

Council
11 March 2014

Imperial College Union
Deputy President (Welfare) Report
A report by Marissa Lewis

Immigration Bill Progress

A paper was sent around via email vote to all Council members in February containing the Union's submission of evidence to the House of Lords International STEM inquiry, which was passed and has now been submitted. The panel is due to hear evidence soon.

I was also invited to hear the second reading of the Bill in the House of Lords on February 10th by Lord Robert Winston. For an eight hour debate, it was a fantastic experience and international student concerns appeared to be on the top of many Lords' agendas, which is a reassuring sign.

Residential review

The Residential Experience Review panel heard a second lot of evidence, this time from private halls providers, Glasgow and Manchester universities. We also presented the evidence from ICU that went to the last Council. Over the coming weeks, the panel will be finalising the recommendations which will be going to Provost's Board on March 28th.

Web redevelopment

A user-friendly campaigns tool should be coming to imperialcollegeunion.org soon. This year, we implemented the online web-form to submit campaign requests; the new tool should allow approved campaigns to have a web presence. This means that it should be easy to promote your campaign and also allows for students to sign up to updates from the campaign or join the campaign team. The plan is to eventually allow campaign managers to run their own finances, similar to CSPs. This should hopefully make the whole process easier and more efficient for future campaigns.

Science Museum Library

We've been hearing a lot of conflicting reports on what is happening with the vacated space in the Science Museum Library which has been causing some confusion. The plan currently seems to be that the front-facing library is consolidated and refurbished, without any loss of study space. The use of the back end of the library is still under question and the development is being overseen by a College-appointed panel. The Graduate School is planning on requesting the space and the sabbaticals were invited to hear their idea for a Graduate Centre; allegedly other services are bidding for the space but we have not heard their bids. We are currently lobbying to be a part of the panel that decides the best use of the space or otherwise secure student consultation.

Sexual Health

The first sexual health clinic of the year was held on February 27th. There was a good turnout, with 18 students taking appointments on the day. The next clinic is scheduled for March 20th. I've also distributed condom packs to reps from various halls this week.

Interviews

I was on the panel for the Disability Advisory Service's new Autism Spectrum Support Facilitator and for Fisher Hall's subwarden interviews.