

## Imperial College Union Council Report

Fintan O'Connor, Deputy President (Welfare)

### Goals

#### Wellbeing Strategy

We have been working closely with the Director of Student Support as she has written, from our partnership, a strategy for student support. This will ask for new measures and services for students over the coming years.

In the last month, the President and I arranged meetings with all of the [Provost's Board](#)'s<sup>1</sup> members to discuss the challenges our students are facing, and impress upon them the importance of improving the support available for students at Imperial.

The strategy will be proposed at the Provost's Board this Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are optimistic that it will be approved, and that our work will start a new era for student support. The Union will continue to fight for the support and services students deserve.

#### Liberation Review

For the first time ever, liberation officers' handover will begin from this week, with an induction session to better support them for their term of office from August 1. We will continue to work with the College on a communication plan for the work of the liberation officers, and the liberation review.

Separately, a concerned postgraduate research student contacted me regarding instances of discrimination. We are putting together a plan to ask the College to implement anti-discrimination training as part of the induction for all new undergraduates.

### Operations

#### Counselling Waiting Times

I was contacted by the Mental Health Liberation Officer, who had received concerns that the waiting times for counselling were excessively long. The issue was also discussed this at the Community and Welfare Board (CWB). While the current planning seeks to improve this in the future, the Union will be working to lobby the College to reduce the potential impact to students in the short-term, to the end of the current academic year.

#### Rent Guarantor Scheme

I was contacted by the ICSMSU Welfare Officer to revive the work of Jennie Watson (DPW, 2015-16), who successfully lobbied the College to introduce a rent guarantor scheme. This scheme is currently only offered to students whose home address is not in the UK. We will aim to emulate the scheme offered at UCL, which applies to any student who needs it.

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<sup>1</sup> The Provost's Board is responsible for the delivery of the College's core academic mission: education, research and translation. This includes ... student life and well-being. It also has responsibility for delegated budgets and their financial control.

### Proposed Changes to Student Policies

Registry are making changes to four policies: Academic Misconduct (formerly the *Cheating* policy), Academic Complaints, Student Complaints, and Mitigating Circumstances. I have made comments and stood our ground for the students; the Advice Centre and Faculty Education Committees have asked for similar changes to make the new policies as fair as possible for students. These policies are draft, and not for wider circulation, but I will continue to report on the progress of the policies.

As always, I am available in person and via email for any questions you may have on my report or the Union's work.

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