

President Report to Union Council

Dr Lloyd T. James

Updates:

- Worked on implementation of Governance Review (see appendices)
- Oversaw objective-setting process for OTs, Felix Editor, Constituent Union Presidents, and MD
- Updated ICU Policies on the Union website including removal of out-of-date Board Policies: identified a need for revised Board Policies including a Freedom of Speech Policy, Staff-Student Policy, and Members under 18 Policy
- Assisted with the development of the NSS Response recommendations
- Advised the College on regulations around Covid safety, charter flights for Chinese students, and Managed Quarantine rebates
- Initiated lobbying project around lack of student study space on campus(es)
- Developing relationships with key College stakeholders, led presentation on ICU context / strategy and Officer Objectives at Heads of Department Lunch
- Assisted with recruitment for roles including Policy and Research Officer
- Engaged with a number of disciplinary procedures: identified a need for more robust procedures for issues with alumni / non-members
- Lobbied the College and fed back to students on the contentious issue of guests at Graduation
- Passed my PhD Viva (woo)

Upcoming:

- Complete Report on GSU Structure Reform based on results of PG Engagement Survey and focus groups
- Engage with Socially Responsible Investment Policy Committee to lobby the College for increased staff support for sustainability
- Put together a working group for a project to look at student-led decoration (art, photographs etc) for the new student spaces in the old Chemistry building
- Lobbying the College for increased student engagement in recruitment of senior College staff

Objectives:

Objective 1: Reviewing our Offer to Postgraduates - [In progress]

Summary: Postgraduate students have long been under-engaged with the Union and under-provided for by the Union. This year, we will complete a review of our broad offer to PGs. This includes a review of our PG representation structures through the 'GSU Review', as well as the development of a broader PG Engagement Action Plan which seeks to identify how we can better engage PGs through each area of our provision.

Current progress: Early stages of Review have taken place, with PG Engagement Survey and focus groups having been done. Currently analysis is being done on these to inform the GSU Review which should be completed by next Council.

Objective 2: Reviewing our Democratic Structures - [Not yet started]

Summary: It has been a number of years since a meaningful review of our democratic structures, including Council + subcommittees, has been undertaken. Following on from a Governance Review last year (which focused on Board-level) I will lead a Democracy review focusing on these issues. This will include consideration of the composition of Council and how the membership is determined.

Objective 3: Understanding Community Development - [Not yet started]

Summary: Coming out of the pandemic, it is essential that we support CSPs, reps and departments in rekindling student communities, as well as fostering this sense of community directly through our events and spaces. In order to do this well, we will undertake a comprehensive piece of research to understand what factors contribute to a sense of student community, and publish an action plan detailing areas where we believe we can support this.

Objective 4: Supporting Constituent Unions - [In progress]

Summary: Constituent Unions are an integral part of Imperial College Union. They hold a broad range of responsibilities including representation, wellbeing, CSP management, and direct event provision, but historically do not receive much support from ICU. This year I will review the support that we offer, in terms of training, staff time, relationships with OTs and ICU staff, and other forms of support.

Current progress: Had early conversations with CU Presidents around what support would be helpful. Made plans for informal catch-ups in addition to the more formal regular meetings with CU Presidents. Supported CU Presidents in developing objectives for the year.

Objective 5: Developing a coherent lobbying agenda for Campus Services and Estates - [In progress]

Summary: Campus Services and Estates are crucial parts of the student experience at Imperial. We should be lobbying to be involved in key strategic decisions around these areas, to ensure students get the best experience during their time at Imperial.

The President will lead on lobbying the Estates department, and the DPFS will lead on lobbying the Campus Services team. Due to the nature of the relationships we both hold, it doesn't make sense to split the work more than how it is being lead as we each hold different relationships with key stakeholders.

Current progress: Initiating regular catch ups with key stakeholders in College including the Directors of Estates and Campus Services.