

Board of Trustees
23 June 2016

Lucinda Sandon-Allum - President
Board of Trustees Report

This year has been an incredibly rewarding and challenging experience. From working with students on projects through to representing the student body to College and everything in between, it has been quite a journey!

I'd like to start by looking back on what I've achieved in my year as President. Writing this report has certainly been reflective and I do feel very proud of what I've been able to achieve. There have been certain manifesto promises that I would have wanted to achieve and had I had more time, I like to think this would have been the case. Looking back on my initial perception of the role and what it would entail compared to what I know now, is rather different. I had an expectation of what the day-to-day operational aspects of the President role was - these tasks were greater and more time consuming than I had ever expected. I realised that if I were to get my manifesto promises done, then I would need to stop spending my entire day in meetings. I found this balance particularly difficult to strike, as I didn't want to 'neglect' my duty of being a voice for students in College, but at the same time I wanted to make sure I could tick off as many manifesto points as possible - after all, I was voted in to deliver on those promises.

Something I've learnt in this role is to expect the unexpected! You can have a few weeks, or even months, in advance planned out and organised, but then something can crop up which changes that. I've tried to learn how to handle these unexpected moments, from recruitment of a new Managing Director, club discipline and student media attention all ate up quite a lot of my time.

A stand-out realisation for me this year was my change in the perception of College, from being a student to an Officer Trustee. As a student I felt that College didn't care much about students and that we were never listened to. This couldn't be further from the truth for most staff. I have been able to work alongside many exceptional staff members within College, who care deeply about students. I always felt listened to, which was especially apparent in College Council meetings - all staff would listen to what I had to say, whether I was questioning or commenting and then would take everything on board and speak or act accordingly. College also understand what the issues facing students are, but due to the complex nature of all stakeholders at the institution, I've realised that it takes time to ensure that structures and staff members at every level are working on improving them.

Finally, I would like to express how incredibly fortunate I feel to have had the opportunity to work with some of the most amazing people I have ever met. The Union staff are a brilliant set of people and it has been fantastic working with so many different departments on multiple projects and events. I've also really enjoyed working with you, the Board of Trustees! One of my biggest regrets this year was not making the most of the expertise on the panel - something that I will be ensuring my successor, Nas Andriopoulos, will make full use of.

Thank you for your words of wisdom and advice, and for always being a huge support to myself and all the Officer Trustees.

What I've learnt

There were so many aspects of this role that changed my perception of what being 'President of ICU' is all about. Whether it was day-to-day meetings, working on new projects or my manifesto objectives, there were some key lessons learnt which I would like to pass onto Nas:

- First and foremost, continue to strengthen and build upon the relationships we have with College. I found this one of the most important aspects of the role. As President you have the most contact time with College and represent students to a wide array of stakeholders. It makes it a lot easier to get things done and put your voice across if you have great relationships. Showing respect to the College and its staff goes a very long way too.
- Manage your time. This sounds like common sense, but it is very easy to focus too much on meetings, or too much on your manifesto. Learn to strike a balance, and if you are struggling always ask for help!
- Utilise the incredible expertise of the Board of Trustees. There were times which were more challenging than they needed to be because I didn't ask for help or advice from the lay trustees. They have devoted huge amounts of their own time to the Union, so want to help you when they can.
- Don't take things personally. In this role, you will take the wrath of a lot of students - you are usually the first person they go to when they are unhappy, or believe any bad (or good!) changes are all down to you. There were certainly times when I felt very dejected, but the key is to not let it get to you. Always ask for support - the staff here are a supportive bunch of people - they can get you through anything! As you can imagine, this role makes you extremely resilient and it is a trait I'm pleased to have acquired!

Looking Forward

There are many projects I've worked on this year which I believe should be kept going or built upon over the coming year:

- Housing. This is one of the most important and pressing issues that faces students today. Whether its private accommodation or halls of residences - pay attention to what is going on both inside and outside College, and continue trying to make housing matters better for students.
- App. This year I've been in the process of developing ideas for a Union app. This has been a very slow burner, but it is something I get asked about all the time. I believe this project would make students lives easier and would dramatically improve our communication and engagement channels with students.
- Postgraduate Engagement. Let's face it, we could do a lot better at building and engaging with the Postgraduate community! This will take time, but it would be great to see some improvements in this area over the next year, especially for Masters students.

