

Union Council  
16<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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

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The Union's involvement in all aspects of education at Imperial College continues to be instrumental. The work of students, Reps, elected officers and Union staff members continually contributes to sustaining our position as a key player in the education arena; I take this opportunity to thank those individuals for their work.

If there are any questions or comments regarding this report or other aspects of my work then please contact me at [dpe@ic.ac.uk](mailto:dpe@ic.ac.uk)

### **Feedback Traffic Light policy addendum**

This project has gathered considerable traction as the development of the process nears a stage where it is implementable across the institution. I recently drafted an addendum piece to the main *Academic Feedback to Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Students* policy which was initially circulated to departmental members across all faculties to seek feedback. The draft was then reviewed by Registry members to ensure the policy was viable according to College standards. The standing version will be discussed and hopefully approved at the next Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QAEC) on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.

I believe the Union's involvement in not only scrutinising existing College policy but also producing it is an incredibly impactful activity which we should strive to continue doing for students in future.

### **Silwood Park visit**

I visited Silwood Park campus on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May to attend a Masters Student Staff Consultative (SSC) meeting. The issues raised by students were expectedly different to the issues facing masters students based in South Kensington. The Union are currently reviewing its provisions not only at Silwood but also on other non-SK campuses; the feedback we have gathered thus far from that exercise aligns closely with the feedback stated by students at my recent meeting. This has allowed us to begin establishing a coherent set of needs and wants for students studying at Silwood, including the potential expansion of transport services to and from South Kensington.

### **Learning and Teaching strategy update**

The strategy has now been reviewed several times by faculty members who appear to be broadly in support of its intentions. The key milestones to anticipate include the review of the document at the upcoming Senate meeting and the eventual discussion of the financial implications of the strategy at College Council in July.

The Union are confident that the strategy will receive the financial backing it deserves and are consequently excited by the level of education innovation which it will inevitably lead to.

### **Higher Education funding policy working group**

The group have communicated via email since the initial in-person meeting. Nas and I drafted a set of principles and consultation questions which were circulated to the group for feedback. I am in the process of justifying suggested modifications, many of which have been very helpful in guiding the direction of our activity. I thank those members who engaged in providing feedback. The control of TEF over fees will now commence in 2020 until which point institutions participating in the framework can raise fees in line with inflation.

Once consultation questions have been finalised in the coming weeks, we will look to compile a Qualtrics survey which will be sent out to all students. The data retrieved from this will be used to

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inform our stance for the next 3 years on different aspects of Higher Education funding, including the marketisation principle, financial support and the TEF itself.

### **National Student Survey research**

I will be collaborating with a member of the EDU and a member of Medicine to hold a focus group as part of a research project which will look to study the student perception of the NSS. This focus group will comprise final year Medics and Biomedics that have recently taken the survey. The ultimate aim is to better understand what students think about the survey itself and how that can or cannot influence how they respond. This will be a complementary form of research to the work we did earlier in the year as part of our annual NSS Response.

### **DepSocs**

James Cox, Nas and I are currently exploring how DepSocs can be used to build communities in departments. This review includes the support DepSocs currently receive as well as the approach different DepSocs take to building social community. Part of this work is also exploring how these societies can foster postgraduate community.

### **SACAs ceremony**

Ahead of the ceremony on 15<sup>th</sup> May, I want to thank the students that submitted nominations, the students that partook in the shortlisting panels and the staff who have coordinated the video filming, mug distribution and the event itself. As I write this report, I very much look forward to a special evening on Monday.