

30 April 2013

Council Report

A note by the Union President – Paul Beaumont

Trustee Interviews

Myself, the Managing Director and the Chair of the Trustee Board, Julia Higgins, interviewed candidates for the role of Alumni and External Trustee. Nominations from the Appointments & Remunerations Committee – myself, Julia and Janet Rogan – are coming to this Council and the next Trustee Board.

Finished Access Agreement

I have provided a letter of support towards the College's Access Agreement 2014-15. This agreement with the Office for Fair Access is what sets the College's Outreach and widening participation work, the College bursaries and allows the University to charge £9k fees. The College has one of the best bursary offerings in the sector:

1st year: £1k cash, £5k service discounts (accommodation)

2nd year+: £6k cash.

The College is looking to increase the range of service discounts in the future (to possibly include union clubs and societies) particularly for people who don't live in College accommodation, or don't spend all £5k on their accommodation. The Union needs to keep pushing for this next year.

Trustee Board Away Day

Last month the Trustee Board held an away day, for which I gave a two hour presentation on the College, changes to the College, and the Sector (Higher Education Sector – universities in general). This was to try and induct the new sabbaticals early, and for the Board to brainstorm strategy and risks for the next few years. I have included the slides from my presentation here and am happy to explain in more detail should anyone wish (*Appendix 1*).

Ernst & Young - £5k

The Union has won Ernst & Young's £5k for increasing our volunteering work. We are currently undertaking a volunteering review – which will be brought to the next Trustee Board – and those funds will be put to good use then.

AgainstActon

Since the last Council, we've been half actively pushing AgainstActon, and since the Management Board response, waiting for this Council to approve the Union's response to the College's response. I personally think we should engage positively and accept the College has made some major concessions by stopping and reviewing everything: I don't think we can ask for more than a logical review of everything.

James Stirling Paper/Meeting

The new Provost, James Stirling, is starting in August, and so I wrote a introductory paper to the Union and met with him and Doug to discuss the Union and College.

PRES Response

I have started compiling a Union response to the research postgraduate equivalent of the NSS – this will be coming to Council soon when more PGR input has been sought.

30 April 2013

Lasham Gliding & Asset Tracking

Every year the Union's most valuable assets [no, not the sabbs! ;)] have to be checked to make sure they still exist – Henry and I took a afternoon trip during the Easter break to Lasham (two people have to verify it)

Student Leadership Conference

The Union hosted the Foundation for International Education's Leadership Conference that I worked the weekend hosting and doing the logistics for.

Analysis Planning

In the last few months of this academic year – inspired by the data analysis we did for #AgainstActon, I am going to be looking mathematically at all the data we have on students to try model where the College and Union need to concentrate to improve most.

Policy Writing

Quite a lot of papers have been presented here (and different kinds at the Trustee Board and Exec) that have taken a lot of time researching and writing. Meetings with College to get them to implement or at least take on board whatever discussed and agreed here have taken a fair amount of time too.

- Response to the Management Board
- Speakers Policy (update)
- Awards Policy (update)
- PGT Funding
- Representation Policy (update)
- Green Paper Response
- Media Review
- Volunteering Review
- RAG Standing Orders
- GSA Constitution

Disciplinary Investigations

Although a quiet time over the Easter period, a number of disciplinaries have been ongoing from the end of last term, which have taken a while to try and resolve.

Appendix 1: Trustee Board Away Day Slides

16/04/2013



Leadership Change

- Imminent retirement of Keith O'Nions
- New Provost, James Stirling
- New President
- Anticipated retirement of Deputy Rector soon
- New Pro Rector (Education) and COO
- Recently new CFO and College Secretary

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This session

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The College<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Leadership change– Imperial West– North Acton– Level 0– Wilson House– Accreditation– International Ratios– Charing Cross & NHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Sector<ul style="list-style-type: none">– ESK fees– NSS– WP & OFFA<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CUSU– Accreditation<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leeds for Life– PGT Funding– MOOCs
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Wilson House

- Re-opening October 2013 – 350-400 beds returned to Paddington
- College Campus Services outlet
- Loss of sports space

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Level 0


- Set for completion October 2013
- No official contract, but continue to work with Campus Services on the basis that the Union runs the bar, College the catering

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North Acton

- North Acton is a Hall of Residence being built for 2015
- At the minute will probably replace Evelyn Gardens & Garden Hall
- Working to save Evelyn Gardens
- Experience, reputational, logistical & commercial implications


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International Ratios

- Home, 45% : EU, 20% : International, 35%
- 2,023 students from Eastern Asia
- 232 students from USA
- Change in recent years
- UKBA
- Impact

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Imperial West

- 600 PG studio apartments
- 'Research Campus'
- PGR Only
- Possibility of more space
- Sport, commercial, social spaces
- UG Halls?



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Charing Cross & NHS Reforms

- The College has supported the NHS reforms planned for North West London
- Although unlikely to go through, would mean a loss of Reynolds at Charing Cross
- Academic space would be replaced at St Mary's

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Accreditation

- Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)
- Education Strategy Review
- Volunteering Review (College & Union)
 - Imperial Hub
- Union Data

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The Sector



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£9k Fees

- Imperial College Union's Stance
- Media coverage
- Effect on recruitment & experience
 - Our data analysis on this
 - Expectations & NSS

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Accreditation

- HEAR (or equivalent) is gaining popularity
- Leeds for Life
 - One brand
 - National excursions
 - Personal Tutor, volunteering tracking
 - CV builder
 - Accompanies academic transcript

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National Student Survey (NSS)

- NSS Review (run by NUS)
- League Tables
- Participation
- Annual Response
 - Package

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PG Taught Funding

- A problem for 2015
- Perception of 'value'
 - Won't affect Imperial as many PGT courses are £9k+
- Career Development Loans
 - Russell Group
 - NUS

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Widening Participation & OFFA

- £6k+ fees requirement
- Access Agreement
- Outreach Office
- Russell Groups & OFFA
- CUSU
 - Union run Outreach
 - Volunteering Accreditation

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Massive Online Open Courses

- Varying take-up
- Commercialisation
- Imperial's Review
 - Play to our strengths
- Effect on traditional courses
 - Imperial's vocations
- 'Cash-in' courses

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