

Deputy President (Welfare) – Council report

Shervin Sabeghi – 23rd March 2021

Introduction

Hi everyone! Congratulations to all winning candidates in the Leadership Elections who would have been elected by this Council meeting. Since our last meeting, there's been a lot of desk work – successfully catching up with emails (yay), working through admin and writing reports. As my time in this role draws nearer and nearer an end, I'm keen to have made good progress on my key project goals and will be focusing on these for the next 4.5 months.

How I've spent my time since the last report (10th February – 16th March)

College Meetings and 121s	Union Meetings	Desk work (day-to-day)	Time with students + comms	Project work
25%	20%	30%	15%	10%

Key latest updates

- Staff developments: our new Representation and Advice Manager Cat Turhan will be starting at the end of May. Over the next couple months, we'll be beginning her induction over the next few weeks, meeting to start to get her familiar with Imperial and issues at ICU. We've also started recruiting for the Representation Coordinator who will work under Cat with interviews to happen mid-April. Slowly, but surely, we're building back the team at the Union! (and I'm only a bit bitter that I won't be here for it)
- Fair assessment/No detriment: I won't dwell too much on this and I'm sure Michaela will talk about it. We came to the final package with the College, and this has now been communicated to students. Feedback has ranged from 'You got nothing' to 'Thanks so much for what you've done'... We recognise that any individual student doesn't have the safe reassurance they had last year, but we're fairly confident that the measures we've negotiated (most of which wouldn't have come without our efforts) will help mitigate the negative impact from the pandemic this year.
- Representation Networks: we have our first Reps of the Month for this year! Congrats to Yasmin Baker, Dawood Khan and Irene Sugurova on winning RotM February 2021. We're moving onto voting for March RotM now and continuing the regular newsletter.
- Student submission: I've been working with the Strategic Planning department to evaluate, from the student perspective, how well the College have met their 2019-20 Access and Participation Targets, engaged students with the targets and responded to Covid. This will be submitted to the OfS as part of the College's monitoring of their Widening Participation efforts.
- Bursary for MBBS students: following a recommendation to the College based on the Imperial Bursary survey results from last year, we've been exploring different options

to fund 5th and 6th year MBBS students as they currently do not receive the bursary in these years. Updates to come after a meeting tomorrow.

- Leadership Elections 2021: continued to support plan and deliver the elections, which are all wrapped up now (until the next ones in summer...).
- Halls support: continuing to provide support to Halls of Residence in terms of administering their Hall Social Funds, as well as work to push the College to better support Wardening teams to better support students. Have begun collaborating with the College on efforts to help first years in halls enter private housing next year.
- College committee: the latest season of College Equality, Diversity & Inclusion meetings has come and gone. Not loads to update on, but I'll draw attention to the Race Equality Charter (REC) meeting where the decision has been taken to capitalise on the opportunity to delay the application (planned for Feb) until July. The College have a student townhall about this on Wednesday (tomorrow) 13:15-14:30 which you can join [here](#).
- Community & Welfare Board: have had a CWB meeting since the last Council meeting where we primarily discussed how we could do a post-lockdown community building 'Hackathon' event, and conducted further consultation on the new Union strategy.

My 2020/21 objectives

Here are updates against my objectives.

- 1) Liberation and Community (L&C) Development:** not much to update.
- 2) Representation Network Review:** Due to start working on when Cat starts.
- 3) COVID-19 Response:** Ongoing ESOG (Education Strategy and Operation Group) meetings dealing with all COVID student experience and teaching issues. Talking about the next academic year now – what the student experience and teaching will look like, what bits of the experience this year can be carried forward and how to plan around the potential of some students still not being able to be around.
- 4) Student Discipline and Harassment:** more work has happened on the discipline policies. Started mapping out how Members, CSP and Venues disciplinary policies will work around each other, and how important work to communicate policies and procedures to students should happen. More work needs doing in terms of CSP culture work that began this term.
- 5) Campaigns and Student Voice:** Again, slowed down due to loss of staff support.

Congrats if you've read this far! Please feel free to drop me an email whenever at dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk if you've got any questions or feedback.