

Imperial College Union Council Report

Becky Neil, Deputy President (Welfare)

Introduction

Highlights include Student Support Strategy Consultation results, working with College regarding the mitigating circumstances policy, training wellbeing reps and beginning the halls-union consultation.

Report on Progress

Goal 1 - Reform our Liberation offering to build stronger communities that are listened to.

- In the process of producing a list of key staff stakeholders across College who would benefit from involvement with Liberation and Community officers (LCO).
- Shout out to ACS and BME officer for great Black History Month Events.
- Liberation reform action plan has been produced and work is taking place to produce platforms that will support Liberation and community officers more.
- Liberation launch event is in planning stages. The final event at end of November/ start of December will be a video showing of different students in the Imperial community talking about themselves and who they are, followed by a networking session with each LCO having a stall with an activity or promotional material for a mailing list or an event.
- Liberation and community officers have a scheduled lunch to share ideas. If this works this will be repeated regularly depending on feedback.
- Mailing lists have been a problem for us and LCOs, due to GDPR statements. The Head of Student Voice and Communications will be running a session teaching LCOs how to use MailChimp as that is where the data is stored.

Next steps: MailChimp training session, have the Liberation launch event and build a platform for LCOs to report issues they face.

Goal 2 - Audit the Outreach activities run by ICU and Clubs & Socs to understand our Widening Participation Activities.

- A project outline and action plan is being produced to determine the most effective way to speak to Clubs and Societies about their activities.

Next steps: Finalise the action plan.

Goal 3 - Finalise and implement the Student Support Strategy

- I have recently received the consultation results and will be discussing them with the Director of Student Services.
- At the time of writing this report it looks like the strategy will not be changing, other than a few grammatical errors, which is in-line with the student feedback.
- The student feedback was massively useful particularly as there was a large response from PhD students.
- The strategy will be going to the Learning and Teaching Committee, then the Provost Board so is likely to not be in place until January 2019.

Next steps: Produce a response to feedback and explanation of why this has been produced dependent on approval from Director of Student Services. Look at what the Union should tackle.

Goal 4 - Produce a Wellbeing map outlining all wellbeing services across Imperial.

- Have spoken to the Student Services team about the wellbeing map. The wellbeing map would fit nicely into the Student Space, particularly the "Here for you" page. This team will be revamping Student Space as it's very confusing and some of it is outdated, but this will likely take them over a year to actually achieve anything.
- I'm currently planning out what each page/ section of a flow diagram would look like. This team have said they are happy to use the plans and suggestions that I make when they eventually make the changes.

Next steps: Currently considering other options to make this happen much quicker – top suggestion is building an app.

Goal 5 Review the welfare-related work carried out by various volunteers across the organisation.

- Halls and Union Relationship plan and consultation is currently occurring with a report being produced for relevant parties by January.
- Mums and Dads project plan is in the early stages – a Project Coordinator (Community and Transitions) has been hired who will do large amounts of this work.
- Welfare officers that sit in Clubs and Societies has been highlighted as a group that receive no training but are at risk. Discussions with ICSM as they have the most officers in the position is planned.

Next steps: Complete halls and union project by January and finalise Mums and Dads project plan.

Operational Achievements

Significant operational tasks I have completed are as follows:

- Met with Registry to highlight key problems with the mitigating circumstances policy. The Union will be involved in a review and some of the guidelines were changed based on our suggestions.
- College is looking at improving/ making a College-wide case-management solution. I've fed in some initial student perspectives.
- Worked with College to continue the promotion of assistive technology which could be useful for all students. These can be found in the software hub and on computers across campus.
- College has applied to be part of the Race Equality Charter which is an award/ action plan procedure for tackling race inequality. This is particularly useful as it is directed at students and staff so please fill in the survey when it is released on 12th November!

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 – Wellbeing Map Progress

- The wellbeing map can't be done by union systems team due to other priorities or the Student Services team in College as they will be doing a larger piece of work that will take longer. [Would people prefer a quick solution to be found e.g. me building an app or would waiting for it to be integrated into a current system which is likely to take 1-3 years be preferred?](#)

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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