The next section of my report consists of two parts - an update on the objectives I set out to achieve at the beginning of my term; and my achievements, events and projects I worked on outside my manifesto.

Manifesto Objectives

At the start of my year in office, I spent time going through my manifesto with Union staff and picking out specific objectives to achieve during the 2015/16 academic year. Five overarching themes were drawn up, each containing between two to five goals. The five themes are: Housing, Clubs, Societies and Projects, Union App, Women and Community.

I've been working hard throughout the year to achieve these objectives. Most have been completed, with some longer-term projects in progress which will continue into my successors term.

Housing: Tackle the issue of finding quality, affordable housing in London *Out of 5: 4 completed and 1 delegated*

Goal 1 Completed: Landlord Accreditation - create a platform to allow students to give comments/opinions on landlords and houses they have lived in, to help other students with house hunting.

In the Spring term, I started a collaboration between the Union and a website called Move'm. Move'm is essentially a TripAdvisor for student houses - students candidly review a house/flat they have lived in within the past 5 years. All reviews are posted online for any other student to see. In order to publicise this service, I ran a campaign to get students to rate their houses. In return they received a £5 Amazon Voucher. The campaign was very successful, with hundreds of reviews submitted within the first 10 days alone! I hope that the reviews will not only benefit those searching for houses, but students in the long run, as evidence at other Universities suggests Landlords act when they have bad reviews. I hope it will become a staple for student housing searches over the next year (while rating a house becomes the 'done thing to-do' when you leave).

At the time of writing, the second campaign has just started. The format is the same, encouraging students to rate their houses. However, instead of an Amazon Voucher for each review submitted, Move'm will donate £1 to a charity of our choice. The chosen charity is United World Schools as it had been short listed in RAG's charity elections earlier in the year, but narrowly missing out on becoming a 15/16 supported charity.

Goal 2 Completed: Housing advice - publishing a pocket guide for everything you need to know about housing. As well as a publicity stunt, to raise awareness about housing knowledge amongst students and tenancy rights.

The Deputy President Welfare (DPW) and I worked alongside the Student Hub to deliver the Private Housing Evening. It was the first time the Union and Student Hub have collaborated on the delivery of the evening. We wrote and presented the 'Student Housing Journey', which included finding flat-mates, moving out of halls, when and where to start looking, most popular areas in London, safety and security, rent and other costs. I was also able to get the Union a stand for the fair to promote our services related to housing support, as well as promoting the services of Move'm. According to the Student Hub it was the most successful Private Housing Evening they have ever had.

Goal 3 Completed: Help Postgraduates with finding housemates via housing mixers

I attended and helped out at the Student Hub 'Find a Flatmate' event in late May. The evening consisted of a range of activities designed to help students find their ideal flatmate, whether they were looking for a room in an already established house, looking for people to find a house with or have a room spare and would like an Imperial student to move in. The activities were followed by lots of mingling.

Goal 4 Completed: Collaboration with other London Unions to amplify the student voice with regards to private housing, during the London Mayoral Elections.

This goal was changed from collaborating with other London Unions, to collaborating with the campaigning organisation, Citizens UK. The DPW and I attended several meetings and events with West London Citizens over the course of the Autumn and Spring Terms. These events revolved around the London Mayoral Elections and the main housing priorities put forward by the local community (including Imperial students). The events included issues workshops which decided West London's top

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3 housing 'asks'. Two out of the three 'asks' had direct impacts for students; 'London Living Rent' and 'London-Wide Rouge Landlords Taskforce'.

This year I have worked to build ties with Citizens UK, subsequently taking a paper to Union Council with the resolve of affiliating with the organisation. At Union Council (26th April), a West London Citizens representative spoke on behalf of the organisation and answered Council's questions. Council then voted in favour of affiliating with the organisation, which is fantastic! The decision will be ratified at this Board of Trustees meeting and membership will be finalised and confirmed with Citizens UK.

Goal 5 Delegated: Rent Guarantor scheme for all International, EU and home students whose household income is below the guarantor minimum. The aim is to have College act as guarantor.
The DPW and I had this same objective. Due to my time constraints, she has taken the lead on this.

