

## **Deputy President Welfare, Closing Report 2017**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Trustee Board for their contributions and support throughout the year.

My time as Deputy President Welfare has been turbulent in terms of my health and personal life, exacerbated by a prolonged period of severe illness between February and April. Nevertheless, I feel privileged to have worked as Deputy President Welfare over the past year and hope that my work helps to better the lives of future students. This year has been an exciting and busy year, which I hope has laid the foundations for greater institutional change at Imperial for years to come. Notably, I am excited by the success of work to place welfare at the centre of the Union's strategy, placing equal parity on the work of welfare-related volunteers to that of volunteers in clubs and societies. A key part of this parity is the creation of a supportive and functional framework for Liberation and Welfare Officers, the forthcoming Wellbeing Representatives, and student led campaigns, which will come into effect in new academic year. My vision is for people to think of welfare, wellbeing and campaigns when discussing Imperial College Union, not just CSPs and Beit Bars. I believe that the work done this year will act as a catalyst for this shift in attitude and reputation. Moreover, I have built relationships with key people in College to ensure that student wellbeing is being placed at the core of College's agenda and continues to remain there. I have acted to work with and influence College, as opposed to attempting to battle against them. This has been largely well received and effective; however, I have opposed and contested a number of decisions when necessary. For example, I actively lobbied against the proposed disciplinary procedure, which failed to follow guidance set by UUK. This procedure has been reviewed, and subsequently passed through Senate, so that it now follows guidance laid out by the Union and UUK. Coming into the role of DPW, I was unaware of how challenging the role would be and in retrospect; my manifesto was overly long and ambitious. However, I remain disappointed that I have been unable to fully deliver my manifesto. Notwithstanding this, I am hopeful that my successor, Fintan O'Connor, will continue working on the projects that could not be finished this year.

Emily-Jane, Deputy President (Welfare)



## Year summary

Project	Actions taken
Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consent Matters Trial underway</li> <li>• Catalyst project funding from HEFCE awarded</li> <li>• 2/6 sexual violence liaison officers trained</li> <li>• Active bystander training under development</li> <li>• Consulted with Rape Crisis who have agreed to develop and deliver training on handling disclosure</li> <li>• Safe space posters put up in Beit Bars</li> <li>• Helped to develop sexual violence guidance for the student space</li> <li>• Lobbied for changes to the disciplinary process to ensure that it protects the victims of student on student misconduct. This is a crucial part of tackling sexual violence at Imperial</li> <li>• Ask for Angela campaign to be implemented in Beit Bars</li> </ul>
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health First Aid training (lite) delivered to volunteers by request</li> <li>• Full Mental Health First Aid training delivered to Wardens</li> <li>• Agreed that mental health first aid training will be embedded into training for key volunteers from now on</li> <li>• Lobbying for emergency numbers to be printed on the back of College ID cards, implementation on this is dependent on updating the swipe card system</li> <li>• Crisis coasters designed and will be ready to put in Halls for the 2017/2018 year</li> <li>• Stress less, reimagined to become Under Pressure. Delivered twice this year</li> <li>• Spoken at wellbeing roadshow talks</li> <li>• Worked with Imperial College Health Centre to raise awareness of eating disorders</li> <li>• Lobbied Imperial College Health Centre to send text message reminders for mental health/medication reviews</li> <li>• Reviewed and edited the Mental Health Protocol</li> <li>• Reviewed self-harm and eating disorder pages on the student space</li> <li>• Supported Counselling with Mental Health Awareness Week</li> <li>• Written a number of articles in Felix regarding mental health</li> <li>• Worked with the Student Development team on the do good, feel good initiative to secure opportunities to volunteer with animals.</li> <li>• Lobbied College to provide support to those struggling with drug and alcohol abuse</li> <li>• Distribution of CALM materials</li> <li>• Lobbied for better training for personal tutors and senior tutors</li> <li>• Sat on the interview panel for Counselling and Mental Health Advisory Service</li> </ul>

