

Deputy President (Education) Report- 20 May

A report by Natalie Kempston

1. Student Academic Choice Awards

The ceremony took place last Thursday and was attended by about 130 people. The 8 winners came from 7 different departments. It was a great ceremony which all the winners enjoyed-some tears (of happiness) were shed! The addition of videos with students explaining why they nominated staff members went down really well and will be continued for next year.

2. Student Information Management Forum

Thomas Lim and I gave a talk to representatives from 8 different universities on what we want (and what we think all students want) from a student information system. I chose Tom to do the presentation with me as I feel the 2 of us represent two completely different ends of the spectrum- with my section of the talk focusing on ease of use and how universities should be welcoming and friendly, and Tom focusing on tech and innovative stuff.

3. Postgraduate Plagiarism campaign

ICU's Advice Centre often sees a spike in plagiarism cases in taught postgraduate students from June-September, so we decided to run a campaign to try and prevent some of these students from plagiarising. We have got the business school on board (they have 1/3 of taught Masters Students) and will be using their social media and "The Hub" to publicise information. For the other Faculties we will be sending out information to all PGTs with some facts about plagiarism in the hope that this will reduce the cases!

4. Times Higher Education Roundtable-Student Experience

I was the student representative at a roundtable event on student experience, which was attended by various members of academic staff from other universities. The write-up can be viewed here: www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/SES2014 or in last week's Times Higher Education magazine.

5. Imperial Court/Imperial West Update

I attended this year's meeting of Imperial Court, which involved a site visit to Imperial West and then the AGM. The AGM was quite uneventful but the site visit was useful as I got to see what was happening at Imperial West and got to speak to the project managers of the development. The part of the site which is north of the A40 (where GradPad is) will contain two more buildings, and building begins on these next month. One of these will be the lab block that will house the Chemistry department among others haven't been decided yet. The School of Public Health will also have a building but no funding for this has been secured yet. The unconfirmed plan for South Kensington is that the Chemistry buildings will be refurbished, Physics will temporarily move in while Blackett is refurbished, and then move back to Blackett, and a similar thing will happen with Maths/Computing and Huxley building. This is unconfirmed though!

6. I Graduated!

7. Committees attended:

- a. eLearning Strategy Committee
- b. "Rectors Excellence in Teaching" Awards Panel
- c. FoNS Teaching Committee
- d. Senate
- e. Vice-Provost Advisory group for Education
- f. Master's Quality Committee (BEPS)
- g. And I volunteered at the Imperial Festival

Deputy President (Education) Report- 29 April

A report by Natalie Kempston

1. Education Foresight

This was a 2 day meeting led by Debra Humphris, Vice Provost (Education), and her team at the Education Office. I took along a team of students, and there were academics from all faculties as well as representatives from the Library, Registry and the Career's Service. The main focus of the event was the student experience at Imperial and what Imperial should focus on for the 2020 intake. See my blog for some more info on the event:

<https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/blogs/deputy-president-education/education-foresight>

2. Transition Working Group

I am part of a working group looking at the transition from school to university, and from UG to PG study. The main focus is to provide information/news/anything that students might want to know from the time they meet their offer to the end of their first year at Imperial. The Imperial Study Guide (which remained unopened on my shelf in halls for the whole of first year) is getting a revamp- I thought that with all the info you get when you first arrive no-one reads it or wants to know about study skills then- so we are moving this information online. We are designing a webpage which will have interactive content and videos- most of which will be ready for A-level results day in August. If you have any ideas of what you think should be included drop me an email.

3. Education Day

This is an annual event attended by College Staff. This year the theme was Transitions! (Hot topic at the moment). I gave a talk on student perceptions of transitions using my own experiences and the experiences of both first year and Masters Academic Representatives.

4. Student Academic Choice Awards- Panels and ceremony

This has been taking up the most of my time this month. 8 student panels made up of Academic reps and sabbatical officers went through all of the nominations and chose a top 6 in each category as well as a winner. All the shortlisted candidates have been notified and invited to the ceremony, as well as senior College staff, student panellists, and students who nominated the shortlisted candidates. This year we sent out mugs to all those who were

nominated- hopefully this will encourage more people to nominate next year as well as getting the SACAs "brand" out there so more people are aware of what they are. Final preparations for the ceremony are also going ahead- student presenters are presenting each award with the Provost giving the final speech. Award winners who cannot make the ceremony will be filmed so their acceptance speech can be broadcast at the ceremony.

5. Higher Education Policy

The Union's Higher Education Policy is expiring soon, so I've been working with Andrew Keenan to decide how we should write the new one. We've decided to split it into 2 parts- with me taking the fees and funding side, with Marissa in charge of Access to Higher Education. I think it'll be much better to have a policy which has been debated properly rather than just put together by a few people at the Union. We will be giving you all a presentation on the different funding models and this will be going online so everyone can be fully informed of what the different choices are before voting on which they think the Union should be in favour of. So look out for this!

6. Tutor System- Pilot

The pilot of the Online Tutor System (Starfish) is happening now. The pilot group involves 1st year Chemistry students, Civil Engineering PhD students and a slice of Mechanical Engineering (so a group of students from all years included MEng/MSc students). These students will be testing the system this term with personal tutors for Undergraduates and PGT students, and supervisors for PGR students. The aims of the software are: for Senior and Postgraduate Tutors to better monitor whether meetings between students and their tutors are happening, for Tutors to have better access to their tutees information (grades etc), and for students to be able to mark whether they are happy with their tutor/supervisor and be able to log whether meetings are actually happening. If a student is unhappy with their tutor there is information and advice on what to do and people to go to (senior tutors etc).

7. National Student Survey

This year's participation rate is higher than ever before- when writing this (16/04) 81.84% of final year students had completed the survey. Despite flaws with the survey it is an external survey that we must complete- so if we have to do it we might as well do it well!

8. Periodic Review-Computing

The Computing department's UG provision was reviewed and I was the student member on the panel. The panel spent a day in the Computing department as well as reading through all relevant information and each panel member wrote a report. We were all happy with what was happening in the Computing department- it was the strongest review that I've sat on! Provision for the JMC course is also improving which is great to see too.

9. Political Engagement-Councillors

Along with the other Sabbatical Officers I have given tours and presentations to a variety of counsellors, London Assembly Members and local politicians. David has explained more about this in his report.

10. Shaping the future of Exhibition Road

David and I attended a meeting with several other institutions based around Exhibition Road to help decide how to make Albertopolis more well-known and accessible to the public.

11. Meetings attended:

- Engineering Studies
- Horizons committee
- FoNS Teaching Committee
- Masters Quality Committee x2
- Vice Provost Advisory Group for Education
- QAEC