

Imperial College Union Council Report

Fintan O'Connor, Deputy President (Welfare)

Goals

Wellbeing Strategy

The President and I have continued to work for support for College-owned strategy, which shapes the way Imperial approaches student wellbeing. Hannah Bannister, Director of Student Services, is working with us on the project. I have presented the project to Simone Buitendijk, Vice Provost Education, with the aim of securing support from more of the College leadership in the coming weeks and months. Please refer to the President's report.

Wellbeing Representation Network

The WBRN continues to gain acceptance and standing across the College, with reps. The second Faculty-level Student Staff Committees for wellbeing will take place in the Faculties of Engineering and Natural Sciences this term. The Union has dedicated a lot of its Education and Welfare capacity to one-to-one meetings with every departmental rep team since their election, which has allowed us to consistently support our volunteers, and allow them to maximise their potential.

Liberation Review

Progress is being made on actions from the liberation review. Direct representation of liberation groups continues, with support from Imperial College Union. Four liberation officers met with Tom Welton, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, last term to discuss their work and priorities. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) forum is a new space to discuss representation and support at the College, led by the Assistant Provost (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion), which includes the President, Deputy President (Welfare), Managing Director, and a liberation officer as ex-officio members. The coming weeks will see the Union continue to complete the action plan devised from the review.

Operations

The weeks since the last Council have been particularly busy with miscellaneous projects and obligations. The following are a selection of the most noteworthy projects.

Union Recruitment

One of my last four working weeks has been dedicated to the hiring process for two members of Union staff. This is important, and ensures student leadership and transparency throughout the hiring process. I will be working to seek further administrative efficiencies in our processes.

HEFCE Consultation – Sexual Misconduct at Universities

As a student lead on the College's work to combat sexual violence and misconduct, I was interviewed as part of national research into sexual misconduct at universities.

First Year Student Wellbeing Talks

In collaboration with Rosie Summerhayes, Head of Student Counselling, I have been part of student wellbeing presentations to every single first year undergraduate year group. I will be working

NSS Response Recommendation 8

The Deputy President (Education) and I have been fighting for recommendation 8 of the Union's response to the NSS to gain acceptance in the College. Nick and I are continuing to challenge the College to improve its frontline staff's understanding of and capacity to deal with, students presenting with mental health difficulties.

Advice Centre – Communication and Research

The Student Voice and Communications Directorate and I are working with the Advice Centre to strengthen it and the offering it provides to students. The Advice Centre has achieved great success this year, seeing 25% more cases and gaining an external accreditation for professional best practice. We are seeking information to find out how we can further improve the service, and working with the College to get more information about how students appeals are progressing.

Gender Neutral Toilets

Working with the LGBT+ Officer and Estates, the meeting to request more gender-neutral facilities at the College has been pushed back, to Monday February 5th. While it is disappointing that Estates had to reschedule so far back on short notice, I have gained support from across the staff networks. Imperial 600 and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Centre (EDIC), as well as the Assistant Provost (EDI) are supporting us at the meeting.

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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