

Deputy President (Education) Report

A report by Natalie Kempston

1. Annual Leave

I took 5 days annual leave since the last council.

2. Rep Week

Rep week ran from November 25-November 29 and consisted of a stall in the JCR every day from 12-2pm, as well as a stall in h-bar and one at Silwood Park on Wednesday.

The aim of Rep Week is to increase awareness of reps and make sure people know who their reps are, and that if they have any feedback or suggestions for their course/department they can bring these up with their rep at any time. I had a full team of rep volunteers who chatted to hundreds of students throughout the week, and so now lots more students know who their reps are. (If you don't know look on the Union homepage or use the Rep A to Z online).

3. Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs)

We launched nominations during Rep Week. The reps who volunteered on the stall and I were promoting these awards throughout the week, and we already have 100 nominations. Certain categories have fewer nominations than others, so targeted promotion will begin in January. Nominations are open until February so get nominating those deserving members of staff! Planning for the awards ceremony in May is already underway.

4. PG Rep training

Over 150 PG reps attended training on Tuesday 19 November, plus some UG reps that couldn't make the first training. Content was similar to that delivered at UG training (see my last council report), but there were also talks from The Graduate School and the Graduate Student's Union.

5. Education and Representation Board (ERB)

The second ERB of the year was held during Rep Week. Discussions included Grade Point Average (again) as there will be a debate at College Senate tomorrow (11 December) about whether Imperial should pilot GPA. I wanted to make sure I had lots of strong arguments to support Council's stance that we are against GPA, so that is why I put this important topic on the agenda. Other topics discussed included SOLE being made compulsory in the Faculty of Medicine and what level of exam feedback should we expect (if any).

6. Student ICT forum

The first student ICT forum was held on 28 November and was attended by 8 key members of ICT staff. Topics discussed included: increasing mailbox quotas, dropbox/google drive integration, panopto rollout, wireless coverage, blackboard mobile and a new Office 365 deal for students.

7. Communications Intern

I sat on an interview panel for a communications intern for the Comms division in College. The successful applicant has now started.

8. Student Achievement Record

Kieron and I are part of a new steering group looking at how to recognise student achievement in extracurricular and co-curricular activities. Updates will be given throughout the year as currently we haven't decided whether this will be a transcript type thing, a formal award if you complete a certain number or types of activity, or a scheme similar to Imperial Plus. So a lot of things still to be decided!

9. Hammamet Conference

I was invited by the British Council to attend the Hammamet Conference in Tunisia, from 14-17 November. Topics discussed included the future of education in both the UK and North Africa, and what education reforms are necessary to combat the current high unemployment rates. This was an amazing opportunity to meet, debate and discuss important topics with Lords, MPs and people who have been at the top of their fields for decades.

10. Committees attended:

- Horizons Committee
- AV steering group
- Demonstrating Student Achievement
- Master's Quality Committee (MLSPD)
- Undergraduate Admissions Committee
- Vice-Provost's Advisory Group for Education
- Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee
- Student Centric Meeting
- Careers Service Committee
- Medical Studies Committee
- eLearning Strategy Committee