

Council Report **Tom Wheeler - President**

Leave

I have taken 2 days of annual leave since the last meeting of Council. (In addition to this, there were 4 days of College Closure over Easter, where the Union Offices were not open.)

College First-Year Accommodation

Following the discussions from the last meeting of Council, I have been working to find out more regarding the future of the first-year accommodation portfolio.

Pembridge Hall

Guaranteed to remain open for 3 years. The derelict annex, and the surrounding garden to the rear of the hall, managed by College Endowment, will be converted into Houses to be sold. The light levels received by the bedrooms in the rear of the building will be in line with the BRE guidance.

Weeks

I have been unable to overturn the decision to close Weeks. College Provost Boards decision to close the hall therefore still stands. Master planning is underway, and Chris, DPW, is in conversation with the Director of HR for College to lobby for maximized childcare provision in EYEC. The rest of the College property in the North of Princes Gardens will be used for a range of a small amount of [non-core](#) but primarily 'academic' space. The motivation for the non-core space is to continue to fund redevelopment.

Beit Hall

Due to the 1851 Royal Commission's stipulation, Beit Hall is protected and will remain as a Halls of Residence as it currently stands. (The 1851 Royal Commission is – in effect – the College's South Kensington 'Landlord').

Rent Breakdown & "Capital Cost"

Continuing from the breakdown of rent that was communicated in the "Transparency in first-year halls of residence" paper, Council asked for further explanation as to what "Capital Cost" is. This was found to be the interest on the money the College had spent to buy or create the halls and had nothing to do with the cost of the land the property occupied nor the repayment of the capital invested.

Rent portfolio for 2016/17

Following the engagement on hall rents for 2015/16, the College has agreed to look at any details that may emerge from the 2015 intake that can be improved for 2016/17 but the overall model remains until 2020. This needs to occur alongside the Hall Activity Fund review (January 2016 report to Vice Provosts Education Advisory Group).

Board of Trustees Away Day and Induction

New trustees (External (Lay) Trustees, Appointed Student Trustees, Elected Student Trustees, and Officer Trustee elects) received an induction session, which was followed by a Board of Trustees 'Away Day', to launch the 16-month development process of the Union's new 3-year Strategic Plan.

Union Office Space Review

Following discussions regarding the Union's 'challenges', engagement is coming out as a recurring theme. One of the things that we feel reflects the Unions poorly is its layout, so I am therefore leading on a project to redesign union office layout so that students can get the help and

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support that they need, instead of being greeted by the series of unwelcoming signs that currently exist. The idea being to design levels 2 and 2m “from scratch” as if we had a blank piece of canvas, and to design from a student-need basis, instead of the random layout that grew and developed over the last 5 or so years. We will be consulting with members and users of the space over the next few months.

Visit to LKC School of Medicine

I was fortunate enough to visit LKC School of Medicine, a joint medical school between Nanyang Technological University and Imperial College London, from Monday 23 March until Friday 27 March 2015.

During this visit, I observed classes; participated in extra-curricular activity; visited student Hostels (equivalent to Halls of Residence); ate lunch and dinner at the students’ favourite eateries and generally experienced what it was like to be a student in Singapore. I learned a huge amount from the approach to teaching, student support and the student life at LKC and will be reporting this to College to continue to lobby for an improved student experience.

Head of SES

The Union has now appointed a Head of Student Experience and Services, who will be starting on 1 June 2015. I’m very excited to see how the new “Student Experience and Services” directorate develops and brings together our Activities, Development and Social Enterprise departments to ensure that all of our member-facing services remain member facing.

RAG Save the Children: Imperials Got Talent

I was the judge for this. It was great. Well done to the organisers and participants.

Ice Varsity & Varsity

I attended the IC/UCL Ice Varsity (which was a very enjoyable event) to support the actualisation of student potential. I also attended the day of Varsity to support the celebration of student sport. Well done to all teams involved in all matches. I didn’t attend the Basketball varsity as I forgot it was happening.

College Visit to Birkbeck Student Support Services

I visited the Birkbeck University Student Support Service as part of Colleges review of its student services. There are a number of major projects taking place to pull together the different student support systems (both physical and online) and make them more accessible and student-centric. This is exciting.

Lobbying success regarding Shop Extra snack provision

In response to student lobbying, I am happy to announce that Sherbet Dip-Dabs are now stocked in the Union’s Shop Extra for a very reasonable price of 40p.