

DEPUTY PRESIDENT (WELFARE) COUNCIL REPORT FEB 2016

Jennie Watson

- Five days of annual leave
- I have attended a variety of College meetings:
 - Access Agreement and Financial Support Working Group
 - Residential Life Committee
 - Student Support & Wellbeing Committee
- Unfortunately I was unable to attend the Mental Health Steering Group meeting due to annual leave; however Campaigns & Representation Coordinator Sky Yarlett went in my place.
- I was unable to attend College's Health & Safety Consultative Committee due to an emergency.
- I have been working with Head of Student Voice and Communications to work on my Union Strategy – Advice Advocacy and Action. Progress here has slowed down a little due to temporary changes in staff positions in the interim period between Joe Cooper's departure and the arrival of the new managing director.
- I am also working with the College on their long term strategy as part of the Globalised Education & Research working group.
- Some serious concerns surrounding the quality of wardening arose from Residential Life Committee. I've been working with the interim Vice Provost Education to address these concerns as best as possible.
- The Union has been made aware of a significant number of sexual assault cases recently. These have been raised as a matter of urgency with the Provost, who has committed to providing sessions on consent in a similar manner to Cambridge as part of student induction from October. We will be working closely with experts from the Sussex Centre for Gender studies to improve College's management of such cases.
- In light of this and several other complaints relating to sexual harassment and 'Lad Culture' I am currently in the early stages of putting together a clear plan of action to tackle sexism on campus at the student level. I've been heavily researching best practice throughout the UK and abroad and will be speaking to officers from other unions who have had successes in this area. Any help, support or input from Union Council members is welcome.
- I've been working with officers from across the constituent unions to bring back the Treat Yourself campaign for another year. Watch this space and speak to Rach Shuttleworth, Beth Holman, Millie Tsang or Akash Jyoti for more information.
- Lucinda and I have been working together on the upcoming Private Housing Evening which will aim to give students moving out of halls for next year as much support and information as possible to help with the transition to the private rental sector.
- I spent a day on interview panels to recruit a new student counsellor for College's Counselling Service.
- This week we have welcomed a new member to the Advice Centre team. Debbie has a wealth of experience and knowledge of housing, financial and debt issues from her time working for Citizens Advice Bureau.
- I have also chaired a meeting of the halls cost working group as mandated at the last meeting of Union Council.