Clubs, Societies and Projects: Deliver new income streams for our Clubs, Societies and Projects

Out of 4: 3 completed and 1 dropped

Goal 1 Completed: Tailored programmes to give increased support and guidance to CSPs who are unsure of the best way of getting sponsorship.

I have given ongoing support with sponsorship applications over the course of the academic year, helping several clubs and societies when requested. These societies had particular trouble obtaining and securing sponsorship. We talked through several options and improved applications through layout, content and structure of proposals.

Goal 2 Completed: Promote gender equality in sports, ensuring better access to facilities for all.
Imperial Girls Can was a success. I had little involvement in the organisation of this event, but gave support and helped with promotion when and where it was needed.

Goal 3 Completed: 'Find a sponsor' event - a careers fair format, inviting organisations and companies to network with CSPs, to link up club and sponsorship.

After lengthy discussions with the Student Activities Team and Head of Student Experience and Services, we came to the conclusion that a fair would be far too difficult to organise and would achieve little for the clubs that need the most sponsorship help. Therefore, we decided that it would be best to provide better training opportunities and support for clubs and societies.

I have organised a sponsorship event to take place on the evening of 22nd June. The evening will involve talks/presentations from external speakers, alumni and Union societies. This will be followed by an audience Q&A and networking and refreshments. A guidance pack will also be given out containing some tips and advice as well as letter templates and example sponsorship packages. The aim of the evening will be to empower clubs to find their own sponsors, ensure sponsorship is sustainable, and give clubs the skills to market themselves. At the time of writing, the sponsorship event had an extraordinarily fast sign-up rate - one email was sent out to club officers and all 75 places were filled within a matter of hours!

Goal 4 Dropped: Help CSPs achieve their objectives with helping them tackle wider issues beyond funding, by finding out what each want to do/what resources are needed/what needs to be made available.

Since starting in my role I have noted that significant support is available through the Union's Student Activities team, and most clubs and societies have a thorough understanding of what they need to prioritise.

Union App: Produce a mobile-friendly platform, as an extension of our website - delivering better services on the move, for our students *Out of 2: 1 completed and 1 in progress*

Goal 1 Completed: Face-to-face interaction with students when larger decisions will be made. This would include stalls in the JCR to get feedback, as well as asking students on-the-ground on their opinions

This goal is ongoing and I regularly interact with volunteers and students, asking for feedback, opinions or just to have a general chat! I have made an effort over the academic year to sit with students I don't know, over lunch and speak to them about their student experience and how they think it could be improved.

Goal 2 In progress: Produce a mobile-friendly platform, as an extension of our website - delivering better services on the move, for our students:

- Develop a platform that allows all voices to be heard on an equal platform, with students being asked for opinions and comments before decisions are made, which affect them.*
- Create an app or similar technology platform in which students can interact with the Union, with a chance to voice concerns and also be a fundamental part in the decision making process.*
- The platform would allow students to filter areas which are of interest to them, for example, CSPs, education, services etc.*
- The information can be collated and decisions directly affecting students can be based on student opinion rather than assumption.*
- The long-term aim is to develop an entire Union app, encompassing calendars of events, advice section, activities, service details etc (a lite version of the website), integrating the feedback platform onto this.*

This goal has developed extensively over the past academic year. I have gathered lots of feedback via the website, newsletters, social media and speaking to students. I also ran a focus group in the Spring term, with the aim of deciding upon the most important aspects of the app and discussing and developing ideas gathered through the feedback. We also talked about new ideas and priorities for the development of particular App features. A few stand-out functions include ticketing, activities, Imperial Plus for volunteers and a consultation platform. Feedback from Union Council confirmed that we are to develop the app 'in house' and to make use of the budding developers and designers in our student community.

I have discussed all the app ideas with the Union's new Systems Manager, who is helping me put together a plan and timeline for this project. We have decided on the key functions to primarily focus on, based on student feedback. I will be getting in contact with the Software society soon, to recruit students to help develop the app. I recognise that this project will be extensive and will go on past my term in office. I hope the Union and my successor will continue with the progress made on this objective.