<p>Interruption of studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working to introduce a IOS buddy scheme for the upcoming year</li> <li>• Lobbying College to provide better support and guidance for people on IOS, including two sided learning agreement and stay-well plans</li> <li>• Working with James Cox to allow students on IOS to participate in Union activities</li> <li>• Ensuring that the student support fund remains available to students on IOS.</li> </ul>
<p>Raising the profile of welfare/wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing 'For your support' in the Imperial College Union strategy</li> <li>• Lobbying for personal tutors to be split into academic and pastoral tutors</li> <li>• Engaged in review of current support structures, leading to plans for wholesale change over the next few years. For example, College Tutors to be replaced with Faculty Senior Tutors and splitting responsibility for discipline and pastoral issues to avoid conflict of interests</li> <li>• Introduction of Wellbeing Reps</li> <li>• Creation and hiring of a Campaigns and Wellbeing Co-ordinator</li> <li>• Lobbying for inclusive teaching to aid students with disabilities and those whose native language is not English.</li> <li>• Lobbying for College wide use of panopto to better support students keep up with their studies if they cannot attend College for health or personal reasons</li> <li>• the forthcoming wellbeing representatives</li> <li>• Lobbying for a heavier focus on reasonable adjustments as opposed to submitting mitigating circumstances forms for students with long term health problems</li> <li>• Promotion of the Advice Centre, with the ask advice stalls throughout the year</li> <li>• Writing and sourcing materials to put in fresher bed packs regarding drugs, alcohol and safe sex in 2017/2018</li> <li>• Offering space to external companies and charities, that have relevance to welfare, for Fresher's Fair 2017</li> <li>• Planning a welfare stand for Fresher's Fair 2017</li> <li>• Ensured Fresher's talks made students aware that they can register at a GP that isn't ICHC as the ICHC has long waiting times</li> <li>• Sitting on the interview panel for the new role, Director of Student Services and co-ordinating a student panel</li> </ul>
<p><b>Finance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbied for increased promotion of the Student Support Fund and clearer guidance for eligibility, which was received well by student financial support services</li> <li>• Lobbied for students in the 2015 cohort to receive a fairer amount of Imperial Bursary, in line with the 2016 cohort</li> <li>• Lobbied for students in middle income bands to receive more Imperial bursary where parental contribution cannot</li> </ul>

	<p>be made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobbied for more factors to be considered when assessing eligibility for the Imperial Bursary. For example, number of siblings</li> <li>• Lobbied for students not otherwise eligible for the Imperial Bursary to receive it if they can prove they are not receiving a parental contribution</li> <li>• Writing a finance survey for all students to aid with lobbying. Due to illness, this survey will be opened next academic year.</li> <li>• Reviewed details in the rent guarantor scheme and ensured it was fit for purpose before being finalised</li> <li>• Secured free trial of Black Bullion to be trialled in October</li> <li>• Helped to write the Advice Centre money guide</li> <li>• Supported the Advice Centre's finance stall at Fresher's Fair</li> <li>• Lobbied Student Financial Support to provide education and clear guidance about student finance repayments</li> </ul>
<b>Campaigns and Liberation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing campaigns training and structure, with the aid of Sky Yarlett, Andrew Tranter, Fran Hyatt and Nas</li> <li>• Commissioning an independent review Liberation structures to engender improvement</li> <li>• Developing clear and coherent training and support for volunteers, commencing in the 2017/2018 year based on recommendations in Community and Welfare Board</li> </ul>

**Actions to be carried out before the end of the year:**

- Complete finance survey to be handed to incoming DPW to promote in the new year
- Continue work on Wellbeing Reps
- Continue work on the catalyst fund
- Continue to hold College to account regarding interruption of studies
- Speak to Dan Green about providing free condoms in the toilets/bars as opposed to the Union Reception, which requires key card access after 18:00
- Sit on a panel for Counselling Service interviews
- Write a blog post about the challenges of working with disability/chronic illness, to promote awareness of and a positive attitude toward disability in College