

Imperial College Union Council Report

Alejandro Luy, Deputy President (Education)

Introduction

Highlights from the past few weeks include working closely with College on key initiatives, preparing for the SACAs ceremony, working more closely with Leadership and the 360 review.

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

You can find the responses on the Union website at <https://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/your-union/your-representatives/responses>

- The NSS/PTES Working Group has produced an action plan which encompasses several of this year's recommended actions and thankfully focuses on the student experience rather than the scores (a significant change in rhetoric for Imperial!). These actions will be widely disseminated following approval at Provosts Board.
- College is looking at the holistic student experience and aiming to encompass it in the new Academic Strategy - we are part of these conversations and will incorporate as much of what we are fighting for (outlined later in this document) into the strategy.

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

The purpose of this review is to map the entire network, and to improve training, support and communication.

- Progress on this project has been slow as we have no coordinator support. However, following a brainstorm with Fran and Becky and using feedback from ERB, we now have a plan of action with changes to implement this coming year and next. We will soon have an Education & Representation Coordinator who can deliver this.

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

- Progress in these projects has been good but largely routine, comprising of improvements and adjustments. Dozens of StudentShaper projects for this coming summer have been launched.
- I have written a document outlining how PGT students should be engaged in the PGT Curriculum Review based on the document written by Nick last year, feedback at ERB and lessons learnt from the UG CR. This document has been shared with all PGT reps for edit and comments. It will be taken to the next Learning & Teaching Committee for endorsement.

Goal 4 - Fight for improved feedback for students across Imperial

- No significant progress since last report outside of routine work with the Curriculum Review. It will be interesting to see if NSS scores have improved this year in this area.

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

- Due to a short-staffed Education & Welfare team, I've been helping Fran with some of the SACAs admin over the past weeks. This has enabled me to get a grasp of the process which

will help me write a comprehensive evaluation outlining how to remove a significant portion of the unnecessary admin work involved with running the SACAs in their current form.

- Many staff have responded to us making it very clear that being nominated for a SACA means a lot to them – evidence of positive culture change, the impact of the SACAs.

Union Work

- A significant amount of time over the past couple weeks has been devoted to work with the Union Leadership team around planning, prioritising and budgeting for next year.

College Work

- Approximately 40% of my time over the past weeks and the coming weeks has and will be spent on work with the College to advance and improve the student experience holistically. This includes preparation for my presentation at Education Day 19 (09/05/19) which will be on *Enabling Students to be Partners in Risk*, helping Registry write the new Academic Regulations, preparing for the Strategy Away on the 13th of May and writing a review of the Learning and Teaching Strategy. I've broken this down in more detail below.

Lobbying College

- In my previous report I outlined the areas where I am lobbying College. These and progress on them are outlined below.

Topic	Progress
Increased investment in better teaching spaces (both lecture theatres and flat-spaces)	I am writing this into my review of the Learning & Teaching Strategy.
Maintenance of borderline classification discretion to give students who are near the borderline a <u>fair</u> opportunity to receiving the higher classification (other institutions have gotten rid of borderline classification discretion – we don't want that)	I argued for this at the Regulations & Policy Review Group - a 1.5% borderline (with additional criteria) has been written into the new Academic Regulations for implementation from October 2019 onwards.
AMR and PTES action plans that contain <i>tangible, effective actions</i> to address weaknesses in the student experience (I've challenged 2 departments to re-write their plans)	PGT Annual Monitoring Reports have now come through and most contain good actions. I've challenged a few where there was insufficient action. They mostly say that there are significant changes planned but that those are encompassed in the CR.
A College vision on the student experience it is committed to delivering	Working this into my review of the Learning & Teaching Strategy and conversations around the Provost's new Academic Strategy.
Addressing of deadline clashes to avoid peaks in student stress and workload	I continue to push for this in scrutinising AMRs and CR paperwork.
Clearly defined expectations between students and staff to empower students to challenge when they are not receiving an appropriate level/quality of	I helped write the StudentShapers documentation and a document on Mutual Expectations between Postgraduates and Supervisors has also been written in

support/interaction (Postgraduates and StudentShapers)	collaboration with the GSU and will be circulated by the Graduate School.
Availability of exit degrees to allow students who need to leave Imperial 'early' to receive a qualification worthy of the work they put in up to that point	I argued for this at the Regulations & Policy Review Group where it was confirmed that we will offer exit degrees and now conversations are happening with departments on which ones they will commit to offer.
For Reps to have access to the data and documentation that they need in order to lobby their departments	This consists of two parts. Firstly, we are giving all reps all the data and resources that we have. Secondly, College have agreed to review their AMR process so that reps are properly and consistently involved.
Common Rooms for all students	Not exactly sure what the progress on this is - last I heard it was happening. I am working this into my review of the Learning & Teaching Strategy too.

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