

Deputy President (Welfare) – Council report

Shervin Sabeghi – 21st January 2020

Intro:

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is refreshed after the break and/or relieved to be done with exams. The two key focuses since the last Council have been Halls Rent and Liberation Reform, and sleeping constantly over Christmas, of course.

How I've spent my time over the last 4 weeks:

College Meetings and 121s	Union Meetings	Operational work (day-to-day)	Project work (major goals)	Time with students + volunteers
13%	28%	25%	23%	11%

Key goals:

Goal 1: Reform the Liberation and Community work of the Union, and ensure the College's EDI strategy works for students – *in progress*

Progress/Updates:

- Was part of the panel to decide how the College's EDI Seed Fund is spent and secured £8261 for student led initiatives in this area.
- The Liberation Reform has been approved by CWB and will be discussed and voted on by Council today.
- There was another meeting of the Self-Assessment Team for the Athena Swan (gender equality award) in December, but there was little to report from this.
- There has been another Self-Assessment Team meeting for the Race Equality Charter. An application needs to be submitted in the first half of the year, and there was some discussion around how to enhance student engagement in focus groups. The relevant College staff in the room seemed to accept that they should involve students in planning the next focus groups.

Goal 2: Fully review and set a course of action for the Wellbeing Representation Network – *in progress*

Progress/Updates:

- Collection of data has begun using the Student Experience Survey, ICU End of Term Rep Survey, and 121s with rep teams. Once these are completed and collated, they will help inform the review going forward.

Goal 3: Improve student support services – *in progress*

Progress/Updates

- Will work with Disabilities Officer in the next few weeks to come up with a proposal

- Had a second meeting for a collaboration with UCL to work in partnership with the NHS to improve pathways to NHS mental health services from universities. A major part of this involves consulting students on various themes around access pathways and two students will be recruited for a paid part time position to lead on these at Imperial. Recruitment will begin early this term.
- The College's Student Support Strategy is now fully approved and will be under-way soon. This is starting with bringing in external consultants to look at suicide prevention on campus.

Goal 4: (Re-)establish the Felix Welfare Section – *in progress*

Progress/Updates:

- After nearly a term of radio silence from welfare, a 4-page section on Liberation for the 70th Anniversary edition of the term appeared at the end of last term. Going forward, I'll need to explore how to make welfare contributions to Felix more consistent.

Other/operational matters:

- Helped recruitment for a maternity cover counsellor at the counselling service.
- Had our first 'Sabbs on Tour' in December where we set up a stall in the Sherfield Foyer to talk to students passing by about things in the Union and College, get feedback on what we're doing and thoughts about hall rent. This will be continuing throughout the year – so keep your eyes peeled!
- Concluded 121s with the LCOs and Wellbeing Rep Teams having seen a majority of those invited. The responses to questions in this, as well as the end of term rep survey, will help inform the support the representation team provides going forward.