

Deputy President (Welfare) – Council report

Shervin Sabeghi – 18th February 2020

Intro:

Hello everyone! I've slightly changed up the format of my report this time to make the sections more aligned to what I actually spend most of my time on.

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

College Meetings and 121s	Union Meetings	Operational work (day-to-day)	Project work	Time with students + comms
20%	40%	23%	9%	8%

Key areas:

EDI and Liberation

Updates:

- Liberation and Community week happened w/c 27th January. Video and poster campaign to improve visibility of L&C officers as well as more information about the roles. Good traction on social media.
- The Liberation Reform was approved at the last ordinary Council meeting and we are now in the implementation planning stage. (Dependent on CWB discussions) four streams have been identified that need addressing: Procedures & Governance, Campaigns, Defining the Networks, and Support & Alignment. These will be addressed at separate meetings of CWB members and brought together by the Liberation Reform Working Group.
- There was a meeting of the College's EDI Forum which looks at a range of EDI related issues across the College. Little of significance to report back.
- Many meetings to implement the targets set in the College's Access and Participation Plan have begun. There are various strands that look at the delivery and evaluation of outreach programmes that are the core part of improving access.

Wellbeing Representation Network

Updates:

- WBRN Review: in an unexpected turn of events, this project is now back on track due to the College's Centre for Higher Education Research and Scholarship deciding to become involved in this as part of a bigger project about embedding Wellbeing in the Curriculum. We will be working on this collaboratively and had an initial meeting 2 weeks ago where we started scoping out the project.

Student Support & Services

Updates

- Recruitment has happened for two student fellows to work on the joint Imperial/UCL national collaborative project on improving NHS pathways for students at university. These student fellows will lead on consulting students around various themes to do with NHS mental health services and accessing these.
- (Will happen by the actual Council meeting) Worked out a proposal for the Disability Advisory Service about how to decrease/remove fees for diagnostic assessments. This will then be presented to the head of the service Mary Bown (who is retiring at the end of this month, so it's an opportune time!).

Hall Rent

Updates:

- Naturally, Council are very aware of what is going on with this (and it's what's taking so much of my time!). The Union and College did not come to an agreement after rejecting the College's model 3 times and we've voted on starting an Imperial, Cut the Rent' campaign.
- Since, we've been informed that the £3m reduction on the original model will be roughly split as £2m to adhere to the original smoothed then matched model, £100k for hall senior discount and then the remaining £900k pumped elsewhere to meet the final year cost as originally presented.

Operational/other matters:

- The Union is negotiating our Block Grant (large proportion of our funding) with College this year and have been involved, with Thomas, on preparing for this by looking at data and strategies to determine what we can evidence that is crucial for the Union to spend money on.
- Student Choice Awards: work is going into the new Union Awards/SACAs format. Concurrently with reviewing the Union Awards Policy, we're looking at the categories that form the awards, what the prizes are, what the criteria are for awarding, and various different elements to do with a final ceremony.