

# Imperial College Union Council Report

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## Introduction

We are two months into our roles now. The handover period was really informative and gave us time to develop useful skills. It's taken a little while to narrow down the goals for the year due to welfare being such a huge issue across the Union, University and sector, but there's already been great progress in some areas and successes as well. Highlights include a disabilities rent subsidy, the first liberation and community officer training day, a drink awareness campaign and running Mums and Dads.

## Report on Progress

### Goals as President

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. This does not include everything I will be doing for the year but I am open to suggestions and input about anything that I do.

#### Goal 1

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

- Opened a link for students to sign-up to receive updates from Liberation and Community officers, which will form mailing lists for the officers. While this was not initially marketed perfectly the mailing list is greatly appreciated by officers.
- First Liberation and Community officer training day to give the officers skills and knowledge for the year. Still need to review the feedback but a massive improvement on previous years where no training was offered.

Next steps: Develop liberation forums/socials

#### 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.
- No defined progress as of yet as the timing for Clubs and Socs isn't appropriate.

Next steps: Start talking to Clubs & Socs.

#### Goal 3

Finalise and implement the Student Support Strategy

- The consultation was increased until 28<sup>th</sup> September to allow more students and staff to feed into it. I haven't looked properly at the results but the brief overview suggest it's along the right line so will be heading to Provost Board for approval.

- Board has been discussing the role of the Union in this strategy as it is not defined and while not set in stone, the general feeling is that we should take parts that we will do better and just get on with it.

Next steps: Collate the feedback and adjust the strategy if necessary.

#### 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.
- The services have been outlined with everything they offer different students.

Next steps: Decide the format of the map and speak to services to check their information is correct.

#### Goal 5

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

- Mums and Dads was identified as the first group of volunteers who do not receive enough support. Individuals have agreed to a volunteer statement and taken a quiz when signing up. A platform for Dep Socs to share events was created and individual support for Dep Socs has been given and will continue.
- Hall senior and the relationship that the Union and Halls have has been identified as another issue but no work has yet been started.

Next steps: Review Mums & Dads and look into the relationship between the Union and Halls.

### Operational Achievements

Significant operational tasks I have completed over the summer period are as follows:

#### Task One

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. This is the first year of the scheme so I am anticipating teething problems but I will be involved in the review.

#### Task Two

Produced a drink awareness campaign around the theme 'Get Home Safe'. This got input from Dep Reps, CUs, LCOs and CSPs. The activities included bottles of water at Show your Colours Events, posters, social media posts, get home safe cards for first years, branded bottle openers and presence at Fresher's Ball and the Postgrad 00s vs 90s. Some CUs ran similar campaigns alongside. This will be evaluated soon.

#### Task Three

Worked with College to purchase assistive technology which could be useful for all students. These can be found in the software hub and on computers across campus.

## Items for discussion

This section has been included to allow council to feed into projects and discuss future decisions that the Officer Trustees will make

### Item One

Liberation forums/socials

- Our Liberation and Community officers have no platform to speak to their communities to find out what they would like changing or to socialise as a group. The Liberation and Community officers are involved in deciding what would work best. Currently small 'pizza-like' socials and a large event such as a Liberation Masquerade Ball have been suggested. Any suggestions are welcome, please email me or drop by the Union!

### Item Two

The format of the Wellbeing map.

- The support services across Imperial are extremely complicated and difficult to navigate. College is re-making the Student Space as this information hub makes no sense. I would like to produce a map, flow chart or search engine like page that would allow students to be given the service options available to them. Any suggestions for how this would work best or what type of system you would like to use, please email me or drop by the Union!

## Closing Comments

Please get in touch with any issues, ideas, problems and solutions. Your input is really important to me. 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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