

Imperial College Union Council Report

Becky Neil, Deputy President (Welfare)

Introduction

Highlights include progress with the liberation reform and discussions about the student support strategy starting.

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).
- SharePoint for LCOs are live which has their mailing lists attached and should provide a better platform for handovers.
- Launch event has been confirmed for 21st January. This event will have a panel discussion, a video and stalls to meet the LCOs. The aim of the event is to promote the officers and raise wider awareness of the liberation and community zones.
- The LCO platform will likely take 2-3 years to be effective. We are currently talking about forming a strategy for this, which will be started by a paper to Board this week ensuring commitment to improving our offering in this area.

Next steps: Have the launch event and start work on the strategy.

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.
- This project will be started properly in the new year.

Next steps: Finalise the action plan.

Goal 3 - Finalise and implement the Student Support Strategy

- 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.
- Written a piece to highlight what has happened with the consultation feedback, what the strategy means and what students can expect from it. This is waiting on approval from Board to ensure the expectations will be sustained.
- Case-management systems have been discussed. It is important for the Union to decide if they would like to be a part of it or not.
- Contributed to discussions around the package for Interruption of Studies students- not entirely related to the strategy but will likely be incorporated at some point.
- The mental health strategy is likely to be the first part that is tackled and ideas are currently being thrown around.

Next steps: Publish the feedback response. Continue to be a part of all discussions around the strategy.

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

- The pages/ sections are almost completely mapped out, from a user point of view.
- Currently looking into options for what to do with the map and where to put it.

Next steps: Decide on the best method to use to produce it.

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. Consultation with wardens, subwardens and hall seniors is nearly complete.
- Mums and Dads project plan has been made and key stakeholders have been identified.
- Welfare officers that sit in Clubs and Societies has been highlighted as a group that receive no training but are at risk has been discussed with ICSM as they appear to have the highest number of them. They will try to get them working together with the welfare team.

Next steps: Complete halls and union project by January and begin Mums and Dads consultation.

Operational Achievements

Significant operational tasks I have completed are as follows:

- Speaking to the team organising Women@Imperial to ensure that students are factored into the events they hold.
- Went to Silwood to help train the welfare team there. They are doing a great job!
- Written a piece about what the counselling service does and what you can expect, as well as an explanation about the developments of the service this year. It's currently being fact-checked so will probably be in Felix in the new year.
- Worked with College to look at a package for the 2015 bursary cohort – instead if students getting nothing for the difference in bursary.

Items for discussion

No items for discussion. Have a good winter break!

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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