Women: Work with the College and external organisations to encourage more women to engage in education and research in STEM *Out of 5: 5 completed*

Goal 1 Completed: Celebrate that it is the first time Imperial College and Imperial Union have two female leaders. Collaborate with Alice Gast (President of Imperial College) to commemorate the first of all female leadership.

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Alice and I have worked together on numerous occasions and also produced a President to President video, discussing the first term of the academic year, big events, the students, gender equality and women in STEM.

Goal 2 Completed: Working with Outreach to inspire girls into STEM subjects and leadership

I've worked with Outreach, women groups at Imperial and individually on multiple projects. Over the academic year I've spoken or sat on several women/girls in STEM related panels, ranging from panels catered to school girls through to University students. I've enjoyed being able to expand my outreach work this year to schools and girls of school age, encouraging them into STEM.

As an example of some outreach events, I spoke at the Greenlight4Girls and the very successful STEMettes: Routes into STEM. These were organised in conjunction with 'Women in Physics', providing an opportunity for Imperial to showcase the opportunities there are for women in STEM, to school girls aged between 12 and 16 years.

Goal 3 Completed: Organising events that will promote gender equality and celebrating women in STEM, including HeForShe tour and a week around International Women's Day.

I successfully assisted in the organisation and promotion of the HeForShe Get Free UK Tour to Imperial and acted as Master of Ceremonies for the panel discussion. The day consisted of a grassroots engagement on campus with the help of student volunteers. This was followed by a panel discussion which I sat on alongside Elizabeth Nyamayaro, James Stirling, Martin Lupton and Jack Bertram. The panel discussion was thought-provoking and successful, with students engaging with the Q&A. HeForShe praised Imperial as being the best organised and most successful bus engagement of the tour.

I worked alongside College to organise the Women@Imperial week 2016 (7th-11th March). This year we celebrated the achievements of female students and staff. With my involvement I was able to ensure increased student involvement in the week, resulting in a strong student and Union presence throughout. A large celebration event took place on International Women's Day (8th March) where the talents of female staff and students were showcased. Our female students (UG and PG) had demonstration stalls in the main foyer, while female student societies (Dance Society, Belly Dancing Society and the Imperielles) gave musical and dance performances. I also gave a speech at this event, with my main theme being based on female role models. On the same evening, I organised for the Union to host a special cocktail night in Metric, to celebrate women at Imperial. Later in the week, an outreach event for local school girls took place (11th March). This was run by the College's outreach department, with assistance from myself and the Union's student development team. We had a large number of enthusiastic female volunteers (UG and PG) helping on the day; guiding, tours and performing hands-on experiments with the children. Other events included the Imperial College Women in Business Society's 'Women in Innovation' panel discussion and networking session on 9th March. The entire week proved to be very successful and inspiring with plenty of positive student involvement.

This year I've worked alongside the Business School to discuss ways of promoting and supporting women in business for current students and alumni. Discussions resulted in a group of MSc and MBA students restarting the Tandem Society, which I assisted with. Unfortunately, their society application was rejected due to the concept being too similar to existing societies. However, this gave way to an opportunity for them to join with the Women in Business Club. This merge was fruitful and provided a fantastic opportunity for the Union to build relationships with the Business School students, as well as supporting current female students and alumni in business.

Goal 4 Completed: I also sit on the Athena SWAN committee, assisting College in the re-awarding of a silver award, recognising the College's efforts in gender equality amongst the staff and student body.

I have engaged with the College's Athena SWAN renewal application over the past year, representing the views of the students, specifically postgraduates, for the purpose of the application. The application has now been submitted and we are awaiting the results.

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Goal 5 Completed: I am on the College Gender Equality Steering Group, which is a unique academic study being carried out to understand the dynamics of the College community, in relation to gender equality.

In 2015, the College commissioned Dr Alison Phipps and Dr Liz McDonnell to conduct research on the College's organisational culture, and to recommend how to address problematic aspects, especially in relation to gender. This was catalysed by issues related to sexism in sport, but it was agreed that gender would not be looked at in isolation and the intersections with other issues (such as race, class, disability and sexual orientation) would be key. I have been a part of the steering group, which has supported the project and I have personally been substantially involved in recruiting students for focus groups and feedback sessions, as well as showing the researchers around campus and introducing them to key stakeholders.

