

Report to Council

Luke McCrone, Deputy President (Education)

Introduction

Since the last Council meeting, I have been predominantly away travelling on work-related trips with insightful findings and experiences to report. I will intend on providing a verbal update on all of the things I recorded in my previous report, especially because of my absence at the previous meeting.

LKC Medical School Review, Singapore

- Lee Kong Chian Medical school is the result of a joint partnership between Imperial College and Nanyang Technological University. I was away in Singapore from 21st – 26th October. I was accompanied by a panel of staff, including Simone Buitendijk (Vice-Provost Education). The aim of the visit was to review the quality of educational practise at the school (this was the second stage of that review process). My role specifically was to gain a sense of the level of student satisfaction and to evaluate the effectiveness of the student engagement mechanisms in place.
 - The panel on the whole were impressed with the pedagogical approaches, facilities and student wellbeing levels. The school were therefore successful in being approved to continue standard operation under the condition that they took on board a series of recommendations provided by the panel.
 - One of my key suggestions was that the school (as a partnership between Imperial and NTU) should work at strengthening links with the NTU Student Union in order to reinforce representation and support networks which exist for LKC students.
 - Examples of best practise were observed during the visit; these include Team Based Learning, Studio learning and the establishment of student house systems. I will personally endeavour to explore how these best practises may be transferrable to Imperial College London and therefore potentially embed them in aspects of the Education Strategy.

Transforming STEM Higher Education conference, Boston

- Nas and I were invited by Simone, along with three College academics (Andrew Phillips, Christopher John and Anita Hall), to a conference on the East Coast of the US. The conference proved to be incredibly fruitful offering many different perspectives on STEM education.
 - The team are yet to consolidate our overarching findings so I am therefore hesitant to state too much at this stage.
 - Imperial are ahead in many aspects, including with the adoption of the *students as partners* approach and with the strength of the academic rep network/Union. Empowering students as agents of change is a less accepted concept in the US and is therefore something we should continue to proudly embrace.
 - There was much to learn from a pedagogic and curriculum standpoint. Many US institutions, including North Carolina State university, have a strong Educational Research base and this is perhaps an area of research which Imperial should begin making available to students?

Education strategy

Council
8th November 2016

- The Education Strategy has continued to gather momentum and I am pleased to report that we are now approaching a stage where students are being consulted and involved in the process. Simone, Nas and I worked closely with Communications recently to create a video which introduced the Education Strategy. College have now uploaded the Education Strategy consultation survey online. I have assisted in advertising this website link to Reps and general students.
 - I look forward to hopefully embedding many of the findings from my trips away into the strategy; I also welcome discussions around this with Reps and students in due course.

Feedback Traffic Light system

- I met with Phil Power and Rebecca Middleton (Engineering and FoNS faculty staff respectively) who provided me with an update on using this system in departments across each faculty.
 - I was then encouraged to speak with IT members who are attempting to find a technological alternative to the system used in Life Sciences. We are now going to explore the prospect of using an alternate software to Blackboard which isn't able to achieve what we want; Google Analytics is a potential contender for that software.
 - We are hoping to maintain momentum with this so that a software platform would be available for all departments to use in the next few months – it seems this may be a vital shorter-term contribution to improving feedback satisfaction in College.

Academic Representation Network

- Sky and Nayab have done an outstanding job of delivering and evolving foundational Rep training sessions to both Undergraduate and Postgraduate Reps. I am eager to deliver my first session (having been away) in the coming days.
 - The Graduate School have offered to provide their own training programme to PG Reps which can be taken for credit; we are going to look at incorporating this into the wider training programme.