

Luke McCrone, Deputy President (Education)

Education continues to be a fantastically dynamic and exciting topic at Imperial College; the Union have continued to feed into various impactful educational initiatives led by both students and College. Progress has been made with ongoing projects since the last Council meeting in February which have gained significant momentum.

Once again, if anyone has any questions or comments regarding education generally or the content of this report then be sure to get in touch at dpe@ic.ac.uk.

SACAs update

The 5th year of the Student Academic Choice Awards has proven to be historic thus far. This year we managed to break the record number of nominations reaching 831 nominations, an outcome we are incredibly proud of. Nonetheless, I must emphasise that there is always room for improvement – having opened up the opportunity to nominate for recent alumni members for the first time this year, I predict for this nomination trajectory to exponentially increase in future years. It can only follow that direction with your support as students.

We are currently in the stage of shortlisting the submitted nominations for each category. As a student-led initiative, the shortlisting panels have consisted strictly of student volunteers and have been chaired by sabbatical officers. My team have recently ordered newly designed SACAs mugs that will be distributed to all academics that were nominated. I will be presenting about the importance of SACAs next Tuesday at HoDS lunch. The eventual awards ceremony will take place on 15th May.

Anyone who nominated a staff member that has been shortlisted and who are interested in being filmed for promotional purposes then please let me know.

Feedback Traffic Light system update

This project was initially intended and endorsed as the development of a College-wide technological system which would allow departments to monitor feedback timeliness in the same way as Life Sciences have. Through conversations with various faculty members and eLearning technologists in determining the functionality of this system, the emphasis has been shifted from striving for a technological system to striving for a process. The stark reality is that many departments do not have departmental oversight of feedback return rates and are consequently unable to act upon late feedback instances. This is the problem we are ultimately looking to address, whatever the eventual approach.

I have been chasing individual faculties to track their progress in adopting the Traffic Light approach with, expectedly, varying degrees of progress reported. Alongside this, a team of members from all faculties has naturally formed in more broadly overseeing and developing the project.

Learning and Teaching strategy update

The first draft of the Learning and Teaching strategy has appeared before various committees receiving varying levels of scrutiny; this has allowed the team to refine the document content in response to this feedback. The Union have input continued feedback throughout the authoring process to guide and shape various areas. We have recently submitted a conclusive set of formal, coherent feedback comments which focussed primarily on the way students are framed in the document. Similar to the Union's involvement with the TEF submission our feedback will also guide whether things have been stated representatively of the student experience.

Alongside this feedback we are looking to convey that the majority of Senior Reps are in support of the strategy's main aims as part of an addendum to the eventual document.

Higher Education funding policy working group

The working group have met once thus far to discuss the next steps in compiling an updated Higher Education funding policy for Imperial College Union. The group decided that the policy should be divided into two parts, one of which embodies an idealistic attitude to higher education funding and which is principled around a longer term vision; the second of which is more pragmatic and in line with the current legislative and political environment, taking into account factors such as TEF. The group also agreed that this policy, as with the last one, should be informed by consultation with students. This consultation approach will broadly mirror aspects of the last consultation with a greater exploration of attitudes to financial support for students and the usage of College money.

Nas, the education team and I have begun making progress in determining the content of the consultation questions which will be circulated to the working group in due course ahead of it being received by students.

Provisional marks policy change

Following conversations with faculties, students and the Union, the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee decided to amend policy so that all taught programmes should release provisional percentages to students for exams and coursework. I wanted to include this as an update because this is something Reps have desired for a long time.

Education Day 2017 debrief

I was thoroughly delighted to have had the opportunity to present on the 'Student perception of innovation' at Education Day 2017. The day was generally a success with an impressive turnout of academics. The Union were complimented on relishing the opportunity to have the student voice heard in an important conversation, a conversation of which concluded that working with students in partnership when making change and innovating is far superior to any other approach.

For anyone interested, the panopto recording of the day will be online in due course.

Election results

I would like to congratulate everyone who was elected into positions this year, particularly Nick Burstow who will luckily succeed me in this position. I also received good news in the form of being elected as GSU President, a position which I look forward to.