The project has entered its final phase of an Action Inquiry process. The Action Inquiries are currently underway with a number of students, including myself, sitting on several themed discussions. Each group will come up with a set of recommendations to improve the culture of equality at Imperial.

Community: Work to create more of a sense of community within the student body

Out of 3: 1 completed, 1 in progress and 1 dropped

Goal 1 Completed: Continue relationships between Royal College of Music, Royal College of Arts and Royal Veterinary College - an annual or biannual Royal Mixer organised for November and/or Summer Term

The Royal Mixer took place on 21st November. The evening built upon last year's event and proved to be a great success. It was fantastic to see lots of mixing and engagement with students between all 4 colleges. It has enabled us to strengthen relationships with all 4 colleges - especially important as the other colleges can use our facilities and buy associate membership for the Union as well. A huge thank you to The Techtonics and our student DJs who set a fantastic atmosphere for the night.

Goal 2 In progress: Work with Postgraduate reps to create more of a sense of community.

The Deputy President (Education) currently works closely with the reps academically. I would have liked to do far more with this objective, however I found it very difficult to consult effectively with the Postgraduate community on what is needed. In saying this, I have been in regular contact with Business School reps and students and have assisted with several projects based around postgraduate engagement. I've also been to Silwood Park a few times over the past year, for both 'work' related engagement with Postgraduates and the committee's socials events. Over the past year, with the Constituent Union Presidents, we looked into the feasibility of Postgraduate Taught students becoming automatic members of the Constituent Unions. Nothing yet has come from this.

Goal 3 Dropped: 'Celebration of Culture' evening - an event to bring together all international societies for an annual celebration of food and fun.

A lot of time was spent in Spring term trying to organise the 'Celebration of Culture' with the Overseas Societies Committees (OSC) and the International Liberation Officer. The 'Celebration of Culture' soon morphed to become a bigger and improved version of International Night (iNight). The event was to be based around celebration of countries, where societies and students can represent their culture and learn about each other's, via food, music and traditional dress. However, due to the lack of interest from students during busy periods of the academic year, the iNight will no longer go ahead. I will be working with the OSC committee and International Officer in the final week of Summer Term, to put together a plan of action for an event to take place next year.

Achievements, Projects and Events

There were far more day-to-day operational tasks and meetings than I expected when first entering my term. I've had to learn to balance that with working on my manifesto pledges and objectives, alongside picking up some extra goals along the way. A large part of my time has also been spent on Interview Panels, including Interim Managing Director, Interim Head of Student Voice and Communication, Systems Manager, Student Trustee appointment, Finance Manager and of course, Managing Director and Vice-Provost (Education) which is touched upon further on in my report.

First Year Halls Allocations

Due to the unprecedented number of first year students starting at Imperial in October, the College found itself with a large number of bed spaces short. This led to Fisher Hall and Bernard Sunley being reinstated as halls of residences for this academic year. I collaborated with College to ensure the first year students in these halls had an experience that matched the other first year students in other halls. Both halls had swift renovations to the living spaces and had full hall wardening and senior teams in place. I also managed to negotiate with College to reduce the proposed price of £175pw for a standard single room down to £132pw, for all rooms.

Welcome Week

I was involved in the #helloicu crew training, hall senior training and the club officer welcome as part of orientation week (w/c 28th Sept). During International Orientation and Welcome Week I took part in queue-walking in the Student Hub most lunchtimes. This was a brilliant opportunity to speak to lots of new students and give them a quick introduction to the Union, our services, activities and how we can support them throughout their degree. I also made numerous speeches to welcome students for International Orientation, Not in Halls, International Welcome, all department/faculty undergraduates and postgraduates as well as travelling to Silwood Park to welcome the PG students.

Future Student Services

Both the DPW and I were appointed to the Future Student Services Panel, a review of all College and Union student services. We spent lots of time conducting interviews to gather evidence with the rest of the panel, covering all aspects of student support services (Counselling, Disability Advisory Service, ICU Advice and ICU Volunteering) and education and finance services (Careers Service, Library, Student Finance, Registry). We discussed the main problems and themes in student service provision and formulated a set of recommendations. Alongside Tom Welton (Dean of the Faculty on Natural Sciences and the Deputy President (Education)), I presented the recommendations to the Provost Board in Spring term. The recommendations in both papers were passed and implementation actions are going ahead.

