

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) COUNCIL REPORT

Jennie Watson

- 4 days of leave. I can strongly recommend Tallinn for a cheap winter holiday.
- I have been continuing my discussions with the team from the Student Centric Project working on Starfish. Lucinda and I seem to have successfully persuaded them that they should consult students on this system designed to improve interactions between students and personal tutors and other departmental staff.
- With regards to the HE Green Paper, I've been in discussions with people in College as well as other Students' Unions regarding formulating a response. I've had long discussions with Campaigns Officer Andrew Tranter regarding formulating a response and potential campaigns in support of our response pending council vote.
 - Before she left, Debra Humphris suggested that we consider a joint response with College. Both myself and Cyin felt this would be inappropriate as although the Union and College may agree on some aspects of the green paper, we are likely to disagree on fundamentals such as fees.
- Have had highly productive chats with the Education Development Unit about Education Day 2016 as well as getting an update on changes to personal tutor training.
- Attended a meeting at National Union of Students to discuss the London wide housing problem. The morning was mostly about finding out what other unions are doing and sharing ideas. A second meeting is coming up to discuss the possibility for collaboration (date TBC)
- After attending Appointments & Remuneration Committee (sub committee of Board), I am reassured that the appointment of the new managing director will have plenty of student input. The exact process was not fully confirmed with the recruitment consultants so there is potentially room to add more student involvement if desired or deemed necessary.
- I have received initial recommendations from the Advice Services Manager regarding the short-medium term future of the advice centre:
 - We are aiming to have a second advisor in place for January and have started recruiting
 - The Advice Centre will be specialising in only academic advice for a few months while we ensure that we are getting that absolutely right before building up other areas of advice, with a view to have housing advice up to scratch before the annual rush for housing advice at the start of summer.
- Having attended Leadership Meeting (consisting of officer trustees and strategic managers) we will soon be able to start working on the Union's strategic plan for the next 3 years.
- I have secured initial support from the College's Chief Financial Officer and the Financial Director for the proposal for the College to act as a rent guarantor for students unable to provide their own guarantor. At the time of writing they are yet to see the proposal in full but have agreed to go away and investigate the cost of setting up such a scheme. However they have a few preconditions to be discussed and agreed regarding the process of potential debt collection.
- I have been joining ICSMSU and ICSM students in "meet the doctors" initiatives across London in support of the Junior Doctors' strike.

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- I am in discussions with College staff from the Business school as to the possibility of Imperial offering scholarships to Syrian refugees.
- The sexual harassment side of my officer objectives began with me attending the Sexual Harassment in Higher Education conference at Goldsmiths.
- I've also been interviewed by the researchers from Sussex conducting the Gender and Institutional Culture study.
- I have been in discussion with chief execs and sabbs from other unions who work with CitizensUK in order to assess whether it is worth joining.
- CWB will be held a few days before council.
- I will be meeting with senior College staff again to discuss the future of NHS Bursary funding for medics and giving the RSM Wellbeing presentation alongside Student Counselling, Ethos and Disability Advisory Service.