

Council Report Tom Wheeler - President

Changes to Halls of Residence Wardening Teams

To continue from my last report as well as follow up from the Felix story, Halls of residence now charge students a reduced £1 per student per week (from roughly £2/£3 depending on the hall). The issue raised by Felix was that rent has not been reduced by roughly £2 a week to reflect this. I have to agree with this concern, as I have not seen proof of this decrease in rent. I am looking to follow up on this unaccounted reduction in amenities and engage with the working group

Welcome Week

I attended the Mingles, Lite Mingle as well as the PG Comedy night and the Medics' Big Chill event to socialize and meet our members. On the Monday of Welcome Week I formally welcomed students during the Provost's Welcome Talks. Freshers' Fair went exceptionally well, and I'd like to congratulate Abi and the Student Activities team for this. I also showed James Stirling, Provost, and Mark Fields MP around Freshers' Fair to showcase some of the activities we provide for our students.

Heston & Teddington

Abi, Alex and I unveiled the name of the new Teddington Bar at Heston, as well as some photos that were taken of Teddington. We also attended the Alumni Day at Teddington, and had a very enjoyable and memorable day. The cessation of sport at Teddington is a real loss to the students who played there, and I feel gutted that we couldn't alter this decision.

Inter-Union Collaborative events

This will be occurring on the 13/11/2014. Students from RVC, RCM, RCA are invited and we are working on marketing and logistics of the event.

Bursaries

Home, UG's who are from a household income of <£60k can receive the College Bursary. There are some proposed options that could change this which students discussed on Thursday 23/11/14. These changes will not affect students who currently receive bursaries. It will only change students starting on 23/11/14. I will provide a verbal update of the outcome of these discussions to Council. Unfortunately, due to the fact that any changes to Bursaries have to be passed by Provost Board in it's meeting the week before the 2nd OM of Council; I could not discuss this issue with Council, however Council members were invited to the Open Forum on the 23 November to give their input.

Open Letter

An open letter was written to the Guardian in response to an Article they published in their 'Education' section stating that students demand top-end, luxury accommodation. I think this is a very dangerous opinion to portray as 'news' especially when it is factually unfounded, and contained no evidence of actual discussion with students. I took a strong stance against the story and its contents in my letter, and other London SU Officers wanted to counter-sign the letter to strengthen my stance.

Equality at Imperial

A discussion of these issues occurred at CWB during its meeting on the 23/11/2014. Chris (DPW) and I will give a verbal update to Council to feedback on this discussion.