

Council Report
Lucinda Sandon-Allum - Union President

Operations

Union Strategy

As reported in my previous Council paper, we are currently working on the new Union strategy. We will be holding a large consultation session over 21st to 23rd March, to gather views and feedback on our three work streams; Advice, Advocacy and Action, Our People, and Diversity.

Evelyn Gardens

The refurbishment of Evelyn Gardens is currently underway, ready for re-opening in September 2016. Both Jennie and I have been in discussions regarding the provisions with the new private residences. We can confirm that there will be 250 rooms available on a 51-week contract, starting at £182pw. The residences will have 24-hour security, residence assistants and cleaning of communal areas.

MD interviews

We have just completed our search and recruitment of the new Managing Director. I was part of the entire process, from start to finish. This included first and second rounds of longlisting, primary interviews, shortlisting and the final interviews which took place last week.

White City

As White City plans are underway, the College want us students to have a say in what we would like to be provided and available at the new campus. I have spoken with the team behind the White City plans and put forward ideas regarding the Union presence on the campus. Most decisions will be made next academic year, with the new Officer Trustee team in place.

Gender Equality and Institutional Culture Steering Group

The commissioned research to investigate gender equality and institutional culture is about to reach the next phase, which is in the form of an action enquiry. This will aim to discuss the themes that have arisen from the data they have collected.

Extras

- Cyin and I met with representatives from Hong Kong University, to discuss our partnerships with International Universities.
- Ben, Jennie, Cyin and I were involved in an away day at Silwood Park to discuss the College's long-term (30/40 year) strategy.
- As part of the Leadership Elections, I've taken a lot of time to talk to candidates who are running for the position of Union President, whilst also working hard to encourage those 'sitting on the fence'. I'm delighted so many people have stood for the position, and that there is a strong field of candidates.
- I judged and attended the Volunteer Dinner, which took place last week. It was a fantastically run event and offered the chance for the volunteering societies to be rewarded for all their efforts.
- Chris and I spent some time visit Silwood Park and the Silwood Exec team.

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Objectives

Housing – “Tackle the issue of finding quality, affordable housing in London”

It was great to discuss mine and Jennie’s Citizens UK paper at the last lunchtime Council session. I’m pleased that the feedback was generally very positive and I hope to propose a vote for membership at the next Council meeting.

I’ve successfully started a partnership with the landlord and property accreditation website Move’m. I’m really excited to have this up and running, and hopefully it will be well received by the student body. To find out more about how the website works and how you can benefit and/or help others, please follow the link

<https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/news/grab-yourself-£5-amazon-voucher-4>. If you review a house you’ve lived in within the past 5 years, you will get a £5 Amazon Voucher!

Jennie and I have been involved in the organisation and delivery of the Private Housing Evening with The Student Hub. We will be speaking at the talks on 7th March, so unfortunately we will be missing some parts of Council.

CSPs – “Deliver new income streams for our Clubs, Societies and Projects”

Ben and I will be discussing our sponsorship training ideas this coming week.

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

I held an app focus group on 25th February, to discuss ideas raised in the survey I sent out last term. We also talked about new ideas and priorities for the development of particular App features. The next step will be to meet with some of our app development societies, to discuss the project going forward and initial steps in making the App.

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”

The Women@Imperial Week is taking place this coming week (7th-11th March). I’ve been involved in the planning group for all the events of the week. I have been able to ensure increased student involvement in the week, including our female students (UG and PG) demonstrating at the Evening Celebration on International Women’s Day, as well as student society entertainment throughout the evening. We will also be hosting a special cocktail night in Metric, straight after College’s event, to celebrate women at Imperial. Other events include the Imperial College Women in Business Society’s ‘Women in Innovation’ panel discussion and networking session on 9th March; as well as an Outreach event for local school girls on the 11th March, involving some of our fantastic student volunteers.

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

I have been working with the OSC committee to organise a ‘Celebration of Culture’ evening. This has since been merged with iNight, but with the aim to make it a much larger event, including other ideas as per both mine and Sautrik’s (International Liberation Officer) manifesto. We were hoping for this event to take place in the last week of this term; however, organisation has been more difficult than anticipated, so we will be postponing to later in the summer term.