

# Imperial College Union Council Report

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## Introduction

Final council report! I've had a really great year and had a lot of success with several projects in different aspects. Not many of my projects have been completed and a lot of my success has involved step changes that will help improve welfare for students for years to come!

## Goal 1 – Liberation and Community Zones

When I started my role Liberation and Community Officers worked alone or with societies if possible to deliver events and represent students without having a clear channel of communication and with limited support. I wanted to reform how the Union represents liberation and community groups so that under-represented groups had a stronger voice. This was incredibly challenging and while the whole goal hasn't been achieved there's been some really great progress.

- Liberation and community officers received the most comprehensive training to date.
- Liberation officers were given a mailing list of students interested in following or being involved in their work.
- The first ever Liberation Week happened with a successful panel event "Inclusivity Starts Here".
- Got EDI and Liberation as a Board priority.
- Challenging College to improve the provision for all students in terms of EDI.

The LCOs have done some amazing work representing students at College meetings, running events, running surveys and being champions of diversity. Thank you Jeh, Sam, David, Otilie, Laura, Tasneem, Charlotte and Salma for a great year!

## Goal 2 – Widening Participation

Widening participation is a really important issue in the higher education sector and is particularly important for Imperial as the institution has a lot of work to do. My original aim was to audit CSPs to find out if they were doing activities in the widening participation space so that we could look into College supporting them and connecting them up. I have deprioritised this goal but have done a lot of work in this space.

- Built a strong relationship with the team responsible for the Access and Participation Plan in College.
- Got a development package for the 2015 bursary cohort who received a lower bursary including writing all of the comms associated with this.
- Wrote and presented the Bursary Survey Response.
- Facilitated more students being involved in feedback for the Access and Participation Plan than ever before.

## Goal 3 - Student Support Strategy

At the start of the year the Student Support Strategy was out for consultation with students and staff with an aim of having it approved during this year. It's not quite there but it's had an impact.

- Reviewed all student feedback around the strategy consultation
- Presented the strategy to Provost Board
- Been involved in further plans for the strategy and sections of it.
- Ensured the student voice via wellbeing reps has a place within this strategy.

## Goal 4 – Wellbeing Map

It is incredibly difficult for students to understand how to get the support they need because the system is complicated and there's a lot of services. I wanted to make this simpler by building a wellbeing map or signposting system. This signposting system will be uploaded before I finish to the Union website.

- Worked with College improving the Student Space.
- Collated the information and developed a system to help signpost students for reps as well as other students to use.

## Goal 5 – Welfare-related Projects

There have been two main projects that I have lead within this goal:

- Halls and Union Relationship
  - The training for Hall Seniors has been completely overhauled to give them meaningful skills, the relationship between Halls and the Union has been reset, clear guidance for the halls social fund and the work the Union should be doing with halls has been set. The relationship should be far more collaborative in the future.
- Mums and Dads
  - I delivered the Union side of Mums and Dads, producing a sign up system, collaborating with DepSocs and supporting them with the scheme.
  - Consultation around improving the scheme has happened and an action plan for improvements during the next academic year is being drawn up.

## Work with College

I have done a lot of work in College providing the student perspective and feedback for many projects.

- Helped launch the SVLO (Sexual Violence Liaison Officers)
- Helped implement the Inclusive Technology project: suite of assistive tech and student support.
- Helped DAS implement a disabilities rent subsidy.
- Challenged the mitigating circumstances policy to ensure it was fit for purpose.
- Interviewed new counsellors for the service.
- Supported Women@Imperial week.
- Union and College strategy discussions.

## Union Work

- Under Pressure happened successfully twice throughout the year.
- Ran the Welcome Campaign: Stay Safe
- Trained LCOs and WBRN volunteers
- Consultation for gender neutral toilets in the Union entrance.
- Supported groups through the campaigns process: PAARRY, Ecosia, Divest Imperial.
- Prioritising, planning and budgeting with the leadership team for 19/20.
- OT champion for Welcome Week
- Supported reps, LCOs and welfare officers as needed.

## Closing Comments

Thanks to the OT team, Dan, Andy and all the volunteers I've worked with. Your contributions have been amazing and it's been a great year for me!

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