

Union Council  
13<sup>th</sup> February 2017

## **Luke McCrone, Deputy President (Education)**

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The Union continue to pursue a number of important and impactful educational projects through work with the Academic Rep Network, College members and students. My primary aim is to ensure that loose ends are tied off with many of the projects I originally stated in my manifesto when running for this role. Alongside this, there are a number of exciting happenings which I wish to bring to the attention of Union Council.

If you have any questions about anything inside or outside of this report, feel free to get in touch [dpe@ic.ac.uk](mailto:dpe@ic.ac.uk). Your thoughts/questions are always welcome.

### **SACAs 2017**

The Student Academic Choice Awards (SACAs) nominations have been open and close soon on the 26<sup>th</sup> February. With SACAs now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, we are looking to beat the record number of nominations. In order for this to happen, we need the backing and influence of Council members to bolster our efforts to ensure as many students receive the opportunity to nominate special staff as possible.

Unbeknown to me before this year, the SACAs plays a crucial role in the celebration of staff excellence at Imperial. In the same way students are praised on excellent work the SACAs looks to recognise and reward those that work hard to provide exceptional teaching, academic support, supervision and/or tutoring.

As a Union initiative, the SACAs is only meaningful with the participation and enthusiasm of students. Help us to promote the recognition of excellence and have your voice(s) heard in an important conversation. Please find out more below:

<https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/sacas/student-academic-choice-awards>

### **Rep Conference 2017**

The Education team and I have recently worked hard at organising a conference designed to accommodate Academic Reps to explore the topic of *Agents of Change: The role of students in Higher Education*. The event will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2017 (13:00-17:00) comprising speeches from myself *et al.*, interactive breakout workshops and refreshments.

One of the breakout sessions – *Innovating change* – will look to gather research which will go on to be presented by myself at the EDU's Education Day this year. The other two breakout sessions will be based around *Toolkit for change* and *Collective action*.

Reps are required to register online if they wish to attend:

<https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/rep-conference/rep-conference-2017/registration-form>

### **Rep mid-year catch-ups**

This year I have introduced mid-year catch-ups for Dep Reps and Academic Affairs Officers to have the opportunity to meet with Nayab (Representation Coordinator) and I. These meetings serve for Reps to tell us about some of the great things they are doing in their roles and for the session to act as a reflective exercise for the individuals in attendance; they have also been useful for myself and therefore the central Union to magnify issues at a departmental level to better recognise the differing support needed for each Rep cohort.

This is a small yet effective effort which I hope my successor will take forward.

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### **Feedback Traffic Light system**

I am in the process of exploring who has ownership over this project in College. What is promising is that I have heard cases of departments in all faculties taking the initiative to implement this system as an adoption of best practise; it can be inferred that the motivation is there in many cases.

The current missing ingredient is that no team or individual are giving departments, learning technology teams and IT the mandate to move ahead. I will be raising this issue with Simone in the coming days.

### **Higher Education Green and White paper research**

Fellow Sabbs, students and I will be participating in a Critical Analysis of the Higher Education Green and White Papers (2015-2016) led by Dr Rille Raaper research from Durham university. The purpose of the study is to analyse the ways in which student unions perceive student representation in the UK Government's higher education Green Paper (2015) and White Paper (2016) and how they engaged with the policy consultation such as the Green Paper.

The research data will be acquired via a focus group interview. I am personally excited at the opportunity of a diverse group of Imperial students to express their opinions about an important topic which our Union members have recently been heavily involved and concerned with.