

Imperial College Union Council Report

Fintan O'Connor, Deputy President (Welfare)

Student Support Strategy

Consultation for the student support strategy will be taking place over the coming weeks. The College will host a webpage with a copy of the draft strategy, and a link to a survey, where students and staff can give feedback. The webpage is scheduled to go live on Friday 15th June. Laura Regan (Wellbeing and Campaigns Coordinator) and I are organising seven pop-up consultation stalls, taking place once daily June 18th – June 26th. Two will be at Reynolds, the others at South Kensington. We have contacted the constituent unions and liberation officers to ask to publicise the strategy consultation, and volunteer to run some of the consultation stalls. All volunteers or offers to share the link to the support strategy among your peers would be greatly appreciated. [Please see my latest blog](#) for more information.

Undergraduate Active Bystander Training

[Active Bystander training](#) empowers people to challenge poor behaviour and change communities' culture. To date, 1500 people (mostly staff, hall seniors, and Union bars staff) have attended the training. Imperial now intends to extend this training to "*every member of the community*" – including undergraduate students. This is a huge win which, within a few years, will change the culture at Imperial. I attended the pilot session, delivered to Earth Science and Engineering's first years, where it was well received.

Access and Participation Plan and Bursary

The College submitted its Access and Participation Plan to the Office for Students on April 30th. We have asked the College to include consult with Liberation and Community Officers, as well as the President and Deputy President (Welfare), on the plan and its delivery.

I am working to get the Union's Bursary Survey response published as soon as possible, though this is balanced with the urgent deadlines of the marketing and communications team.

I will be, for the final time in my tenure, asking the College to increase the bursary provision for those students in the 2015-entry cohort who, had they registered in 2014 or 2016, would receive more funding.

Sexual Violence Policies in Higher Education

The College has arranged for Katy Taylor, an independent expert, to review its policies for sexual misconduct. I have arranged for Daniel Wigh, who proposed the amendment to our disciplinary procedures, and Fred Fyles, to meet her, and have also invited our Liberation and Community Officers.

The services of Sexual Violence Liaison Officers (SVLOs), who are trained to support students at the point of a victim's first disclosure of sexual violence, will not be ready to be offered to students until they themselves have robust support and case management systems. These six volunteers are members of College staff, and have been trained as part of the HEFCE catalyst fund project. I am following up with the College, and hope that this will be in place by the start of the next academic year.

Thank You

I'd like to thank all of you for an excellent year of progress. You have each been incredible, both in your dedication and your work. It is invaluable to Imperial, and you should be extremely proud of yourselves. I certainly am.

Thank you for letting me serve you this academic year. I'm immensely grateful for the opportunity. It's been challenging, but life-changing, and I'm delighted to have spent it working with you and for you.