

Council Report
A note by the Union President – Paul Beaumont

Since the last Council (4 December), I have taken some of my annual leave (11-21 December – 9 working days) but worked 28-31 December over the College closure period as a 'catch-up'. Nevertheless, it's been a productive few weeks...

India – Alumni and Recruitment

Last week (5 – 12 January) I was in India with the Rector, Pro-Rector (Research) and Director of Communications & Development. We visited Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore giving speeches to alumni at each venue. The purpose of the trip was to raise funds for student scholarships and encourage student applications from India.

Postgraduate Open Day

On the 5 December the College PG Open day ran throughout the College. Ross Webster and I presented to potential new postgraduate students on the 'student experience' and a Union stall ran throughout the day in the QTR.

Knodium

A company started by an Imperial graduate, Knodium, is a new platform for collaborative learning, that I organised to present to the Pro Rector (Education) and Chair of the College's eLearning Committee. The College is now taking an interest in the platform which will be presented at the next eLearning Committee and may become more widely spread throughout the College.

NSS Meetings

Doug and I have had two meetings relating to our NSS Response and the NSS survey as a whole - one with ICT relating to how College can (better) develop lecture recording and one regarding improving NSS scores throughout the College as a whole.

Interviews

I have been on the interview panel for a Web Developer who will revamp our online retail (the Union shop) and systems as a whole. An appointment has been made internally and applications will be open for the appointee's previous role.

Aldwych

The Aldwych group met in Cambridge to discuss (mainly) widening participation and access schemes. As such, Doug and I were inspired and have set up 'applytoimperial.com' (similar to 'applytocambridge.com') which is going to be developed with the help of student volunteers writing the content. The idea is to develop job opportunities for students by getting them to do presentations to school students. Cambridge charges for this for private schools and offers it free for state schools. I am enquiring into whether College will support a similar scheme here.

Business School Representation

I held a meeting with the Principal of the Business School which had the only College education committee without student representation on (their Masters committee). The reason behind this was that it wasn't appropriate to ask one-year-masters students to take time out of studying to attend this committee: I have asked for Doug to be given a place on the committee and this has been agreed; so there is now student representation on all College education committees!

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Imperial West Meeting

As the College moves to a two-(main)-campus University, I've been having meetings with the people planning the new development to ensure the Union doesn't get left behind, and that there will be social and representative services on both campuses.

Partnership Agreement & Funding Discussions

The College and Union currently have a 'code of practice' that manages how we operate together (commercially, funding wise and provisions of services). I'm trying to change that agreement to incorporate a 3-year finance plan (currently we have to bid in the College's annual planning round) and better agreements relating to commercial outlets.