Vice-Provost (Education) Recruitment

I was part of the appointment panel for the new Vice-Provost (Education) who will be starting in post on 1st August 2016. My presence on the panel indicated the first time a student representative has been asked to sit on such a panel, which demonstrates the College's commitment to involving students and the Union in its major decision making. I was involved in the full process from long-listing, shortlisting to the final interview panel and ultimate decision making. As part of the interview process the Union hosted a student panel, primarily organised by the DPE. The student panel questioned the candidates on key issues and submitted a report to the Provost of all the candidates. The report was highly praised by the panel and the candidates themselves spoke about how impressive the students were. I would like to thank all those involved in the panel for the time and effort put into the interviews. The Provost also said the College would be delighted to involve students in key College staff recruitment in the future.

Student Safety and Security

Throughout the academic year there have been several personal and property security issues, with a number of private student houses burgled and students conned in the South Kensington area. I worked with Nigel Ward (Senior Investigations and Crime Prevention Officer at the College) in regularly communicating crime prevention and awareness messages to as many students as possible. These reminders were a termly feature on the Union's website, newsletter and media channels.

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Union Managing Director Recruitment

With Joe Cooper leaving, we had the task of finding a new Managing Director to lead the Union! The recruitment process, despite being long, was well executed with, of course, a great resulting candidate - Jarlath O'Hara started at ICU in early May. I was part of the entire process, from start to finish. This included first and second rounds of long-listing, primary interviews, shortlisting and the final interviews which took place last week.

Evelyn Gardens

This year I campaigned to bring back Evelyn Gardens to be offered as an accommodation option for retuning students. As a result, the residences are undergoing complete refurbishment and renovation and will be opened as a private residence in September 2016. 250 rooms will be made available on a 51-week contract from £182pw - a price I negotiated with College's Chief Financial Officer. The residences will have 24-hour security, residence assistants and cleaning of communal areas. When applications opened in the Spring term, the accommodation was so popular that all rooms were filled within a matter of days and there is currently a substantial waiting list. The popularity of these residences will most likely result in the development of a further 200 rooms in Evelyn Gardens, to be opened for the 2017/18 academic year.

Alumni

This year I've had a large part to play in the Alumni Team's summer fundraising appeal on raising money for student services and the library in particular. With the assistance of the team, I wrote a personal letter which was sent out to almost all Imperial alumni, asking for donations to help us reach our target to adequately support student services and refurbish the library. Alongside my letter, I offered for alumni to write some words of advice for current students on a postcard and send it back to Imperial. Quite a few alumni have taken part in this, which is wonderful - their words and my comments will be shared via the Alumni Team. Donations are also rolling in from many different alumni - the total amount raised from my letter will be confirmed by the Alumni Team sometime over the summer period. I've also been working on building relations between the Union and College's Alumni team this year. I've put forward several suggestions to improve engagement and relationships between the Alumni and student body, specifically focussing on Constituent Unions. These recommendations will be taken forward and worked on next academic year.

Week Zero

Over the past few months I've been working alongside Jane Neary (Director of Campus Services) on producing a plan for a Week Zero for the 17/18 academic year. We are one of very few Universities who do not have a lecture/examinable work free week. This week would allow students to settle into University properly, explore Imperial and London, make friends, get involved in different activities, enhance the welfare of students, amongst lots of other benefits. After countless hours of planning and campaigning, Week Zero is confirmed for 17/18! This is the first time Imperial will hold a Welcome Week without academic work. Over the next academic year, College will be consulting with all departments and student services to ensure Week Zero will be organised in such a way that it will not disrupt planned timetables, as well as to ensure all stakeholders understand the importance of students have a Week Zero. In addition to this, I've been working with campus services to put on a pilot welcome fair for the 16/17 cohort. This fair will take place on a Monday for the whole day, exhibiting all the different student services at the College, such as signing up to the health centre, sorting out VISA forms, as well as other stands such as TFL to buy and top up Oyster cards, security and self-defence and chefs to show students how to cook easy, cheap meals.

