

Deputy President Welfare, Closing Report 2017

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of council for their contributions and hard work throughout the year. The challenge and debate at council has enabled me to grow and develop as an officer and a person.

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 my lobbying to place student 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 is now under review and is likely to be in line with the Union and UUK's guidance when finalised and approved by Senate.

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 and feel it necessary to offer an apology. Notwithstanding this, I am hopeful that my successor, Fintan O'Connor, will continue working on the projects that could not be finished this year.

This year has been a turbulent year for me 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. I am disappointed that due to healthcare commitments I am unable to attend the final meeting of Council, however feel free to email me with any queries you have. Finally, as somebody who lives with chronic mental illness and its many side effects I want to implore the students of Imperial to get engaged regardless of the difficulties they face: disability, mental illness and adversity do not have to prohibit you from making a difference in the world, or chasing your dreams.



Emily-Jane, Deputy President (Welfare)

Actions since last council:

- I have continued work on the Wellbeing Rep Network, producing a role description to be discussed in the next working group.
- I have continued working on the content of the Active Bystander training, which will be delivered to hall seniors and bar staff as part of the catalyst fund.
- Along with Fran Hyatt, I have begun work on sourcing facilitators for active bystander training.
- I have met with Rape Crisis (along with College) to move forward with the development of institutional wide training for handling disclosure of sexual violence
- I attended Disability Action Committee along with next year's disabilities officer
- I have met with David Ashton (Academic Registrar) to chase up the work around interruption of studies. Work will be continued by College and I will receive an update in 3 weeks time.
- I am working with Systems to incorporate an option to support students returning from interruption of studies into the sign up for 'Mums and Dads'
- I have worked with James Cox to improve the interest options used to allocate fresher's to their mums and dads
- I have lobbied for mums and dads events to have better guidance to ensure that they are inclusive for all. James Cox will be carrying this forward.
- I have written and sourced materials to be put into the Fresher's boxes in Halls. These include 'a fresher's guide to safe sex,' which outlines where you can get advice, contraception and sexual health check ups local to all of the halls, and Talk to Frank 'The truth about drugs.'
- I have designed crisis coasters, printed with helpful and emergency numbers, which will be produced by College and placed in rooms in halls
- I have lobbied for a clear guide to student finance repayments on the College website and for the Student Financial Support team to deliver talks about repayments to final year students in the next academic year
- I have continued to work with Fran Hyatt on the development of a training and support package for incoming Wellbeing Reps, Liberation and Welfare Officers.
- I have sat on the panel of a number of Assistant Warden and Sub Warden interviews.
- I have continued to lobby for the change disciplinary procedures. I am hopeful that this lobbying has been successful; however, the procedures must be approved by Senate.
- I have reviewed the Supervisors guide to pastoral care
- I have attended Student Support and Wellbeing Committee, in which I lobbied for changes to the alcohol and drugs policy to create a shift from punitive measures to providing support and advice for people who may be struggling with addiction, drug use or peer pressure.
- I have worked with Jarlath O'Hara, Fran Hyatt and Andrew Keenan to seek an external review of our Liberation Network to enable us to improve the support we offer to and increase the impact of Liberation Officers.
- I am working with Laura Regan to bring in external welfare charities to Fresher's Fair, for example Brook Sexual Health. We have also been working to plan a high profile wellbeing stall at Fresher's Fair

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
- Contact Black Bullion to claim our free trial to pilot in October
- 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 (Beit Bar Manager) to suggest the implementation of the Ask for Angela Campaign
- 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

Year summary

Project	Actions taken
Sexual Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent Matters Trial underway • Catalyst project funding from HEFCE awarded • 2/6 sexual violence liaison officers trained • Active bystander training under development • Consulted with Rape Crisis who have agreed to develop and deliver training on handling disclosure • Safe space posters put up in Beit Bars • Helped to develop sexual violence guidance for the student space • 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
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health First Aid training (lite) delivered to volunteers by request • Full Mental Health First Aid training delivered to Wardens • Agreed that mental health first aid training will be embedded into training for key volunteers from now on • 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 • Crisis coasters designed and will be ready to put in Halls for the 2017/2018 year • Stress less, reimagined to become Under Pressure. Delivered twice this year • Spoken at wellbeing roadshow talks • Worked with Imperial College Health Centre to raise awareness of eating disorders • Lobbied Imperial College Health Centre to send text message reminders for mental health/medication reviews • Reviewed and edited the Mental Health Protocol

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed self-harm and eating disorder pages on the student space • Supported Counselling with Mental Health Awareness Week • Written a number of articles in Felix regarding mental health • Worked with the Student Development team on the do good, feel good initiative to secure opportunities to volunteer with animals. • Lobbied College to provide support to those struggling with drug and alcohol abuse • Distribution of CALM materials • Lobbied for better training for personal tutors and senior tutors • Sat on the interview panel for Counselling and Mental Health Advisory Service
<p>Interruption of studies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to introduce a IOS buddy scheme for the upcoming year • Lobbying College to provide better support and guidance for people on IOS, including two sided learning agreement and stay-well plans • Working with James Cox to allow students on IOS to participate in Union activities • Ensuring that the student support fund remains available to students on IOS.
<p>Raising the profile of welfare/wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing 'For your support' in the Imperial College Union strategy • Lobbying for personal tutors to be split into academic and pastoral tutors • 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 • Introduction of Wellbeing Reps • Creation and hiring of a Campaigns and Wellbeing Co-ordinator • Lobbying for inclusive teaching to aid students with disabilities and those whose native language is not English. • 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 • the forthcoming wellbeing representatives • Lobbying for a heavier focus on reasonable adjustments as opposed to submitting mitigating circumstances forms for students with long term health problems • Promotion of the Advice Centre, with the ask advice stalls throughout the year • Writing and sourcing materials to put in fresher bed packs regarding drugs, alcohol and safe sex in 2017/2018 • Offering space to external companies and charities, that

	<p>have relevance to welfare, for Fresher's Fair 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning a welfare stand for Fresher's Fair 2017 • 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 • Sitting on the interview panel for the new role, Director of Student Services and co-ordinating a student panel
<p>Finance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobbied for increased promotion of the Student Support Fund and clearer guidance for eligibility, which was received well by student financial support services • Lobbied for students in the 2015 cohort to receive a fairer amount of Imperial Bursary, in line with the 2016 cohort • Lobbied for students in middle income bands to receive more Imperial bursary where parental contribution cannot be made • Lobbied for more factors to be considered when assessing eligibility for the Imperial Bursary. For example, number of siblings • Lobbied for students not otherwise eligible for the Imperial Bursary to receive it if they can prove they are not receiving a parental contribution • Writing a finance survey for all students to aid with lobbying. Due to illness, this survey will be opened next academic year. • Reviewed details in the rent guarantor scheme and ensured it was fit for purpose before being finalised • Secured free trial of Black Bullion to be trialed in October • Helped to write the Advice Centre money guide • Supported the Advice Centre's finance stall at Fresher's Fair • Lobbied Student Financial Support to provide education and clear guidance about student finance repayments
<p>Campaigns and Liberation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing campaigns training and structure, with the aid of Sky Yarlett, Andrew Tranter, Fran Hyatt and Nas • Commissioning an independent review Liberation structures to engender improvement • Developing clear and coherent training and support for volunteers, commencing in the 2017/2018 year based on recommendations in Community and Welfare Board