

DPW Council report for 10/11/2015

- I attended a demonstration of Starfish, a new student service system produced by the Student Centric Project. I have some major concerns about the way in which pastoral care will be managed with the online system which I will be addressing in a meeting with the team next week.
- Board of trustees included a discussion about the upcoming Reynolds refurbishment, which I wholeheartedly support. I have made it very clear that this is the last chance to get the refurbishment right from a student perspective and the ICSM must be very thoroughly consulted.
- I've been involved in another round of interviews for the Student Counselling Service. A full time mental health advisor will be appointed in a few months.
- I attended Disability Action Committee to give another update on the Mentality Report. I have also received an update on the current situation with proposed changes to Disabled Students Allowance.
- I have given some time over the last few weeks to supporting students wanting to organise Imperial students to attend the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts demonstration held on November 4th. We had a decent turn out of students including a group from Labour Society. I also had the pleasure of meeting sabbs from Reading and sharing ideas while marching on improving student engagement in unions.
 - The march from our perspective was entirely peaceful. The very small pockets of unrest which broke out later on were as far as I know nothing to do with any Imperial students.
- After informal discussions with various people from Imperial on the march, the campaigns officer and I are looking into ways of bringing politically minded Imperial students together for conversation and potential collaboration.
- I've been looking into the possibility of students getting involved in the upcoming climate change march on November 29th.
- I'm still working on putting together a guarantor scheme proposal for College. I'm aiming for something modelling on the highly successful scheme that UCL has been running for over 10 years. I'm aiming to table this for discussion at the next council.
- As promised, I am continuing to work with Lucinda, Med and the rest of ICSMSU to find a solution to the healthcare students' funding crisis, a campaign I started last year. So far College have agreed to investigate the possibility of giving medics to opportunity to spread their Imperial Bursary across the entire 6 years; students will receive the same amount of money over their entire course but in smaller instalments if they so choose. The possibility of additional loans for final years has also been raised but we are awaiting further details from College and Barclays before we are willing to back this proposal.
- Currently Citizens UK have included 2 of the major housing issues facing students (affordability and private landlords) on their 3 main asks for the Mayoral Election. I will be attending an issues workshop with community groups from all across London on the 7th to start turning problems into potential solutions.