Union Strategy

During Spring and Summer term, the Union staff and Officer Trustees have been working on the new Union Strategy. Three work streams were devised: Advice, Advocacy and Action, Our People, and Diversity. Each of these streams had a Senior Manager and Officer Trustee lead. Meetings and discussions around each of the three themes were held, with the aim of coming up with questions to consult the students on at a strategy "conference". This "conference" was held at the end of the Spring Term over the course of three days. Plenty of views and feedback was gathered on all three streams, from lots of Undergraduate and Postgraduate students. We then took these thoughts to a residential trip with the Board of Trustees - presenting findings to the Board of Trustees and generating thought-provoking and useful discussion. We are now in the next phase - both Jarlath and

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I am currently developing and expanding the strategy from all the work that has been collected over the last few months. We will hopefully have a rough draft of the strategy, to then take out to the student body and consult on over the summer period.

Events and Activities

Throughout the year, I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to take part in many different activities and attend exciting events. Below I've listed a few of my personal favourite highlights throughout the year:

- Unveiled a plaque with the Mayor of Ealing to official open the new Woodward Halls - the first Imperial building to be named after a woman.
- Opened all Undergraduate and Postgraduate graduation ceremonies, in the Royal Albert Hall. All 6 ceremonies amounted to ~13 hours with over 5,000 graduating students in total!
- Met the President of China as part of a selection of 10 undergraduate and postgraduate students, to speak with the President and other distinguished guests about their time at Imperial. It was great to see College engage the students predominantly for this visit.
- The Officer Trustees and myself were involved in an Away Day at Silwood Park with senior staff from College. The aim of the day was to discuss the College's long-term (30/40 year) strategy.
- The Deputy President (Education) and I met with representatives from Hong Kong University. We discussed our partnerships with International Universities and the opportunities available for our students to study in Hong Kong.
- I judged and attended ICU's first Volunteer Dinner, organised by an extremely enthusiastic and passionate group of students from Connect. The event was fantastically run and offered the chance for the volunteering societies and individuals to be celebrated and rewarded for all their efforts. Over 100 volunteers enjoyed a drinks reception, three course dinner, receive awards and funding for charitable projects at home and overseas, as well as enjoy performances from student group Mockingbird and a jazz band.
- I attended Varsity Fest. It was fantastic to see so many different students compete in a relaxed/festival-vibe atmosphere, complete with inflatables, hog roast and presentations for all different sports.
- Judged the brilliant Imperial's Got Talent Show - the largest student talent show at the University. Students showcased a colourful diversity of great acts to raise money for the Save the Children charity. Congratulations to Belly Dancing - this year's winners!
- I went along to the RCSU's flagship event; The Science Challenge final. This annual science communication competition saw plenty of entries from Imperial students and schoolchildren alike. The entrants had to demonstrate their skills in scientific debate and reasoning, in order to try and win the grand prize of £1,000 as selected by a panel of expert judges.
- I thoroughly enjoyed connecting with Imperial alumni during the Alumni Weekend over the Imperial Festival. It was great to speak to so many people and learn about their own experiences as a student at Imperial, many of whom graduated 50 years ago!
- For the first time Imperial College Council was held at the Union. This gave us an opportunity to tell Imperial's leaders about the many successes of the students and the Union over the course of this academic year. We also took them on a short tour of the Union buildings, showing them some spaces the College has funded e.g. Media basement and Concert Hall.
- I've strongly supported the ongoing Mental Health campaign in College and the Union. I have attended a number of events hosted by the Mentality group, my favourite of which was Anthony Seldon's Talk. In further support of Mental Health on campus I became a fully trained Mental Health First Aider. I also sat on the the College's Mental Health Steering Group, which aims to improve provisions and increase awareness of support mental health and wellbeing for students and staff.
- Last but not least, the Union Awards and Student Academic Choice Awards were absolutely brilliant. It is always such a pleasure to reward our hard working volunteers and the best academic staff, in these award ceremonies. Congratulations to all thoroughly deserving nominees, shortlistees and winners of both these Awards evenings.