

Council Report
Lucinda Sandon-Allum - Union President

Operations

ICT
Myself and the other Officer Trustees met with ICT to discuss Starfish (the personal tutoring system created by the student centric project). Starfish has the potential to improve the student-personal tutor relationship; and ICT will be sending out a survey to all students using Starfish, to gain adequate feedback to improve/adapt the platform to students' needs.

VPAGE (Vice Provost's Advisory Group for Education)

In the last few meetings the TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) has been discussed. The College have raised concern regarding the point about students' unions and we will be working with them to draft part of their response to oppose the changes proposed to students' unions and the importance of the relationship between the Union and the College.

I will also be working alongside Jane Neary (Head of Campus Services) to draw up a plan and write a paper for a week 'zero' to be held at the beginning of each academic year.

MD recruitment

As Joe Cooper has resigned as MD and will be leaving at the end of January 2016, we have chosen a recruitment consultant to help with the search of a new Managing Director of the Union. They have been briefed on the role by the staff and Officer Trustees; and will be conducting the search imminently.

Vice-Provost (Education) Selection panel

The applicants for the role of Vice-Provost (Education) have been shortlisted. I am happy to report that all applicants in the shortlist have come across as very student-centric in their applications. I will be working with the Provost and Cyn to create a student panel as part of the final interview process.

Objectives

Housing - *"Tackle the issue of finding quality, affordable housing in London"*

I attended the Citizens UK West London meeting where the 3 major housing asks were ratified for the Mayoral Election debate taking place April 2016. Two out of the three will have direct impacts for students. These are affordability in the form of a 'London Living Rent' and bad landlords in the form of 'London-Wide Rouge Landlords Taskforce'.

Jennie and I met with the Student Hub to help organise the Private Housing talks for next year. This is the first time the Union has been involved with the programme of the talks; with this forming part of our housing campaign taking place next year.

I've been speaking with the website Move'm who specialise in landlord accreditation/house rating for Universities. I have received brilliant feedback from other SU presidents' who support Move'm and think this will be a great option for our students to help with finding decent private houses. I am hoping to get Move'm onto campus early next year to speak to our students and start to build a housing portfolio for Imperial students specifically.

CSPs - *"Deliver new income streams for our Clubs, Societies & Projects"*

I've continued to help societies and projects with finding alternative external income streams, mainly by going through applications and providing advice for finding sponsors.

I am also currently looking at appropriate dates for a sponsorship fair and will be speaking to clubs to get an idea of what they would want from such an event.

Feedback - “Produce a simple online platform for students to give their feedback on potential changes that affect them”

I've received a few responses on the app form on the Union website. A lot of students are interested in having an e-activities, ticketing system and feedback platform on an app. However, some students aren't sure about an app but would rather we focus on bettering the website and putting the feedback platform on the website, making it more mobile friendly instead.

Women in STEM and Gender Equality - “Work with the College and external organisations to encourage more women to engage in education and research in STEM”

I've been working with College to organise the 2016 Women@Imperial week. This year we will be celebrating the achievements of female students and staff, as well as having student engagement in a number of exhibitions and events throughout the week. I will also be contacting some student clubs for involvement as well as hopefully hosting an after-party at the Union for the evening of International Women's Day.

I've been working alongside students from the Business school to help them set up a Women in Business club. They are hoping this club will also be of interest to the wider student population and not just the Business School students.

I've also sat on several women in STEM related panels over the past few weeks - ranging from panels catered to school girls through to University students.

Community - “Work to create more of a sense of community within the student body”

The Royal Mixer took place on 21st November. It was a huge success and it was fantastic to see lots of mixing between all 4 colleges. A huge thank you to The Techtonics and our student DJs who set a fantastic atmosphere for the night - I've received lots of great feedback from the attendees!

I've met with the Alumni Team to work on building the relationship between Alumni and current students. Meetings will be held next term to improve engagement between these groups and specifically the constituent unions; and how involvement can be pursued through these channels.