Deputy President (Education) Report

A report by Natalie Kempston

1. **Year Rep Training**

   120 UG year reps attended a training session on Tuesday 5 November. Each rep was given a Representation Handbook, which was completely updated with new content for this year. This also contained a "Guide to Meetings" document, both of which will be available online at the usual rep website: www.imperialcollegeunion.org/academic-reps Those who did not/could not attend (approx. 70 year reps) have been invited to the PG training session on 19 November. The session was recorded using Panopto so those reps who cannot attend either session will be sent the recording.

2. **Online Tutor System-Update**

   I attended the first meeting of the "Student Tutor System Project Board" which has been set up to oversee the development and implementation of the online tutor feedback system. This online system will be used by academic and personal tutors, administrative staff and of course students. The system will tie together numerous factors including attendance, academic tutoring and pastoral tutoring. Examples of features which this system will include:

   - Links to information about participation in Clubs and Societies or any volunteering activity-so that tutors writing references have more information about a student
   - It will flag any missed deadlines to tutors so they are aware if their tutees are struggling
   - Senior tutors will be able to see if tutors are meeting regularly with their tutees
   - Exam and coursework grades/results will be on the system, again to allow tutors to be more in touch with how their tutees are getting on
   - Students will be able to see a photo/contact details of their tutor, and likewise tutors can see a photo of their tutees- to avoid an awkward first meeting when you don't know what your tutor looks like

   Currently the participants for the pilot programme are being selected, and will include tutor groups from a range of faculties, year/research groups etc. The pilot will be put in place by the beginning of next term and run for the remainder of the academic year. If successful, the system will be available for every department to use for the start of the 2014/15 academic year, but it will not be compulsory and will be up to each department as to whether they implement the system or not.

3. **Rep Posters**

   The Rep Posters for each UG department have now been completed and will/are being distributed to Dep Reps to display in their department. For those who are unfamiliar with the posters, they list the department's "Rep tree" with photos of the relevant Academic Affairs Officer and Departmental Reps, with the names of the year reps also present.

4. **NSS Conference**

   I attended a day long NSS conference which revolved around getting the best out of the NSS results and what we can learn from them. Ideas on how to increase participation and satisfaction were also discussed, without a single mention of a tattoo. There was an interesting

talk by the Student Union President of St Mary's University Belfast, which is currently ranked as the number 1 Student's Union in the UK. I hope that we can use this information to increase student satisfaction with the Union, and ensure we are giving our students the best support/facilities/opportunities possible.

5. **Southampton Rep Conference**

On Saturday 9 November Southampton University held their first Representation Conference. I was invited to attend by Southampton's Student Union Vice President (Education) and as preparations are underway for ICU's first representation conference in February 2014 I thought I would go and get/steal ideas. I had to submit this paper before actually attending so can give a verbal update on any ideas/successes/weaknesses at Council if you would like.

6. **Communications Intern**

I sat on the interview panel for a communications intern for the College's communication department. This involved taking part in an epic shortlisting of reading through 120 applications for the 1 post!

7. **Rep Elections-Update**

https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-reps-council-elections-2013-results

181 out of 191 (95%) Undergraduate Rep positions filled, although 9/10 of these vacancies are from the Business School, who haven't responded to our requests to inform us of who they have elected as reps. In reality, the only year group without a rep is 3rd Year JMC.

253 out of 293 (86%) Postgraduate Rep positions are currently filled, but again a few of these are courses where we just haven't had responses from. The number of reps in research groups also fluctuates, so some of the "vacant" positions may not actually be vacant, instead there being no rep as there is no need for a rep anymore in that research group. With PGR students it is very difficult to know the exact number of rep positions, so the important number to note is the fact we have 253 reps in position, rather than the percentage.

8. **Committees attended:**

- Senate
- Master's Quality Committee (BEPS)
- Science Studies Committee
- Student Enterprise Steering Board
- Faculty of Medicine Teaching Forum
- Student Tutor System Project Board
- Audio-Visual Steering Group
- Horizons Steering Committee
- Engineering FRC

I also helped at the Union's first Volunteering Fair.