

President Report to Union Council – January 2020

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Highlights:

- Ethical Investment/Socially Responsible Investment Policy Working Group
- Reprioritisation exercise
- Recruitment of a new managing director

College Meetings & Prep	Student + Union Meetings & Prep	Operational work (day-to-day)	Project work (major goals)	Misc
22%	28%	43%	6%	1%

Updates:

- **Ethical Investment:**
 - At the last [College Council](#) meeting, a paper submitted by ICU was passed setting up a working group to formulate a [socially responsible investment policy](#).
 - By the date of Union Council, College Council will have taken place, so I will be able to update you all and circulate the policy to anyone interested.
- **Recruitment of a new Managing Director:**
 - Our managing director left at the end of last term.
 - I have been, and will continue to be, very involved in the onboarding for his interim replacement, Graham Atkinson.
 - We are briefing a recruitment firm on our requirements for a full-time replacement for the next academic year, to inform their search.
 - So far they have put an advertisement together, which may be published by the date of the meeting.
- **Halls rent:**
 - We returned to the College after the last meeting, informing them of our position, and have since conducted communications on this matter in Felix and on the Union website to keep the student body informed.
- **College Council**
 - I am spending the evening of Thursday 13-2 and all day on Friday 14-2 with College Council, the senior committee of the university. I will deliver a verbal update on these meetings.
- I have been invited to a meeting to discuss **h-bar** with campus services on 13-2.

Upcoming:

- I have arranged a **meeting with the new Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences** for myself and other student representatives on Monday.
- Working with the Head of Advancement, Michael Murphy, I am involved in a project to help deliver **scholarships for refugee and asylum seekers** to make access to study at Imperial easier.
- We are working to update the Union's **complaints procedure** to bring it into alignment with the College.
- I will be attending the **Audit & Risk Committee** later this week to discuss risk in the organisation identified by our external auditors.
- **Block grant business case/interim strategy:**

- One of the major pieces of work we have to conduct this term is a **renegotiation of the Union's block grant**.
- In requesting money from the university, we will have to prepare a business case, explaining why various things require funding.
- As we establish our priorities, it's important we consider things that don't necessarily have a direct financial impact but could impact costs indirectly e.g. changing the priorities for a particular staff team. This means we will need to build a strategy for 2020-21 alongside our block grant business case. Work on a more complete Union strategy spanning several years will recommence next year.
- Student views, captured through survey data, previous 121s, and further consultation, will be crucial in shaping these priorities: we may have more to share on this front as the term goes on, and are likely to invite Council to approve key aspects of the plan for next year.
- We are also meeting with College staff to pin down what they're expecting from us in terms of the format/scope of a business case.
- Completing this successfully is a significant piece of work, for which the new interim MD will be accountable, but all of us (particularly myself) will be intimately involved.

Key goals:

College Goal: Change the way decisions are made – **Stalled**

- To make sure College is making decisions in the best interests of students and staff, I want to make sure **people affected by decisions are involved in the decision-making process**.
- This is a big project, but I believe it's likely the easiest way to bring significant change to Imperial.
- Due to recent firefighting, I've been unable to make significant progress on this.

Union Goal 1: Transparency – **In progress**

- We've written a plan for OT communications, committing ourselves to:
 - More frequent posts on social media
 - An interview series in *Felix*
 - "OT Tours" across our campuses
 - Our blogs/written articles for more detailed stuff
- If students can't easily find out what we're up to, we aren't doing our jobs properly – whenever something big happens, we're going to communicate about it directly

Union Goal 2: Protecting/Improving our Services – **In progress**

- Kitchens in 568 are set to reopen soon pending the completion of actions which depend on third parties
- The DPFS has had meetings with the Head of Catering Operations to discuss specific issues regarding h-bar

Union Goal 3: London Living Wage – **In progress**

- As we (DPFS & I) renegotiate the terms of the Union's block grant from College this year, I'm committed to including a real (London) living wage for student staff as part of our costings
- The Union Leadership team has agreed to including this as we go forward.

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