

Council  
7 October 2013

**Council Report**  
Union President- David Goldsmith

**Handover**

This year handover was shortened to 2 weeks (instead of 4) with the addition of a 3-day residential trip for the sabbatical officers. We were joined on the first day by Joe and on the last day by the entire senior management team. We generally felt that this was a more effective form of handover. The away trip in particular was very useful in helping to consolidate what each of our objectives were for the year and to present those to the senior management team as well as providing the opportunity for us to bond as a team.

**Meetings with College staff**

After a seemingly endless stream of meetings I have met with most of the people in College with whom I will be working. The President and Rector and the Provost have both agreed to meet with me individually on a monthly basis. As a team we had the opportunity to discuss with the new Provost the issues that face Imperial students. He was very receptive and was keen on working closely with the Union.

**Paper presented and passed at Executive Committee**

It was highlighted that many Universities in the country, including our own, may give academic sanctions (such as not allowing a student to graduate) to those that owe debts relating to non-academic services (such as accommodation fee debts). This was highlighted by the NUS who then supported an investigation into this practice by the Office of Fair Trade. I presented a paper to the executive committee in opposition to this practice and the paper was passed.

<https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/policies/80>

**Consultation Mechanism**

I am currently working on developing a consultation mechanism to be used by the College when consulting with students. This will most likely be a quality mark that we at the Union will award to decisions made by departments when they have appropriately consulted with students before making a decision that affects students. I am currently working on exactly how this is going to look and the various criteria that will need to be completed. I will then proceed to consult various people within the College to ensure that the requirements are reasonable and achievable. I hope that this mechanism will make it much easier for College staff to consult with students whilst ensuring consistency and more effective student consultation across the board.

**Sabbatical Hot-Desk**

As promised in my manifesto I have set up a 'Sabbatical Hot-Desk' which will run in the JCR every Friday lunch-time throughout the year between 12:00-13:00. It will be attended by two sabbatical officers (including sometimes the Felix Editor) and will be heavily publicised. The purpose of the desk is to make the sabbatical officers more visible and to provide an opportunity for students to ask questions and make suggestions about the Union.

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### **Personal Tutor Feedback system**

In response to great demand for a better system of personal tutors I have been working with the College on the possible implementation of an electronic personal tutor feedback system. I am pushing for a system that will allow students to easily give feedback on their tutors and will track whether appointments are made/attended by tutors as well as tutees.

### **Re-naming of what used to be the 'Holland Club'**

As promised there has been extensive input from Postgraduate students into the renaming of the old Holland Club, which is currently undergoing redevelopment. A request for name suggestions was sent out in the postgraduate newsletter. These suggestions have recently been narrowed down, and one has been provisionally selected. The space should hopefully be open for commemoration day. The bar within this space will be run by the Union.

### **Meetings with the Aldwych group**

Nat (Deputy president (Education)) and I attended two meetings of the Aldwych group. It was agreed that the group lacked direction and so it was decided that it would begin running priority campaigns. These would not be Aldwych-run campaigns but rather run by each individual Union. The benefit of all Unions running similar campaigns would be the ability to share best practice and insight into progress at other institutions. The campaigns selected were: the fixing of international fees (this applies less to us), Medical students (specifically the lack of a loan given to them during their first term during clinical years), and widening participation for postgraduate students.

### **Welcome Speeches and Welcome Week so far**

I gave three presentations to international students, 2 presentations to new students who are not in halls and 8 welcome speeches. I covered all the new students at the College. All went very well.

The Mingles were a big success. We were particularly pleased with the great success of the Alt Mingle, which Marissa will be telling you about. I have been going out of my way to speak to as many new students as possible at these events.

### **HelloICU Crew**

The SABBs and I have been dedicating some of our time to helping out the new HelloICU Crew. We have helped students move into their new halls as well as run the ICU stall throughout the week. I gave a presentation to the volunteers about the Union.

### **Leave**

Over the Summer I took 5 days of leave.