Imperial College Union Council Report
Alejandro Luy, Deputy President (Education)

Introduction

We're 2 months into our term and as a team we've already made fantastic progress with our manifesto points, as well as other projects that we've picked up. Highlights from my area include the NSS and PTES responses both being completed in **record time** (Sound familiar?) and a strong start to the Academic Representation Network Review, which will improve the consistency and quality of both our UG and PG networks. See the new section *Items for Discussion* below where I'm asking for your input to inform my decision making.

Report on Progress

Goals as Deputy President (Education)

I've formed the five goals below based on my manifesto points and what I've realised is important to me and what will be most important to students this year. This is not an exhaustive list. Feel free to ask me about my other goals and initiatives that I will pursue throughout the year.

Goal 1 - Produce NSS and PTES Responses in record time and use them to drive for change

The NSS and PTES responses, written by the DPE and Education and Welfare team at the Union, are documents outlining recommended actions which departments, faculties and College as a whole can implement to improve the experience of their students. You can find them on the Union website at https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/your-representatives/responses

Progress so far:

- We produced the two responses both in **record time**!
- I've presented the responses at the College's Learning and Teaching Committee and several Faculty level committees and am disseminating the responses to departments.
- I'm starting to meet with departmental staff to help them produce bespoke action plans to address areas of the student experience where they need to improve.
- I'm planning on equipping the Academic Reps with these responses and the NSS data for their departments so that together we can keep the pressure on throughout the year, ensuring that departments stick to their action plans.
- I will also be meeting with senior College staff to discuss College-level actions.

Goal 2 - Conduct a Review of the UG and PG Academic Representation Network

The Academic Representation Network has grown organically over several years without a formal, comprehensive review. The UG network is running relatively smoothly and only requires adjustments to training and communication/documentation methods. The PG network is quite fragmented by comparison, with the majority of reps being elected offline. The purpose of this review is to map the entire network, and to improve training, support and communication.

Progress so far:

- We've met with nearly all departments at Imperial College to discuss the current status of both UG and PG student representation and to identify areas for improvement.

- We've brought over 60 rep roles which were previously elected "offline" - "online" to make the election of those roles more inclusive and democratic.
- We're also in the process of re-writing our induction training for Academic Reps.
- As part of the GSU revamp project, I'm working with Ute (GSU President) and Rob (ICU President) to find out how we can improve the communication and consistency within the PG Academic Rep Network.

Goal 3 - Spearhead student involvement in student-facing projects such as StudentShapers, Imperial Award and I-Explore

Student-facing projects require particular attention as they will directly impact the educational experience of our membership. You can find out more about these projects online.

Progress so far:

- I've been working closely with the StudentShapers team to finalise the structure of the scheme and plan appropriate communication strategies.
- I've been working closely with the I-Explore team from College to provide student input into what the scheme should look like. Student feedback into the scheme last year resulted in the modules being changed to "Pass/Fail" modules which do not count towards degree scores to allow students to focus less on their grade and more on engaging with the subject.

Goal 4 - Fight for improved feedback for students across Imperial

Feedback at Imperial has improved significantly in recent years but still has a long way to go before the quality and timeliness of feedback is sufficient to allow all students to reflect and improve.

Progress so far:

- I'm currently working with staff from various departments on the feasibility of making some exam scripts available for students to see and use to help them improve their technique.
- Following the Feedback Audit conducted by last year's DPE, I'm pushing departments who score below average in the *Assessment and Feedback* section of the NSS to implement feedback monitoring systems.

Goal 5 - Achieve over 2000 nominations in this year's Student Academic Choice Awards

Watch this space

Operational Achievements

None to note in addition to above.

Items for discussion

The purpose of this section is to provide Council with an explicit opportunity to discuss and inform future decisions made by the Officer Trustees.

Strategies to Improve PG engagement

As a Union, we have to focus on improving our PG engagement and representation – we are not properly catering to nearly half of our student body. Do you have any ideas on how we can improve? Please let me know.

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

dpeducation@imperial.ac.uk | @icu_dpe | 020 7594 5646 | IC ext: 45646