £800 of Union vouchers to give out for the

best notes/most contributions and the Departmental Societies will administrate them. We plan to launch this around the start of December.

### **Travelled to Silwood and Hammersmith campuses**

Myself and the other sabbatical officers visited the Silwood and Hammersmith campuses, where I got a few ideas from this trip.

### **Year in industry and year abroad fees**

I have been in contact with 2 members of College staff with respect to Year in Industry fees and Studying a Year Abroad fees. This was in light of the fees being 50% of the annual tuition fee if you spent a year doing one of these programmes. However the amount of support students receive is definitely not worth £4,500 for Home/EU students and around £12,000 for International/Channel Island students.

Therefore I have been enquiring into this issue and will bring it up later in the year (once I fully understand it), especially with the Riordan Report and the Wilson Review of University-Business interactions recommending fees to be capped at 15% to increase social mobility and it becoming government policy.

### **Met with new Pro Rector (Education)**

I met the new Pro Rector (Education), Debra Humphris, for an hour where we discussed Notebox, Aldwych and Imperial's Educational Strategy. Debra wished to have regular dinners with academic representatives and I have suggested a list of who the best positions are that represent Imperial students academically.

### **SSC membership page**

Last year QAAC (Quality Advisory Assurance Committee) backed an idea put forward by Jason, which involved having the photos and contact details of all members of departmental Staff Student Committees on departmental websites. This would both be done for students and staff. You will also be able to access the minutes.

I have met up with the Digital Media Officer for FoNS and these pages will be made for this year.

### **My USA roadtrip**

On a final note, I took annual leave from 7<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August. I spent the time driving from Los Angeles, to San Francisco (**met up with my equivalent at UC Berkeley**), to Las Vegas (via Yosemite and Death Valley national parks), to Grand Canyon, Monument Valley, Mesa Verde, then to Albuquerque, then Sedona, then Huntingdon Beach, Laguna Beach and finally back to Hollywood again.