



Imperial College Union Board of Trustees

Wednesday 24th October 2018

AGENDA ITEM NO.	19
TITLE	DPW Report
AUTHOR	Becky Neil – Deputy President (Welfare)
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>A brief explanation of my goals for the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Liberation Reform- Widening Participation Audit- Student Support Strategy- Wellbeing Map- Welfare Volunteers <p>A description of the smaller tasks I have been involved in.</p>
PURPOSE	To inform and take advice from Board members of the work being undertaken.
DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED	No action required

Imperial College Union Board of Trustees Report

Becky Neil, Deputy President (Welfare)

Goals as Deputy President (Welfare)

I've produced five goals based on my manifesto, what I've found is important to me and the current situations for the university sector. I have written a brief explanation or summary of why the goals exist. This does not include everything I will be doing for the year but is where I will focus the majority of my time.

Goal 1

Reform our Liberation offering to build stronger communities that are listened to.

- Our Liberation and Community officers have not received enough support which impacts the support that these communities at Imperial feel from us. The officer's role is to build communities, run campaigns and lobby for change across Imperial. They have not been given the time, resources or energy so a reform of what they are offered and therefore their impact on underrepresented communities will be taking place this year.
- The aim is to represent everyone to the Union and the College in a more effective way and build a community that everyone feels a part of. This is in line with the College's EDI Strategy but provides a lot more for students than that strategy does.

Goal 2

Audit the Outreach activities run by ICU and Clubs & Socs to understand our Widening Participation Activities.

- This goal exists because the College is under a lot of pressure to increase and develop better widening participation activities. We already have some activities and they are better than what College does. The aim is to investigate what we do, make recommendations for College to improve and potentially look into funding opportunities for our Clubs & Socs that carry out these activities. We also aren't fully aware of all the activities that we do, so recommendations for how implementing a system that flags WP or liberation activities will be useful.

Goal 3

Finalise and implement the Student Support Strategy

- Consultation has closed and I am yet to receive the data as of writing, due to data protection restrictions, but I will be getting it soon. The strategy will be sent to the next Provost Board.
- I have a clearer vision of what the Union would like to do with this strategy, but I think an action plan for us would be helpful as College appear to be very slow about actually doing anything.

Goal 4

Produce a Wellbeing map outlining all wellbeing services across Imperial.

- I've identified the complex nature of the support services available to students in visual form! There needs to be a clearer way for students to know which service to go to and why they should go to a service.
- Currently the challenge is deciding the format of this map and then where it should be hosted/ who should be in charge of it.

Goal 5

Review the welfare-related work carried out by various volunteers across the organisation.

- We have many pockets of volunteers who work in a welfare capacity but we don't provide support or know what they are doing. I plan on investigating and implementing changes where necessary to support these volunteers or members in a more appropriate way.
- Currently the groups that have been identified are Mums and Dads (our buddy support network volunteers), bar staff and hall seniors.
- The relationship that the Union and Halls of Residence have has been identified as a rather big issue so I will investigate and present recommendations at some point this year.

Operational Achievements

Significant operational tasks I have completed are as follows:

- Helped the Disability Advisory Service to implement a scheme which gives students with disabilities who need to live in SK halls a subsidy to cover the difference between a non-SK and a SK hall.
- Produced a Drink Awareness Campaign around the theme 'Get Home Safe' for Welcome Week. It had some clear lessons but was also hugely successful in terms of engagement.
- Worked with College to purchase Assistive Technology which could be useful for all students and staff.
- Spoke to Senate about the Mitigating Circumstances policy and will be assisting Faculties with the implementation of this and be involved in the review process towards the end of the academic year.
- **CONFIDENTIAL:** Involved in interviewing for new counsellors, currently have one new counsellor starting soon have funding to increase this by 2 more 0.8 counsellors (4 days a week- standard contracts for counsellors) as soon as space for them is found. Firstly space wasn't available, but also due to the timing of recruitment diversity of applicants was low so only 1 was recruited. Recruitment will reopen when it is appropriate. I have submitted an application for funding for a space and the counselling service and Hannah Bannister is also looking for some space. College is well aware this is an issue and are trying to improve both the long and short terms.

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